



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

## Special October Dates

LWML Sunday.....	Oct. 2
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	Oct. 4
LWML Divide Zone Rally.....	Oct. 7
First Edition Book Club meets Home of Eileen Burns	
WOW Bible Study.....	Oct. 10
<i>The Holy Spirit</i>	
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	Oct. 18
WOW Bible Study.....	Oct. 24
<i>The Holy Spirit</i>	
Oktoberfest Reformation.....	Oct. 29
Celebration	
Reformation Day (observed).....	Oct. 30
Reformation Day.....	Oct. 31

## It's Church Worker Appreciation Month

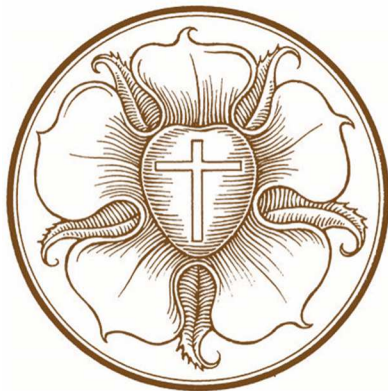
*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).*

As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, with this same gratitude we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who are "Set Apart to Serve" our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. We give thanks for pastors and teachers who teach God's Word to our children and adults, dedicate countless

hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach, and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

This month, let Pastor Miller and our teachers in Midweek/Confirmation Classes, Sunday School, Bible studies, and First Lutheran School know how much you appreciate their service to our Lord and First Lutheran congregation.

Several ideas are included on Page 2, and you may have other unique ways of recognizing these leaders in our church.



## OWLS learn first-hand about advocating for the unborn, feeding the hungry in our area

A small contingent of Older, Wiser, Loving Saints (OWLS) ventured out in the rain on September 21 to tour Options Clinic and Helena Food Share, both of which our church supports as missions.

At Options, Community Relations Coordinator Jenny Genger explained the history of the organization and presented an overview of the services provided, including pregnancy testing, ultrasound, decision making tools, prenatal and parenting classes, STD testing and treatment, STD education, life skills classes, post-abortion help, adoption referrals, baby and maternity supplies, and community resources. Options also offers Youth Nights to equip our youth with the truth about pregnancy and STDs, and to encourage them to choose abstinence.

Nurse Manager Tina Wooley showed an ultrasound image of a nine-week-old baby, with head, hands, and feet already forming, and the baby's heart beating. What an amazing little life!

Options is a non-profit, accredited medical clinic empowering women and men to make healthy decisions regarding their sexual health, pregnancy, and parenting in a non-judgmental and caring environment.

At Helena Food Share, Development Manager Maddie Balachowski guided the group through the facility, while many volunteers bustled about stocking shelves, refrigerators, and freezers.

Maddie explained that one in seven of our neighbors is hungry, one in five children don't have enough to eat, and one in five senior citizens wonder when their next meal might be.

Customers can shop weekly for items. There are no age or income restrictions, though customers must complete an initial registration form. The amount of food they receive is based on the number of people in their household. Limits for various food items in the pantry are listed each day and are based on availability.

When school is in session, Food Share also provides Kid Packs for children who are in need of nutritious food over the weekend days.

Volunteers help guide customers through the check-in and shopping process, rescue food from local stores, sort and move food each day so the Pantry is stocked and ready to go, and build boxes and bags of food for programs such as Kid Packs and Emergency Food Packs.

Time to spare? Consider volunteering with one of these fine organizations!

## Martin Luther



*Martin Luther*

I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.

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# God is worthy of my trust

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

“God is God,” says Elliot. “Because He is God, He is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in His holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to.”

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, “Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person’s seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next.”

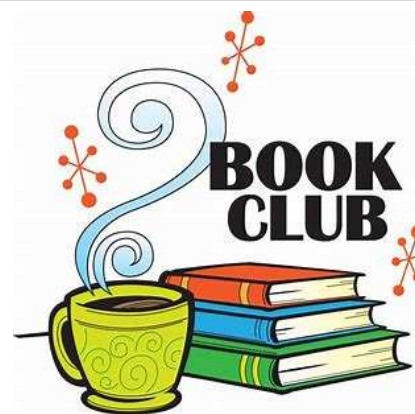
— *The Newsletter Newsletter*

## Ideas for honoring ministry leaders

Even though our spiritual leaders don’t look for applause, those of us blessed by their leadership know how much they deserve to be honored. Take a moment to consider what makes these leaders special to you, and how you might express that during this month. Here are three simple but powerful ideas:

- Begin an appreciation list and keep it with you for several days, jotting notes as thoughts come to you. When your list is complete, sit down and write a personal note of thanks. Then, encourage other church members to do the same thing.
- Take a blank sheet of paper to the next meeting or class you attend at church. At the top, add a title like “We Love (name of church worker) Because.” Pass the paper from person to person around the table, giving each individual an opportunity to complete the sentence in one or more ways. You might consider doing this with two or more groups over several weeks. Mail the notes to the individual at home. You don’t need impressive words or a creative writing course to make these ideas work. All you need is a love for Jesus and a heart filled with thanks to Him for sending these special people to you. Write from your heart!
- Put together a self-care basket. Include items like yummy treats, bath bombs, essential oils, a gift card to a local spa, a new mug and nice tea, a calming candle, or other items to give the gift of rest and peace to those in leadership positions in the church.

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First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at the home of Eileen Burns. Those wishing to carpool will meet at 11:45 a.m. at the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot. Club members are currently reading — and will Discuss — *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak. **Please RSVP to Eileen by Wednesday, October 4, at 406-475-2265.**

Members who wish to donate an item(s) for the Book Basket the group will donate for the silent auction for the Head Start Extravaganza are reminded that they need to let Joyce Nachtsheim know what they plan to donate, and must take their item(s) **to the church NO LATER THAN Sunday, October 1.**

Members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, at the home of Connie Onstad. For that meeting, members will read — and discuss — *Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly. Those wishing to carpool will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot.



A report from your Board of Finance

	August 2023	FY 2023 Y-T-D
Income (Church & School)	\$ 32,121.91	\$ 78,950.31
Expense (Church & School)	\$ 29,672.07	\$ 61,157.64
Gain/Loss	\$ 2,449.84	\$ 17,792.67

### The First Word

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Linda Fromm.....Editor  
Shari Miller.....Calendar/Servant Schedule  
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**Deadline for the November First Word is Wednesday, Oct. 18. Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or email to: lindafromm@mac.com**



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**When you have good news to share, how do you get the message out?** Take out an ad in a newspaper? Paint a sign? Put up a billboard? Place it on social media? Send out a text message or email?

When Martin Luther had Good News of God's grace to share, he nailed it to a billboard! Think of it, **the Protestant Reformation, which rocked Christianity and changed the world, started with a bulletin board!**

People of Luther's time gathered around the church. The church stood in the center of town as the most important building. A person with a special announcement naturally went to the church. The doors of the church soon became a kind of bulletin board. People would use the doors and nail on them all kinds of announcements.



Martin Luther wanted to nail up a message. He had written **95 short thoughts, or theses, about the Christian faith and the errors of the church of his day**. Because he wanted lots of people to see these theses, he nailed them to the town bulletin board — the church doors. Soon people read his statements and became excited. God's Word and His Church were about Jesus, the Savior. This was a change from what the people of Luther's day were hearing — **a Reformation!**



God still provides "bulletin boards" today. Perhaps they're not church doors, but **God does give ways to show others what is most important to people, and to you!** Do your friends and family members, the people at your school or work know that you believe in and love Jesus? What is most important to you? What do you have on your bulletin board?

Martin Luther started the Reformation by telling others about Jesus and His love for all people. That same Jesus loves and cares for you and for all today!

**Why not write about that Reformation Good News on your webpage, or Facebook page, or on X or Instagram, or AI, or bulletin board?** Like Martin Luther, you might just "nail it" for someone you know and love!

**You've got Good News about Jesus to share! I do too!**

*Pastor Miller*

With millions of people around the world, we, of First Lutheran in Helena, Montana, will remember the significance of the Reformation

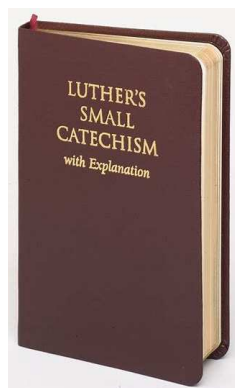
**on Sunday, October 29**

in our worship services  
and our afternoon and evening festival.  
Please plan to attend and invite family and friends  
to be part of this historic celebration!





## It's all in the way you use it! — from your Board of Stewardship



Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which

might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball

bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

*"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks."* (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's

name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YAHWEH Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

— LCMS.org  
Stewardship Ministry Resources

## What is lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.

—Janna Firestone  
The Newsletter Newsletter

## We're gonna have an Oktoberfest Reformation Celebration! Ya'll come!

Get ready to celebrate an OKTOBERFEST here at the church on Sunday, October 29, beginning at 4 p.m. with activities for the whole family.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. We will be enjoying a Reformation Celebration together! We invite you to come and join us and bring friends.

A sign-up sheet for salads/desserts will be available in Ziegler Hall starting on Sunday, October 8.

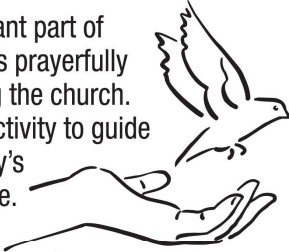


**God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love Him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't He send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."**

— George Buttrick  
The Newsletter Newsletter

# MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



## What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



## What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

# Just for KIDS!

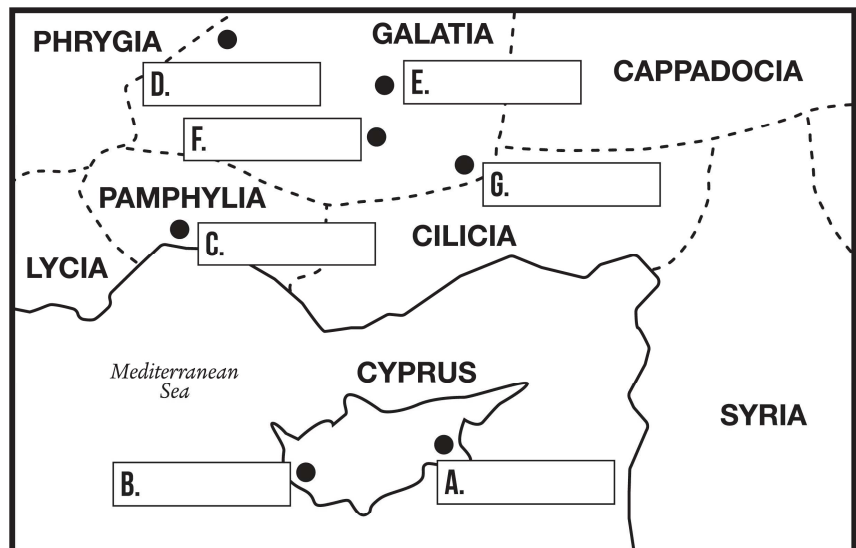
## PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

**Directions:** From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. SALAMIS (ACTS 13:5)  | E. ICONIUM (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. PAPHOS (ACTS 13:6)   | F. LYSTRA (ACTS 14:6)   |
| C. PERGA (ACTS 13:13)   | G. DERBE (ACTS 14:6)    |
| D. ANTIOCH (ACTS 13:14) |                         |



Answers: Salamis; Paphos, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

## Looking for a fun way to help our youth group?

Packages of HALLOWEEN/THANKSGIVING greeting cards will be available in Ziegler Hall beginning Sunday, October 8. Packages of 10 cards are \$5 each. Card sales benefit our youth here at the church to help finance their many activities.

Thank you so much for your generous donations of cardstock, envelopes, scrap-booking supplies, and recycled cards.

—Janice Larison  
Cards 4 KIDS



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

## Celebrating LWML Sunday

Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.



Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:7-10)*

## October Birthdays

**October 2**

Korbyn Jurenka

**October 4**

Norman Robertson

**October 5**

Rhaely Alexander

**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

**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**

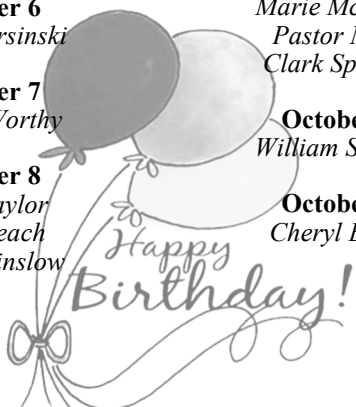
Rachel Blair  
Caden Stockburger

**October 29**

Ryan Hanson

**October 31**

David Johnson







# Happenings at First Lutheran School

Director  
Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher  
Shannon Champagne

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher  
Lori Radtke

After Care Provider  
Pam Worthy

After Care Assistant  
Sarah Schnaderbeck

Pastor  
Larry A. Miller

## Meet our 2023-24 First Lutheran School students

Our Get Set and Pre-K students love to spend time playing in God's world during all seasons. This month they are sharing some of their favorite fall weather activities.

**Beckham:** Make a volcano out of leaves. I make a tiny hole and jump out of the hole and break the volcano.

**Charli:** I jump in the leaves. I do it again and again! I do!

**Everett:** I like to carve the pumpkin. We are growing pumpkins.

**Isabella:** I make a big pile of leaves and jump out.

**Kaden:** We make faces on pumpkins. We make a scary face, a happy face on the pumpkins. Then we put a light inside.

**Percy:** I eat pumpkin pie and pumpkin seeds. My poppa makes pumpkin pie. I like it with ice cream and whipped cream. We eat it in a big feast.

**Presley:** Play with toys. Like animal toys and sometimes dump trucks. Sometimes I jump in the leaves.

**Rhys:** I like to bring my toys outside and throw my toys in piles. I like to eat apples and jump in the piles.

**Rory:** I like to jump in piles of leaves. I break the pile and then make a new one!

**Wyatt:** "Jump in piles of leaves when they fall, Percy likes to jump with me."

**Isla:** "Playing here (outside on the playground)."

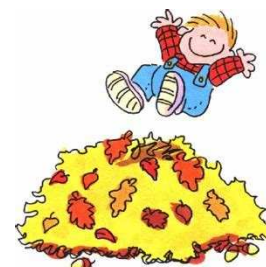
**Jacie:** "Um, school, ya!"

**Raiden:** "Halloween, Trick or Treat, going to friends' houses and they come to mine."

**Trey:** "Snow, we need snow pants, I like them."

**Isaac:** At the time of publication, he was thinking about it and hasn't given an answer yet.

**Avram, Colten, Myles:** No direct answers, but showing smiles, nodding in agreement with their classmates.



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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

**SOLA  
SCRIPTURA,  
SOLA GRATIA,  
SOLA FIDE.  
SOLUS  
CHRISTUS.**

**S**ola Scriptura. Sola Gratia. Sola Fide. Solus Christus. Latin. Ironic, isn't it? A movement that resulted in the liturgy and the Bible in our language (not Latin) is remembered by Latin phrases. By Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone. Through Christ alone. Alone. Without your help. Without human tradition. Without anyone's assistance. God acts alone through Jesus.

Scripture. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Grace. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Faith. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Through Christ alone. God gives us all these gifts because of Jesus' death and resurrection. All good gifts come from God and benefit all those who believe. Through Christ alone.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

