



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

### Special October Dates

Dorcas Quilters meet.....	Oct. 2
First Edition Book Club.....	Oct. 5
Home of Connie Onstad	
LWML Sunday.....	Oct. 6
WOW Bible Study.....	Oct. 8
Life in God's Kingdom	
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	Oct. 16
OWLS.....	Oct. 17
WOW Bible Study.....	Oct. 22
Changeless!	
Reformation Day (observed).....	Oct. 27
Fall Harvest Celebration.....	Oct. 29
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	Oct. 30
Reformation Day.....	Oct. 31

## It's Pastor Appreciation Month

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month? Pastors do so much more for us than leading services on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. They are a major part of a believer's life and the life of the Church. Pastors spend years studying to help preach God's Word accurately and passionately. For all the work that pastors do — long hours spent visiting the sick and dying, counseling the troubled and distressed, teaching classes of all kinds to all ages — it seems appropriate to offer them our thanks and appreciation.

If you're looking for pastor appreciation ideas, check out these fun ideas for inspiration, or create a few of your own.

**Make a meal.** Create a take-home meal for Pastor and Shari and give it to them after church. Not having to make dinner one night relieves family stress and shows that you appreciate all the time and effort they put in for our congregation.

**Post on social media.** Take a selfie with Pastor and ask him if it's okay to post it on

your favorite social media channel. Candid selfies are usually the best. You can make a print of your selfie and post it on the bulletin board at church, but ask him first.

**Get the kids involved.** Our Sunday School teachers could have the children create a banner of all the reasons they love Pastor. Let them decorate it and give it to him during the children's message one Sunday in October.

**Tackle yard work or chores.** Have the youth group offer to help Pastor and Shari for a full day. Mow the lawn at their house, rake leaves, wash their cars, or work on other projects that they may need completed.

**Make or buy a special Thank You card.** Thank Pastor and Shari for their service to God and our congregation, and mention some of your favorite things about them.

Most of all, remember to thank him all during the year, not just during Pastor Appreciation Month!



*You have often heard, my beloved, what is meant by "faith."*

*It is not simply a knowledge of Christ, nor a mere assent to the truth of His Word, but an earnest confidence in our hearts that what He did for the world was done actually for us, for our salvation.*

*Martin Luther*

## Funds raised are only part of blessings to come from Human Care Garage Sale

The annual Human Care Garage Sale was a huge success, with a total of \$3,543 being raised (which included a \$500 anonymous donation)! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all for your contributions of items and/or your time to help set up, work the sale, and help box up leftovers and deliver them to Goodwill and/or Good Samaritan after the sale.

The Human Care ladies wanted to share a couple stories heard during the sale, including one of a woman who came in and asked one of the workers about the prices. When she was told it was a priceless sale and that it was up to the individual to give what she or he thought was a fair price, she was overcome and teared up. When she came to check out,

she told the worker she had found school clothes, some Christmas gifts, and a few odd and ends. She gave all she had, which was between \$8 and \$10. She was thrilled and never expected to purchase so many items for such a small amount of money.

Another woman, a foster mom, came in with some of her foster children and they purchased a large bag of jeans and toys. The children were delighted!

These heartwarming stories are only made possible by all of you and your generous giving and kind hearts.

Again ... A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all!

— The Human Care Committee

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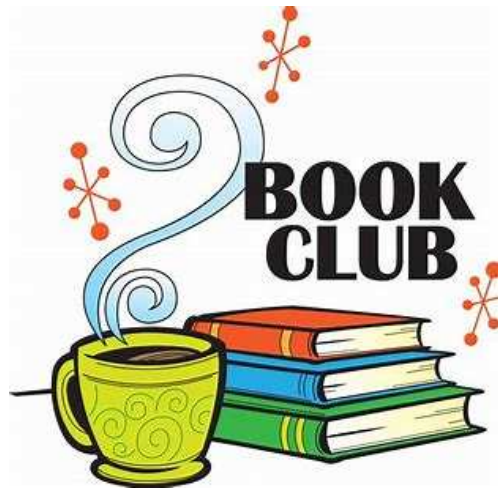
# The mess of mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. “How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?” he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. “Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this,” he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

“Mercy is always a messy business,” writes Pastor Daniel Emery Price at *1517.org*. That’s true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared money changers out of the temple. “There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess,” notes Price. “Reformation is always about clearing the path to God’s radical grace.”

— *The Newsletter Newsletter*



First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 5, at the home of Connie Onstad. Club members are currently reading — and will discuss — *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Those wishing to carpool to Connie’s house will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot.

**Please RSVP to Connie by Wednesday, October 2, at 406-461-8741.**

In November, members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, at the home of Pam Tudor. For that meeting, members will read — and discuss — *The Cold Millions*\* by Jess Walter.

Those wishing to carpool to Pam’s house will meet at 11:50 a.m. at the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot.

**Please RSVP to Pam by Wednesday, October 30, at 406-439-9719.**

\**The Cold Millions* is The Big Read book for 2024. For those interested in attending, a Big Read Kickoff Party will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Anchor Park next to the Lewis and Clark Library.

## Join us for a Fall Harvest Celebration!

First Lutheran members will gather for a FALL HARVEST CELEBRATION on Saturday, October 26, beginning at 4:30 p.m., with dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

There will be GAMES for kids and adults of all ages! Come play MYSTERY GIFT PASS and you might win some fabulous prizes!

SAVE THE DATE on your calendar and stay tuned for more information to come in the October Sunday bulletins.

— *Your Fellowship Committee*



### The First Word

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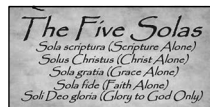


Rev. Larry A. Miller.....Pastor  
Linda Fromm.....Editor  
Shari Miller.....Calendar/Servant Schedule  
Volunteer Staff.....Printing/Collation

**Deadline for the November First Word is Wednesday, October 23.**

**Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or email to:**

**[lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com)**





*“As for you, brothers (and sisters),  
never tire of doing what is right”* (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

*“... be ready to do whatever is good”* (Titus 3:1).

**My Fellow-believers in our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Getting involved – seems to be a thing of the past!** In Dallas, Texas, some years ago, a woman was brutally attacked in broad daylight, along a busy street, while tens of people watched, yet not one offered even an ounce of help. Why? They said they didn’t want to “get involved.”

Sadly, today, **the same not wanting to be involved is plaguing the church** at large and even our own congregation. “Let someone else do it – I’m too old” is one complaint. Conversely, “That requires more experience and knowledge than I have had” is offered as an excuse. The bottom line, so to speak, in most cases, is simply that because I have so little to gain – I don’t want to get involved.



Personally, **I praise God our heavenly Father** that His Son didn’t “not want to get involved” when it came to me and my sinful life. Jesus, knowing the costs, got involved by suffering and dying for the times when I didn’t want to get involved in what was good and pure and right, and for the times when I was involved in what was not right. Jesus got involved for me and for you and for everyone everywhere – and it cost Him His very life!

Since in this marvelous way He is involved in my life – **why wouldn’t I also want to be involved – and get involved for Him?** Since His Holy Spirit empowers me and prepares me with special gifts and talents and abilities why would I not get involved in His exciting kingdom work?

Today and always, **I praise all who are involved** in our congregation and school and ministries in so many very special ways! I praise God for their commitment, their energy, their generous sharing of resources of time for God’s glory and for the good of His Church and every believer in it!

**What about you?** Are you getting involved in God’s great work? Are you giving of yourself for the One who gave all Himself, in love for you?



The next time you are challenged to work for God’s Kingdom and help further His plan, please don’t just stand-by and look-on. Please don’t let somebody else do it! But, in response to God’s super-abundant love for you in Jesus Christ – **please do get involved!**



If you would like to learn of some ways you can be further involved in our congregation and school and our ministries, **please do not hesitate to contact me.** I would love to work with you to discover new ways to get involved!

*Pas+or Miller*



## Giving is more than just obligation — from your Board of Stewardship

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of his or her parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism,

God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.



This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give

ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do, but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

— *LCMS.org*

***True Christian religion does not begin at the highest as all other religions do, but at the lowest. Therefore whenever you are concerned to think and act about your salvation, you must put away all speculations about the Majesty, all thoughts of works, traditions and philosophy — indeed, of the Law of God itself.***

***And you must run directly to the manger and the mother's womb, embrace this Infant and Virgin's Child in your arms, and look at Him — born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society, teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above all the heavens, and having authority over all things.***

— Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



**What you need:**

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

**What you do:**

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.  
For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



# Just for KIDS!

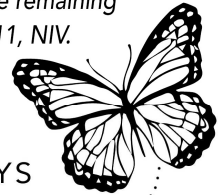


## SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.*

NO~~/~~WEGBEKLIBEVGEITIYS  
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH  
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP  
 USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED  
 RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE



" \_\_\_\_!  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_." Acts 15:11, NIV



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

It's time again for hot cocoa and apple cider! Fall greeting card packages for Halloween and Thanksgiving will be available for sale on Sunday, October 13. Each package contains 10 cards and sells for \$5. Send some cheer to loved ones and friends!

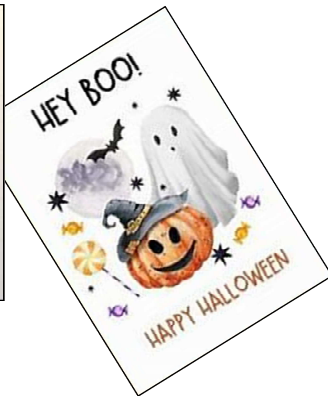
Your support of this ministry assists our youth here at First Lutheran. All proceeds go toward activities for them during the year.

Many thanks for your donations of cards and envelopes.

— 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.

This year's Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday theme is "Ready to Serve" based on Luke 1:38. As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission.

Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord, leading Him to share that her copper coins, her mites, were "*everything she had, all she had to live on*" (Mark 12:43). May our mite offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom.

*And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38).*

READY TO  
*serve*

LUKE 1:38

Lutheran Women  
in Mission SUNDAY

## October Birthdays

**October 2**  
Korbyn Jurenka

**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  
Olivia McIntosh

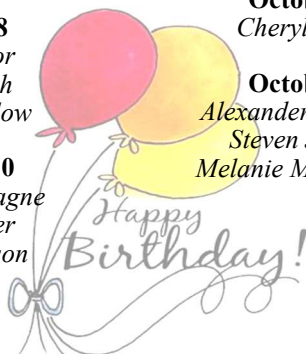
**October 26**  
Javri Pearson

**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 Providers: Melanie Middlebrook/Emily DuPre Lillian Buhr    Lunch Assistant: Jeannie Hubbard    Pastor: Larry A. Miller

## Meet our 2024-25 First Lutheran School students

First Lutheran School has started a new year, and the learning is off to a great start. Our students are given every opportunity to learn and grow in God’s Word. They shared their favorite activities and games to play.

### Pre-K Class

- Ainsley:** Playing at the park (playground) is fun. I like the slide. You slide on it!
- Daisy:** Playing! I like the bean table. You can touch the beans, and they are really warm.
- Isaac:** I like to play caves in the red station and build with blocks. I made a ship.
- Jacie:** I liked Miss Lori giving me a hug.
- Raiden:** I liked playing with toys that have buttons that you push. They have numbers.
- Ryker:** Playing and learning. I like learning about crafts and stuff.
- Titus:** I played candy monster outside. Somebody is the candy monster. You have to run.
- Trey:** I like to play shadow family. I want Isaac to play.
- Wyatt:** Playing with Raiden and with the trains. One got off the track. The other fired up and got it!

### Get Set Class

- Avram:** The puppy ears and costumes, and that is it, yeah.
- Cotlen:** In the kitchen.
- Colter:** Big curly slide outside!
- Dean:** The inside cars, building a big track for them.
- Eli:** I like playing with cars.
- Evan:** The thing with the red water and the little wheels that spin. (Liquid motion bubbler.)
- Isla:** I only like playing outside and I like playing with Play-Doh.
- Lily:** Playing on the playground.
- Maelynn:** The cars outside and the yellow curly slide.
- Roland:** The fidget thing with the red color in it. (Liquid motion bubbler.)



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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!”**

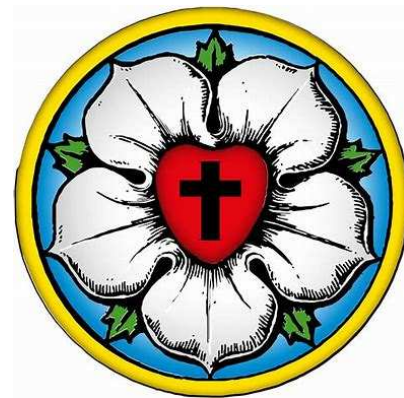
Tune in to **“The Lutheran Hour”**—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM  
or listen on **“Family Talk”** on Sirius XM 131  
**“Woman to Woman”**—Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

## Symbol of the Reformation is Luther’s own design

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther’s works.

*Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:*

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace — it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.



*(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)*

— LCMS.org