

November 2024 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

With the arrival of fall we begin to see great changes. The air is a little crisper and the leaves begin their transformation into a kalei-

Matthew 5: 13, (ESV).

doscope of colors and beauty that amazes us year after year. Soon the leaves will fade in their beauty and begin to drop to the ground. Most of us will begin looking forward to the upcoming holidays and the ultimate gathering of family and friends, food, celebration and worship. Yes, the onset of fall brings much to our world.

Perhaps just as fall brings change to our world; we need to offer a little change in our own lives and perspective on faith. Jesus said this in “The Sermon on the Mount” “You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”

In our day we take salt for granted we can buy it at the store for a very marginal price, but in Jesus time salt was of great value. In an agrarian society like ancient Palestine money had its place and held value, however, salt for most people was of the greatest value. In Jesus’ time you didn’t have the luxury of modern refrigeration or canning to preserve food. So, salt takes on a different level of importance for most, thus, the statement “you are the salt of the earth.”

Notice Jesus’ words, “you are the salt of the earth.” “You are,” is the operative portion of this phrase. As followers of Christ we have no choice in the matter. It is cast upon us whether we like it or not. Jesus didn’t say you may, should, might, think about it, will be, or any other moniker you can think of but that “you are the salt of the earth.” This should change our perspective about faith and following Christ. Contrary to popular thought we are not Christians to be consumers of God and the church, but to be preservers of this world and those who bring flavor to God’s creation. Yes, salt preserves but it also enhances flavor. Christians are to have this type of affect on the world, but how?

As preservers we are not to be influenced by the world but to influence the world through our faith and walk with Christ. We do this by being true Disciples of Christ. In his last command known as “The Great Commission” (Matthew 28: 16-20) Jesus set the path for his church. We are to make disciples. Yes, followers of Jesus Christ not consumers of entertainment or services of the church but followers. We preserve this world by walking, talking and acting like Jesus in every aspect of our life all one needs do to discover this truth is to read the entire “Sermon on the Mount”. This means Jesus is not just our savior but our lord as well. Everyone wants a savior but few of us want a lord. He must be both. Even though the world may not know it and may reject us or not desire our presence it needs God’s people to preserve order, morality and love.

As flavor, we should be examples of God’s love joy and peace. Sin brings death in this life and the next, however, through Jesus Christ we have new life and so can the entire world. Christ is the catalyst and change maker for new life. How many of us were lost bound by the weight of sin and this world and freed by Christ? Jesus can change even the most hardened or depraved individual into an ambassador of love and hope for a hurting and dying world. Look at the Apostle Paul. He was a persecutor of the church and an ardent enemy of the early church. Just one encounter with Jesus Christ and the persecutor and murderer know as Saul was transformed into a faithful slave of Christ named Paul. Before his conversion this man wrought havoc, fear and death upon God’s people; but after he became a mentor and loving influence upon untold multitudes.

We are the salt of the earth and perhaps with the change of the weather, we can make a change from our often ineffectual and consumer minded faith to one of preserver and flavor for the Kingdom of God.

Grace and Peace to you from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In His service Pastor Carlin

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BLOODMOBILE.....

"sponsored by First Lutheran Church" and held at Pontiac Community Center (formerly Don's Red Fox)

On Wednesday, November 27th, the bloodmobile will be at the above location and we will be in need of: Workers, food and supplies and a sign-up sheet will be on the clipboard. More specific information on the needed food/drink items will be forthcoming. Please watch First Notes (& clipboards) for additional information.

CHRISTMAS MITTEN, GLOVE & HAT TREE....The Christmas tree is up for donations of hats, gloves or mittens for all ages. The hats, gloves & mittens are going to be dispersed in early November as the weather begins to turn cold. We need these as soon as possible. This is a mission that will benefit boys and girls in our community so we will be happy to collect money donations for the hats, gloves & mittens. There is a real need within our school population, and we are happy we can help keep these students warm this winter.. **Thank you for your generosity!** ***WE COULD REALLY USE MORE "MITTENS"** (Sizes for Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade ages). Let's make our Tree look beautiful with these hats, mittens & Gloves. Thank You!

ANNA CIRCLE: *will meet on Thursday, November 7 @ 1:00 pm in the Munson Room. We will be continuing our current Bible study "The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak: Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families". New members and visitors are always welcome to join us. Our meeting begins with updating our prayer list and then praying for the people/situations on the list. The prayer is followed by the Bible study and then a business/congregation information meeting. We collect an offering which is given as a memorial, donation to the food pantry, sponsoring altar flowers or a broadcast, poinsettias to those in nursing facilities, etc. If you have any questions—please call Lynnette @ 815/796-3216.*

KNITWITS: *Knitwits will be on hiatus until the fall.*

JOYFUL WOMEN: started its fall program Sun, Oct 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm, in the Munson Room of First Lutheran Church. We are studying a lesson weekly from the Stonecroft series entitled "Growing in the Christian Life: A Guide to James." This study book has 8 lessons and costs \$8, and we will continue weekly till the Sun. before Thanksgiving 11/24/24. Each Sunday we will complete one lesson and then enjoy a snack and fellowship. Joyful Women is open to **ALL** women of our First Lutheran family and their friends. We look forward to seeing you all. Sue Hiatt (815-844-7933) & Vicki Day (815-844-5420)

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE.... Applications approved for grant money will be

Distributed in February 2025.

Any questions, please contact any member of the foundation Dr. Jim Day, Chad Frank, Dave Harding, Rick Hiatt, Patty Shirley, and Chris Lauritzen.



November News at Noah's Ark!

We have filled our morning classes for this school year and are accepting students on our waiting list for opening up our second set of classes if needed! If you have any questions about classes or would like to be on the waiting list please feel free to email pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com anytime for your questions.

We also offer the option of your 3 year old being enrolled the month AFTER they turn 3! We are so excited to have added this option to our classroom environment in 2021!

The 3-year-old classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:15.
The 4-year-old classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-11:15.

We have had a wonderful start back to our school year! Our friends are getting settled in and enjoying our classroom! We have started on our Letters, Numbers, Shapes and Colors for the school year! This past month we have been working on Fall activities and some Halloween activities within our classroom too! Our friends enjoyed having corn in the sensory bin with some tractors and we just changed into colorful fall rice with measuring cups, pine cones and pumpkins to get ready for Thanksgiving!

Our primary goal is to always ensure the safety of our students; parents and teachers while at the same time promote a **positive and fun** preschool experience.

Thank you for your support here at Noah's Ark!

Breanne Immke

Director of Noah's Ark Preschool

Pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com





SATURDAY, NOV. 2 & SUNDAY, NOV. 3

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY... During this past year we have lost several members of our church who were near and dear to us. On November 2 at the 5:30 pm service, & on November 3 at the 8 am or 10:30 am service, we will be remembering these loved ones. We invite you and anyone else who wants to remember them, or anybody else, by lighting a candle in memory of them.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Sharon "Sherry" Roper	1/29/1954	11/28/2023
Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Follmer	3/07/1959	12/06/2023
Marian Jean Mayer	9/24/1927	12/24/2023
Rupert Rodriguez	7/04/1939	1/01/2024
Carol (Schott) Jones	10/24/1949	1/05/2024
Maurine Kalkwarf	5/30/1926	1/06/2024
Ronald J. Cox	4/28/1931	3/21/2024
Randi Kay Johnson	11/23/1969	7/19/2024
Brad A. Mehrkens	2/19/1965	8/07/2024
Durelle Pritchard	4/15/1937	9/12/2024



Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to

the Livingston Area Food Pantry during the coronavirus pandemic. The pantry has remained open with limited hours and drive-through pick ups to ensure the safety of the workers and clients. The mission and social committee continues to monetarily support the pantry, especially during these difficult times when so many are unemployed and money is tight. During the month of **November** we will collect (especially personals) **laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, female hygiene products (sanitary napkins & tampons), toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, COMPLETE pancake mix, syrup, kids' cereal, canned "complete" meals (w/meat), pop-top foods.** And, as always, any food or "non-essential" item is appreciated. All donated items should be **NON-PERISHABLE & NOT OUTDATED**, please.

I realize the list is long. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish. Moreover, the pantry encourages us to purchase items inexpensively at Dollar Tree and Dollar General.

The church is open daily (M-F) from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. The grocery carts are located in the fellowship hall & by the ramp door, and I check them weekly to make deliveries to assist in feeding our community members. I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to our pantry for so many years. Bless you all for your generous and giving hearts! ~~Chris Lauritzen~~

SAVE THE DATE

First Lutheran will be having a ***Living Nativity*** again this year!!!! It is currently being planned for Sunday, December 22nd. Viewing times will be announced soon.

Julie Rapp will once again be chairing this event.

Please see/contact Julie if you would like to play one of the characters in this wonderful event for the City of Pontiac and beyond
Mission/Social Committee

November Birthdays

Beckett Ahern	11/1	Judy Hendersen	11/10	Claire Ahern	11/24
Lyla Donovan	11/1	Harold Willke	11/11	John K Jones	11/24
Shirley Morgan	11/1	Courtney Lucas	11/12	Willow Sancken	11/24
Kamryn Sheppard	11/4	Alixandra Robinson	11/14	Glen Dennis	11/25
Levy Tucker	11/4	Alan Barling	10/16	Christie Lauritzen	11/26
Sharie Setterlund	11/5	Claire Diemer	11/17	Vicki Day	11/28
Cory Tucker	11/5	George Raube	11/17		
Ryan Tucker	11/5	Kailee Welsh	11/17		
Kyle Tucker	11/5	Carrie Hamilton	11/20		
Laura Vogel	11/5	Pam Weber	11/20		
Gene Coriell	11/6	Kenny Robinson	11/21		
Kristen Holzhauser	11/7	Ray Setterlund	11/22		
Elaine Boden	11/8	Oliver Durbin	11/23		
Jeff Bressner	11/9	Timothy Johnson	11/23		



2024/2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Classes are held on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

REMINDER—If you wish to make a contribution to the church and are uncomfortable/unable to attend in person, you may mail it or drop it off between 8 am & 3:30 pm

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION CHANGES—We will be communing at the rail weekly (except for Christmas Eve and Easter services). We once again offer intinction (as well as individual cups).

With the return of intinction we will once again need TWO communion assistants, so please sign up accordingly. Thank you.

GRIEF SUPPORT—Pastor Ours has introduced an outreach program for grief support. It is open to ANYONE who may be grieving in ANY way (not just the loss of a loved one). Please share the notifications of these meetings. November meeting will be the at “The Breakroom”. Thank you.

Prayer Works



Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Kerry Foster, Darrel Johnson, Jim Jones, Jennifer Kindermann, Marcia Legner, Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Nancy Weber, Stephen Weber, Harold Willke, Cindi Arnold, Theresa Christopher, Betty Koch, Bill Liptak, Ariel Mattingly, Owen Lyons, Judy Gray, Joshua Durbin, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Katherine Harding, Melissa Hoerner, Joni Koch, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Rick Ours, Richard Pfaff, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Dave & Carol Tharp, John Turner, John Winchester, Tiffany Wubben & PJ & Lori Zachman.

CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford.

Let us pray for the following members & friends:

*Evenglow Lodge (Tjardes Health Ctr):
Harley Mayer, Cheryl Weber*

*The Lodge @ Evenglow: Roger Weber,
Jean Hoover*

*Goldwater Care (formerly Good Sam):
Steve Croft, Kerry Foster, Dave & Carol
Tharp,*

IL Veteran's Home, LaSalle: Jim Jones

Luther Oaks, Bloomington: Harold Willke

HIPAA Laws...Because of the HIPAA Laws, if you would like the Pastor to visit you in the hospital, **you must call the church office** (or have the Chaplain at the hospital call the office).

MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Mondays, Nov 4
Bible Study @ The Pointe @ 9:15 am

Mondays, Nov 4 & 18
Euchre @ 6:30 pm

Saturdays
Comforting Ladies (Quilters) 9 am

Sundays @ 6:30 pm (beg. 10/6)
Joyful Women

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am & 6 pm
Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
Confirmation

Thursdays @ 6 pm
Choir

Thursday, Nov 7 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle

Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
Saturdays @ 5:30

Monday, Nov 11 @ Noon
Memorial Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 12 @ 7 pm
Church Council

Monday, Nov 18 @ 7pm
Mission/Social Committee
Tuesday, Nov 19 @ 7 pm

Worship Committee
Friday, Nov 22
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Nov 24
Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:15 - ?

Wednesday, Nov 27
Bloodmobile

Wednesday, Nov 27
Newsletter Assembly @ 9 am
Thursday, Nov 28

Office Closed
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

CEO GROUP

Who are the CEO's? They are people who "come eat out" and dine together once a month at a local restaurant. Based on the printed schedule, if you would like to join them for dinner you would sign up on the clipboard during weekend services (& outside of the office during the week), then you meet at the restaurant that day at 5:30 pm and enjoy a meal with your fellow First Lutheran friends and guests. Each person is responsible for purchasing their own food, drink and tip. The restaurant will be notified by the designated host on Monday of that week with an approximate number of people who will be eating. Depending on the restaurant and the number of people attending, more than one table may be necessary. Days will be alternated to give those with previous commitments an opportunity to attend. Only Pontiac restaurants have been assigned at this time, but may be changed with the next schedule based upon the desires of the group. Additionally, different meal times (ie. breakfast or lunch) may be added. This is open to anyone of the First Lutheran family and their guest(s). Please consider coming out and enjoy the fellowship when new schedule is out. A new schedule will be completed based upon your voiced feedback. Questions: Please contact Marion Willhoite or Vicki Day.

Come join the fun every other Monday night



Mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word.

We will open doors at 6 pm, play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$4/person

We want everyone who attends to feel safe and comfortable. Please do not attend if you do not feel well . If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

Nov 4 & 18

Dec 2 & 16

Jan 6 & 20, 2025

Feb 3 & 17, 2025

HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

YOUTUBE: www.firstlutheranyoutube.org

You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by going to YouTube and searching for "Pontiac First Lutheran"

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: <https://firstlutheranpontiac.org/live-stream/>

APPLE TV & ROKU: *Download an app called "Box Cast" and search for a channel called "Pontiac First Lutheran" Once you find it, make it one of your favorites and you can watch from your tv or phone!*

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pontiacfirstlutheran/>

Go to this link and request to be added to the group. Once you are added you will get notifications of our next service and see past services!

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

If you have the twitter app, search for "First Pontiac" and you can 'follow' us on Twitter!



First Lutheran Church
Worshiping Christ - Serving Our Neighbor



SOLES 4 SOULS

The Mission/Social Committee continues to support Soles4Souls through benevolences and donations. Our committee recently received a check from Helping Hands/Cross Word Café for \$1,265.39 which represents a portion of a week's profit in their store. That generous donation was sent to Soles4Souls along with First Lutheran's benevolence of \$1000.00. **We have decided NOT to collect and send shoes at this time; HOWEVER,** shoes can still be donated in two ways:

1. Shoes can be dropped off at any DSW shoe store. The closest DSW shoe store is located in Bloomington across from Eastland Mall on Route 9 near Home Goods and Dick's Sporting Goods.

2. Another way to donate shoes is to go to the Soles4Souls website at "soles4souls.org". Click on the box labeled "Ship for free". There you will find instructions on how to box them up and print a free shipping label. Boxes can be dropped off at Advance Auto Parts near Baby Bull's. We formerly used PST, but unfortunately they now add a surcharge to ship via UPS from there.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The quilting ladies at First Lutheran have been working diligently all year putting together beautiful quilts that will benefit people here in the US and all over the world. THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! to everyone who is part of this ministry. If you have, or do, share your time, talent or treasure (working on quilts, donating fabric, thread, etc. or share information about the ministry, etc.), you are a part of this ministry. The quilt ministry schedule is very FLEXIBLE. The ministry currently meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and all day on Saturday. They are currently 10 women working on the quilts — some work at church, some work at home and some work both places. As needed throughout the year, some of the quilts are delivered locally to police, fire and ambulance services. This year we began delivering some of the quilts to the NALC Disaster Services Warehouse in Rantoul (currently all of their services are provided domestically). Also, each year the First Lutheran high school graduates receive a quilt from their church family. Recently, the Mission/Social Committee shared quilts to the two seminary students that First Lutheran supports. Again, THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!! to everyone who is helping First Lutheran "serve our neighbors".

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please join us every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. for our Adult Sunday School Class. We are studying a very important topic "Discipleship. Please plan on joining us and why not bring a friend. Hope to see you there!

Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank You!



Thank You.... for all the orders
that came in for the pointsettias
this year! Our Chancel area will look
beautiful this Christmas season!
Thank You!

NURSERY NEWS: Several children's VHS
tapes and Head Cleaner to clean them, must
have decided to find a new home. We can't
find them. Can anyone help us out with that.
They would like to have more children's tapes
back in the Nursery if anyone has any they
would like to give up. **The kids would be
very happy. They THANK YOU for your
help in advance.**

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Pastor Carlin: carlinours@gmail.com

704/775-9823

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER

2024

“Worshiping Christ, Serving Our Neighbor”

Weekend Worship Schedule

Sat. 5:30 pm

Sun. 8:00 am

Sun. 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Our Staff

Pastor: Carlin Ours
Office Admin: Mary Ann Johnson
Acct: Angel Hall
Custodian: DeAnn Dennis
Vol. Coord: Mary Ann Johnson
Choir Dir: Joseph Durbin

2024 Congregational Council:

Jim Drengwitz, President
Stephanie Durbin
Jeff Bressner, V. President
Al Fahsbender
, Secretary
Dawn Graves
Steve Ray , Treasurer
Marcia Legner
Steve Ray, Fin. Secretary
Julie Rapp
Christine Brown
Gail Smythe
Liz Diemer