



# First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## November Handclasp Newsletter



### From Pastor Sami

I went to the Central States Synod, "Theological Conference" this past month and learned about a study done

by Baylor University that discovered Americans believe in four perceptions of God; Authoritarian, Benevolent, Critical and Distant. They surveyed 1,721 people and found the majority believed in God or a divine being yet understood God differently. An authoritarian God is highly engaged in our lives and in the world and is also highly judgmental and stern. The benevolent God is like the authoritarian God; however, sees God as less angry and more positive and forgiving. The critical God is a distant observer and punishes when needed. And finally, there is the distant God who is not active or interested in the world at all. Of those surveyed, 31.4% believe in an authoritative God, 23% a benevolent God, 16% a critical God and 24.4% in a distant God. Paul Froese, a Baylor University sociology professor and researcher said,

"The higher your income, the less likely you are to think God is angry... The lower your income, the more likely you are to think God is angry. Gender is another big relationship. Women tend much toward the benevolent God. Men are more likely to think God is angry..." The question these four perceptions of God raise is, "How is God active in our everyday lives?" Froese says, "A person's [perception of] God is a direct reflection of [their] level of moral absolutism, view of science, understanding of economic justice, concept of evil and how [they] think we should respond to it." This is what every writer in the Bible was trying to understand; who is God, what is God doing in the world and how are we a part of it? How we answer that question helps us better understand our views and how we should behave. When we go through times of trial, we rely on these perceptions of God to help us understand the world around us. Perhaps by understanding someone's perception of God, we are better able to understand their perception of the world around them and why they believe and act the way they do. These perceptions

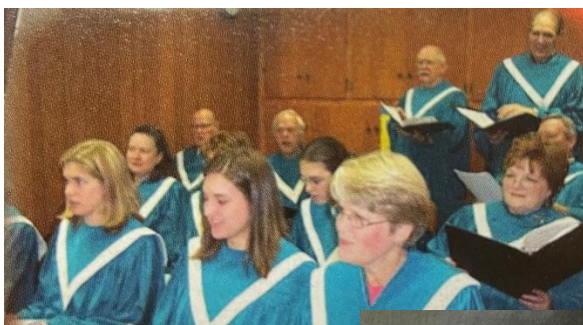
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are formed in childhood from our parents' and family views and our experiences in church. As we continue in our journey of faith, we begin to have personal experiences with God. Froese says, "What we're finding is that people are sitting in the pews because they feel personally engaged with God or that God is personally engaged in their lives... It's really the personal relationship with God that brings them around and gets them involved." In the survey, only 5.2% of people identified as Atheist. People in the U.S. believe in God and many are trying to understand who God is, how is God active in the world and how are we a part of that? My question to First Lutheran is, "How can we help God and others to answer those questions."



### **Celebration for Sharmyn Thompson and the Choir**

Mark your calendar for November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. We will be having a reception after worship in the Chapel to thank Sharmyn, who transitioned from choir member to director 16 years ago. We will also thank the individual choir members for providing the gift of music to our worship services throughout the years.



## Worship and Music Ministry Live Streaming

Our live stream is coming along. We are still learning and working out all the issues. Thank you so much for your patience, understanding and encouraging words. Every week we track how many people watched our worship experience both on YouTube and Facebook. We multiply that number by two because there is usually more than one person watching at a time. On average the number of online viewers in August was 122 and September was 101. Having people physically attend worship services doesn't mean they aren't worshipping. Our online worshippers are participating with us and the Holy Spirit is active in their life. This is an important ministry of First Lutheran. Please keep this ministry and those worshipping with us online in your prayers. *Holy God, we thank you for the gift of our online worship experience. Bless everyone who worships with us, whether in person or online, with an experience with you. Help us know you are with us and through our worship, you are strengthening us to do your work in the world. Amen.*



## Worship Team

### Advent Series Beginning November 27

This year our Advent theme for worship is "Calm and Bright." Each week we will take an in depth look at one verse from one of our favorite Christmas hymns, "Silent Night." The original piece written by Josef Mohr had six verses. The English lyrics were not written until 1863 by the Episcopal priest John Freeman Young. We typically only do three verses but this Advent, we will be looking at four. We will also be lighting the advent candles with their traditional focus: peace, joy, love, and hope.

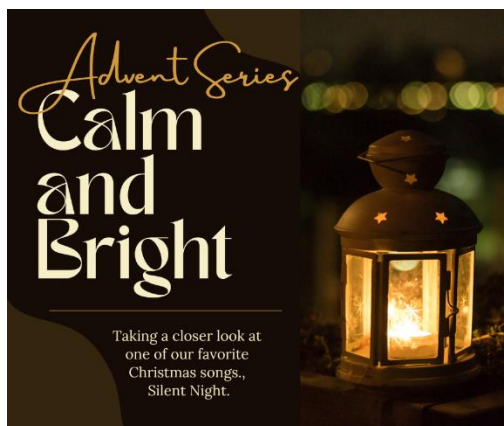
Week 1: Sleep in heavenly peace (peace)

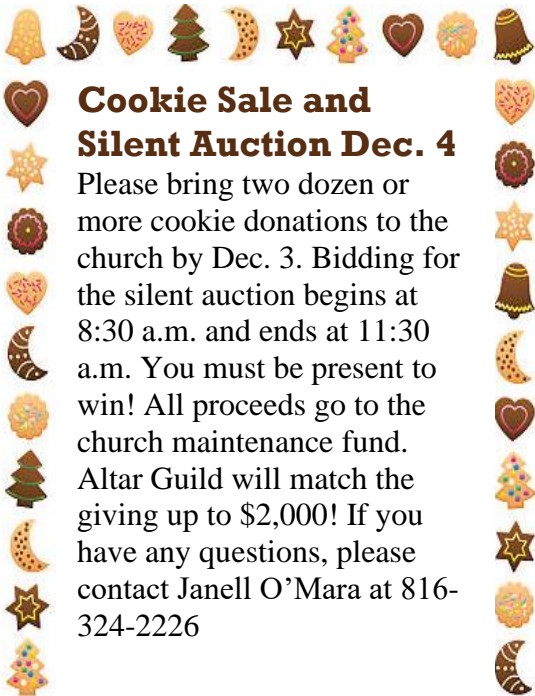
Week 2: Glories stream (joy)

Week 3: Redeeming grace (love)

Week 4: Let us sing (hope)

And as you know, with a series comes worship art to help us further engage in the theme. Please invite family and friends to this Advent Worship experience as we anxiously await the coming of Jesus into the world.





## **Cookie Sale and Silent Auction Dec. 4**

Please bring two dozen or more cookie donations to the church by Dec. 3. Bidding for the silent auction begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. You must be present to win! All proceeds go to the church maintenance fund. Altar Guild will match the giving up to \$2,000! If you have any questions, please contact Janell O'Mara at 816-324-2226

## **Christmas Caroling December 11, 5:00 p.m. Save the date!**

We will start at the church and go to our sacred senior's homes who are unable to attend church. We will end our night of fun with goodies and hot chocolate. All talent and age levels are invited!



## **Youth Ministry Confirmation Sunday**

We will be confirming our ninth grade students on May 7 during worship. Make sure you mark your calendars and support our Confirmation students.

## **Sunday Night Activities**

Every Sunday evening from 7:30-8:30 p.m., youth grades 7-12 will meet at the church for either Small Group, Destination Worship or Youth Group.

**No Sunday Anything Nov. 27!**



## **November Youth Group Activity**

November 13: Amazing Race

We will start at church and go to congregation member's homes to complete a task. Once completed, the host home will give you the next destination. The first team to complete all challenges and return to the church wins!

## **Opportunities to Serve**

### **Make Dessert for Haven House**

Sign up to make dessert for the men at Haven House. Sign up by calling the office (816) 232-8378, [flcsj302@gmail.com](mailto:flcsj302@gmail.com)) or sign up outside the chapel.

### **Cookie Bakers Needed**

Altar Guild is calling on all cookie bakers to bake 2 dozen or more cookies for the Cookie Sale on Dec. 4. Please bring cookies to the church no later than Dec. 3. Thank you!

### **Silent Auction Baskets Needed!**

Several years ago, Ed Holmes made baskets and we still have several of them that could be used as your basket free of charge. You can pick them up at the pews in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Calling All Bread Bakers**

Altar Guild needs a volunteer to supply bread for communion for the month of December. Please see Ann Newman if you'd like to supply the bread.  
[newman3@stjoewireless.com](mailto:newman3@stjoewireless.com) or sign up outside the chapel.

### **Help with the Potluck Meal**

Please sign up outside the chapel to help set up and/or clean up the monthly Potluck meal.

Called to *Serve*

## **Altar Guild**

This is a busy time of year for the Altar Guild as we plan and prepare for the remainder of the year. Here are a few highlights that may be of interest to members:

The **2023 Flower Chart** will be posted on the bulletin board by November 1. Feel free to sign up for any Sunday during the year, but especially in January so we'll be ready for the new year.

**Orders for Poinsettias** will be taken before and after worship during the month of November. The cost will be \$15.00 and needs to be paid by November 27, the deadline for all orders. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Lewis or Janice Harmsen.



### **Help Decorate the Church**

#### **December 3 at 2:30 p.m.**

There will be Christmas music, goodies and lots of fun as we decorate the church for Christmas. All are welcome!

## **Christian Education Opportunities**

### **Weekly:**

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami meets Mondays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the downstairs classroom. We discuss the scriptures to be preached the upcoming Sunday.

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami also meets Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. online only. **Zoom ID 845 6213 2526**

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:00-12:00 a.m. in the upstairs classroom.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We discuss the scriptures and sermon from worship.

### **Monthly:**

Phoebe's Circle is a women's Bible study group that meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the chapel.

## **Archive Team**

We are looking for old church directories. Please drop them off at the church office or bring them to worship and give them to the ushers. Thank you.

## **Giving as an Act of Faith**

Each year, we ask the members of First Lutheran Church to think about their budgets and how much they can give to the church.

The money that is donated helps pay for the building, heat/AC, lights, and such so people can meet here like the South Sudanese congregation and the Girl Scouts. It also pays for our staff who help move ministries along. It pays for the great ministries we do like worship, Christian education, youth ministry, and serving food at the Haven House. One person cannot pay for everything. It takes a church to keep the ministries God has put in our path going. We believe in God, in God's church and in the missions of First Lutheran. Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." If our heart is in God and our faith, our treasure will be there also. But what if we don't have money to spare? Youth are a prime example of that. Many don't have jobs and don't get an allowance. I encourage them to intentionally write down on the pledge cards how they will donate their time and talents to church. Many people share their talent for music, which help us experience God in a different way. Others help with maintenance around the church or sign up to help with the monthly Potluck meal. There are many ways you can give to God. So again, please prayerfully consider how God is encouraging you to give to God's church this year. Thank you, Pastor Sami.



Nov. 11, 7pm **THE BEACH BOYS**  
**SURFIN' USA**  
*Tribute Band*

At the Missouri Theater

IMAGINE ELEVEN

Get tickets at [jomotickets.com/events/category/music/tribute](http://jomotickets.com/events/category/music/tribute)

Learn to knit

First Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for about an hour.

**SIMPLE KNITTING**  
 We will make dishcloths for our visitor bags. If you don't want to knit but want to hang out, bring a craft or hobby and join us!

**The Unicorn Pastor**  
 A unique pastor with a unique point of view

**New Blog**  
[www.theunicornpastor.com](http://www.theunicornpastor.com)

Grow in Faith

**EVERY MONDAY**

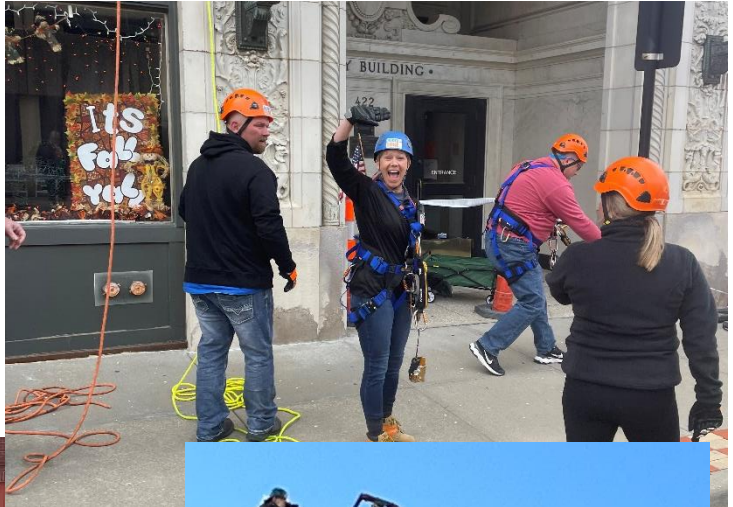
**COUNTRY LINE DANCING CLASS**

**6-8 p.m.**

At First Lutheran Church  
 302 South 10th Street

# Monthly Potluck

After worship on the **last Sunday of every month** we will have a Potluck. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship. All are welcome.







## Anniversaries and Birthdays



### Anniversaries

Jack and Carolyn Pearl, 11/15, 21 years  
Gary Myers and Deann Young, 11/22, 33 years  
Jason and Tracy Starks, 11/27, 24 years



### Birthdays

Nancy Nelson, 11/03  
Carol Wilson, 11/05  
Peggy Clark, 11/07  
Mindy Erickson, 11/07  
Alexis Starks, 11/09  
John Lawrence, 11/11  
Tina Olson, 11/13  
Ian Kinney, 11/ 14  
Jim Pierce, 11/15  
Jeff Langdon, 11/17  
Susan Cornelius, 11/19  
Aaron Schmidt, 11/19  
Della Schiermeyer, 1/23  
Myrene Bunge, 11/26 age: 101!  
Klaranda Behrens, 11/29  
Eric Blanc, 11/29  
Phil Hornbostel, 11/29  
Nancy Lewis, 11/29

### Council Highlights

- Getting bids to re-roof the three towers
- Getting bids for parking lots maintenance
- Looking for three new council members
- We are going to sponsor a table at the Youth Alliance Stars fundraiser



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## Prayers

### Members:

**David Schmidt** prayers for comfort as he has eye surgery Nov. 2

**Ed Holmes**, he is doing very. He is adjusting well after his move. Prayers for good health.

**Floreen Johnson**, prayers for good health.

**Myrene Bunge**, prayers for good health.

**Dorothy Masteller**, prayers of strength and healing. She is at DiversaCare to recover from cellulitis and weakness. Last week she was diagnosed with COVID. Our prayer is she is strong enough to continue her chemotherapy, soon.

**Jennifer Bufkin**, prayers for strength and peace with her stressful job.

**Richard Palmer** (husband of Debbie Ziph-Palmer and friend of Carol Wilson)

**Pamela Kirkpatrick-Norton**, prayers for her health. Prayers for her family for healing and continued faith.

**Verna Kirschner** prayers for comfort and peace.

**Della Schiermeyer**, prayer for joy and strength.

### Friends

**Kylee Skaggs** (friend of Nataleigh Messimore and Todd Meier)

**Richard Palmer** (husband of Debbie Ziph-Palmer and friend of Carol Wilson),

**Darin Hinnergardt** (friend of Jeff Langdon),

### Friends continued:

**Nick Howard** (Kay Howard's Husband) for healing and strength during cancer treatments.

**Keira Wall** (great-niece of Irene Wall), was put on a trach and colostomy bag this week. She is having a very hard time.

Prayers for Keira and her family.

**John Rushin and Barbra**, his wife (friends of Dan Chladek)

**Brenda Fanning** (step-daughter of Dorothy Masteller),

**Carol Powers** (Marilyn Hunt's sister),

**Larry Kramer** (Joy Winters' brother-in-law),

**Robbi O'Connell**, (Charlotte Chirila's granddaughters) prayers for comfort from COVID complications. **Randi DeRoin** prayers for comfort due to complications with her vision and diagnosis of MS.

**Rosa Langdon** (granddaughter of Kris and Jeff Langdon), prayers for healing and joy.

**Kellye Pfalzgraf**, (Pastor Sami's father) prayers for health, healing and strength.

**Emily McWhirter**, (Jeff Langdon's mother).

**Janis Roorda** (Jeff Langdon's friend)

**John Allen Weise, Leona Snodgrass, Donni Powell,**

**Trudy McCloud** (Bob and Fran Lynch niece),

**Victor Johnson** (uncle of Kenny Ruff),

**Kim Durbin** (cousin of Kenny Ruff)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
November 6	Jim Pierce	Ken Korell	Brooke Coyle
November 13	Ann Newman	Kathy Wessler	Brooke Coyle
November 20	Marilyn Hunt	Steve Archer	Kendra Bufkin
November 27	Joyce Stroud	Jim Pierce	Stetson Rush

**Ushers:** Ann Newman, Joyce Stroud, Marilyn Hunt



<b>Average Attendance</b>	
In Person	73
Online	100
<b>Offering Year-to-Date</b>	
Income	\$152,592.72
Expense	\$159,034.33
Difference	-\$6,441.61

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flower Schedule</b>
November 6	Janell O'Mara
November 13	Ed Holmes
November 20	Juel Pierce
November 27	Jim and Carol Bunge

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
<p>Noisy Offering</p> <p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p>	<p>Halloween</p> <p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>First Day of American</p> <p>6:30pm - Knitting Group</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>	<p>12pm - First Friday Lunch</p>	
<p>Daylight Saving Time</p> <p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:30am - Sharyn</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>Election Day</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Altar Guild</p> <p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p> <p>6:30pm - Church Council</p>	<p>Veterans Day</p>	
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>Last day to submit</p> <p>7am - Men's Breakfast at</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>1pm - Phoebe Circle</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>		
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>3pm - Haven House</p> <p>5pm - Haven House</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>	<p>Native American Heritage</p>	
<p>Noisy Offering</p> <p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>		<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>	<p>12pm - First Friday Lunch</p>	<p>11am - Youth Alliance</p> <p>2:30pm - Altar Guild</p>