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*The next  
Property meeting  
will be  
October 2, 2024  
6:30 Pm.*



## What are you glad to see today?

I was amazing to see a silent TV commercial this week. I imagine, like Barb and I, you have grown weary of all the political adds on TV. A few tout why you might want to vote for the star of the add, but most toss distasteful 'mud' on the opposing candidate while presuming we will think the mudslinging candidate is mister clean.

So it was refreshing, and attention getting, to not hear anything, only see words typed on the screen, slowly enough that you can read them. Service Legends offering a discount on pre-season furnace tune up. We'll probably still call our familiar local heating and cooling company. But it was a wise move to insert their silent add into the present unpleasant noise of election adds.

You church does not run adds on TV, but we do offer a refreshing alternative to the negative canceling and discarding of public servants. That is still in the job description, 'public servant' and I want to believe that all realize that the people they represent and are supposed to serve will not accept the extreme policies their accusing the other of planning to implement. Tensions are high because of what is tolerated and the rhetoric.

I believe we agree that much political dialogue disrespects our intelligence and common sense. Perhaps you wish with me that more people would take time to become informed about the issues most important to them, wade through the conflict to assess how they would like to see the human circumstance addressed, discern what candidate has a corresponding plan that is not just pandering for votes. Complicating our discernment and hope are the overwhelming influence of the ways we get our information.

While your church should be a place where we can engage in respectful honest dialogue with a both-and approach rather than either-or, the secular 'other be damned' rhetoric plays loudly in our ears.

There is so much at stake in this election, so it seems. What will really change? There is so much that we cannot directly influence, in a government which is supposed to serve the people's interest and represent our values.

Yet in church we gather to worship and serve the God who has come to us personally giving us mercy, hope, and peace the worldly cannot destroy. The God who does not set peoples and nations against one another, rather offers grace while suffering human arrogance. God remains sovereign and shelter for the souls who do not continue to misplace their trust.

The world seems so far from God and we are blessed to know the God who continues to come to us and speak to us through the written Word illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

May we trust God and God's presence in one another. At the conclusion of his letter to the church James encourages his readers to be the church at her best. In all circumstances may we pray to the Lord, with gratitude for God alone is good.

Look for God's good work in fellow believers and the recognized leaders of the church.

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Prayer is a powerful gift and resource. To directly address God almighty with our darkest fears and brightest joys. Speak to our Lord with the confidence borne of Faith that you and fellow humanity are loved. So loved that repentance of sins removes their power to diminish our lives. God's mercy in the forgiveness of sins frees us to live in positive and constructive relationship with one another, and for all, as God's renewing love is enacted through, and for all humanity. It is our responsibility to vote in elections, to seek honest information and listen to the still small voice of truth in our hearts. When the election is decided we can still be united and stand in the grace and love of God for all, being salt and light that is not containable in a political party or ideology.

**Next Sunday,** October 13th we will host Pastor Kari Lee in a pulpit exchange.

Pastor Kurt and Kari worked this out as Synod conversations regarding regional mission strategy have been revived. The conversation includes ELCA Congregations in Jasper and Poweshiek Counties.

The vision is for clergy to share our strengths, talents, and availability. The purpose of the pulpit exchange is to introducing to you another pastor who is available to you. Pastor Kari serves Holy Trinity in Newton and St Andrews, Sully. She is talented in youth ministry as well as being a vibrant preacher.

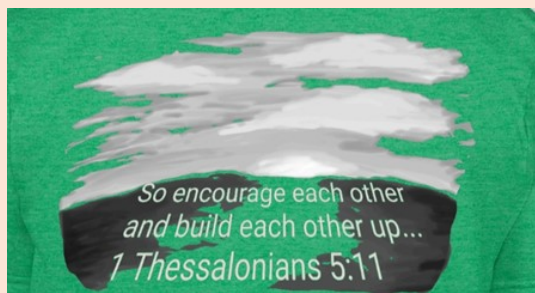
## First Lutheran T-Shirt Pre-Order

Since there has been interest in a wearable recognition of First Lutheran, our very own Rachel Monroe has designed the back of this t-shirt and Katie and Emily Cantu the front. Because the price varies by the number of items ordered we don't know the exact price yet, but it will be around \$20 for a short-sleeved t-shirt and \$28 for a long-sleeved t-shirt. We will collect payment prior to ordering once we know the exact price. There will be a pre-order form available in the Narthex to complete **by Oct. 27.**

**Front**



**Back**



## Choices in Mission: Chihoni!

October is here, and our Choices in Mission focus for the month is again on our Tanzania mission. **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> is Chihoni Sunday.** During the service, Paula Lofstrom and IHP-US president Charles Powell will share the exciting plans for Chihoni Medical Center in a recorded message. Our Fellowship time will be Tanzania themed, and you will have an opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping with selections of cool gifts from Tanzania: Elephant grass baskets, wood and soapstone carvings, and handmade jewelry.

At Chihoni, the land has been cleared of brush and leveled, and IHP's project manager Selemani Shabani's team is ready to break ground on two buildings that will go up simultaneously: The all-important Outpatient Department, and "Paula's House," which will provide lodging for teams of volunteers.

This has been a long time coming. But finally, after meticulous planning, frustrating delays, and miles of red tape, every bureaucratic demand has been met. Stacks of concrete blocks await the final building permit. Sele's crew is eager to start building.



Once the Outpatient Department is ready to open, the new Chihoni Medical Center will be able to start seeing patients, bringing excellent care to this underserved area. This building will also house a very necessary surgical suite for minor surgeries.



*Our October Choices in Mission challenge is to help equip that surgical suite.* Basic needs include an operating table, an anesthesia machine, a sterilizer, and a cautery machine. Our congregation generously matches the gifts of members up to \$5000, and those gifts with the matching funds will go a long way toward making the surgical suite a reality.

The background fabric on our Tanzania bulletin boards carries a message in Swahili. It says: "Kazi ya Mungu haina makosa," (God's work is no mistake), or in the words of St. Paul, "...in the Lord, your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58b) After a year when everything seemed to move in slow motion, the IHP team is seeing that indeed, their work has not been in vain. With God's help, they will soon be providing excellent medical care to the people of Chihoni Village. Let us support them with our prayers and gifts.

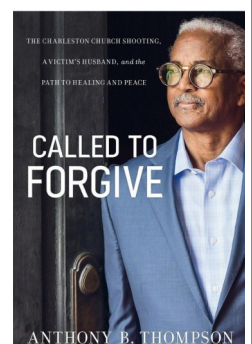
## Called to Forgive

I am facilitating a study using the book "Called to Forgive" by the man whose wife while leading a Bible Study at the AME church of Charleston SC June 17, 2015, when a young white Supremist joined the group. Towards the end of the study he got out a glock and killed most of the people there including Myra the one leading the study.

The book is by her husband the Rev. Anthony B. Thompson wrote the book "Called to Forgive" that takes us through his journey of Forgiveness and a look at what it means as a Christian to forgive those who have hurt us deeply.

We meet at 8:30 am on Sunday morning downstairs, please come join us anytime.

-Maria DeRush







It seems a little early to be thinking about Christmas, but First Lutheran is going to decorate a tree for the 2024 Tree-Mendous Christmas Experience! at the Jasper County Museum.

So we are looking for people to help. This event is widely attended and is a great opportunity to share our gifts with the community. If you have an idea for a theme, please let Deborah Rose (deborah.rose65@gmail.com) know by Oct. 20.

On Sunday, Nov. 3 during/after fellowship time we will ask people to bring and/or create decorations to fit the theme (tbd). Then one day that week (Nov. 4 – Nov. 8) we will need volunteers to go to the museum between 9 am and 12 pm to actually decorate the tree. More information and announcements will follow, but we wanted to get this out there so you can start thinking about how you may be able to contribute.

Thanks, Deb Rose.

**Go check out our scarecrow  
at the Newton Arboretum**  
October 12, 2024 from 10-12:00pm



Thank you to Corinne Coyle, Judy Swenson, Mo Wilkins & Maria DeRush for putting together our scarecrow this year to be auctioned off.



**Thank you card from :  
David & Alicia Troen**

Thinking of you. *Family of First Lutheran*  
Alicia & David Troen  
really good to hear  
from church family  
& goodies!!

### **Crop Walk for Hunger**

The 2024 CWS/CROP Walk will be held  
Sunday, October 6 at 2:00.

Please let Corinne know if you are interested in walking. Contributions for the walk can be made payable to First Lutheran or CWS/Crop Walk on or before October 6.

## **N.H.N. Hygiene Collection**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is collecting hygiene products for the hygiene closets at the middle and high schools. These are used by our Newton kids whose families are living on the edge and provides them with shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other hygiene products. We are also collecting new socks and underwear for all ages. These will go to the school nurses and the Salvation Army for distribution to individuals who may only have one pair of socks and underwear.

Items will be collected during October and November and delivered to the schools the second week of December.

To assure a varied distribution on sizes collected member churches should focus on the following sizes

- **First Lutheran: children's underwear size 6 and sock size 3**
- First Christian: children's underwear size 8 and sock size 4
- United Church of Christ: children's underwear size 10 and sock size 5
- First Methodist: children's underwear size 12 and sock size 6
- First Presbyterian: children's underwear size 14 and sock size 7
- United Presbyterian: children's underwear size 16 and sock size – smallest adult size
- Sacred Heart: adult underwear size 6 and 7 for women and men's small and socks for average adult shoe sizes (these will be sent to the high school)

**If you would prefer to donate cash the money will be used to purchase new clothes for the middle and high school clothing closets based on their needs.**



Christine Breuer 10/04  
 Teresa Weiland 10/05  
 Bradley Portner 10/06  
 Alicia Troen 10/09  
 Brenda Hodnett 10/17  
 Marie Quanbeck 10/22  
 Laird Trusler 10/26  
 Nicholas McVey 10/27  
 Jodi Portner 10/27  
 David Troen 10/27  
 Matthew Coyle 10/28  
 Ken Weiland 10/29  
 Aaron Bartholmey 10/30  
 Emmeline Ketcham 10/30  
 Tom Sharp 10/30

### **Giving Made Easy**

First Lutheran has generated a QR Code to make giving even easier.

On your iPhone or Android phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone or tablet. Follow the instructions on the screen to finish.



*All previous forms of giving are still available.  
 This is just 1 more option.*



## Humble beginnings

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 I self.

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

## Stephen Ministry Class

### Caring for People Experiencing a Major Medical Crisis

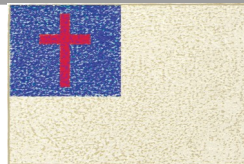
During our Monthly Stephen Ministry Meeting we will be studying caring for people experiencing a major medical crisis. Members of the congregation who would like to join us are welcome. It will be Monday 10/21, 6:30 pm in the Education Room. Please let Pastor or I if you want to come, there is material that can be read ahead of time.

Blessings,

Maria DeRush (760) 608-0642

## Christian symbol

**CHRISTIAN FLAG** — Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag represents all of Christianity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies Jesus' purity, nonviolence and surrender to God's will, plus the peace we gain by surrendering ourselves to Christ.



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.



## Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!



*Quilts made by Dorcas will be on display in the sanctuary on October 6th and 13th .*

October Monthly Mission: International Health Partners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Property Meeting 6:30 Pm	3 Dorcas 9:00 am	4	5
6 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am IHP / Chihoni Sunday Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Day	14 Memorial Service for Sarah Sandquist 11:00 am	15	16 Lois Cr. 9:00 Am Council Meeting 7:00 Pm	17	18	19
20 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am	21 Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am Reformation Sunday & Commitment Sunday	28	29	30	31		

**Pastor Hoovers Hours:**  
Monday & Tuesday  
9:00Am- - 12:00Pm

**Office Hours**  
Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—12:30 pm

**Reformation Sunday &  
Commitment Sunday**  
**Sunday, October 27th, 2024**



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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*From you comes my praise*  
**IN THE GREAT CONGREGATION;**  
*my vows I will perform*  
**BEFORE THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.**

PSALM 22:25, ESV

*How can we be praying  
for you?*