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June Newsletter 2025



Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Donald Welmer
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Gilbert Pingel
Administrative Assistant	Amy Sandy
Director of Music	Justin Hipp
Organist/Pianist	Anna Hipp
Custodian	Denise Topp
President	Adam Weidman
BCA Principal	David Topp

From Pastor Welmer...

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we grow as a church here at First Lutheran, it is important to remind ourselves of the importance of coming together often. Not just in worship, but also in fellowship. Worship and Fellowship are two

different things. Both have the body of Christ gathered, but the focal points are for different specific purposes.

Worship is the primary purpose of gathering, as believers come together to honor and glorify God. Hebrews 10:25 exhorts Christians not to forsake assembling together, emphasizing the importance of mutual encouragement and worship: "Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Divine Service on Sunday morning is specifically to come together as Christ's holy people, to be gathered around Word and Sacrament and receive God's gifts towards us together in common confession of our faith. It is the vertical relationship we have between our Father in Heaven as the 1st 3 commandments state.

Fellowship is a vital component of Christian gatherings, fostering unity and love among believers. 1 John 1:7 states, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." This fellowship is both a reflection of and a response to the relationship believers have with Christ.

There are times outside of worship where we have opportunities to come together just for pure Christian fellowship. At First Lutheran, everyone is encouraged to seek each other for fellowship outside of Divine Service. What events do we hold as a Church that provide opportunities for us to gather? In this, we fulfill the second tablet of the law of Moses which is our horizontal relationship with each other.

As your pastor I pray that you are not neglecting the opportunities to be with God (Worship) and to be with one another

(Fellowship). The devil seeks to destroy and strip away all joy we have in Christ and make us hate one another. Be on guard and remember your communal relationship with each other in Christ at First Lutheran Church.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Welmer

From Principal Topp, BCA

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30

Expectations leading into "It is finished" seems a bit odd but we are Lutheran Christians and we understand the expectations of the one and true God and His plan for our salvation through His Son's time on the cross and resurrection. Not nearly as impactful as that historical event, but we wrapped up a school year and are planning for next year and beyond.

By the Grace of God and a fantastic team we have made strides to "make disciples" with three baptisms this year and our ROAR theme expectations. We celebrated the baptisms and recognized the positive character traits that show Jesus during our "Whopping Acts of ROAR" presentations. We had multiple students share their musical gifts during chapel and continue to have our middle schoolers read the Bible passages.

I will wrap up my Principal 360 adventure and have a comprehensive strategic plan for BCA in November that will guide our ministry in growth

and intentionality. The program is addressing culture and climate, academic and spiritual training, fiscal responsibility, recruitment, retention, and marketing, and innovation in the Lutheran School. Through this program BCA-The Lutheran School will develop and strengthen our team so we can be more effective in influencing and impacting our students, families, church community and the greater community of Chattanooga.

Momentum and direction with a growth mindset will guide the ministry of the school and I want to thank First Lutheran, Good Shepherd, Cross of Christ, Trinity Lutheran Church (Athens), and Spirit of Joy who pray for our success. We feel your prayers!

God is good - all the time. Inspiring faith in Jesus for a lifetime of service.

Thank you for allowing me to serve with you,

David Topp

June Birthdays

Trey Selcer	6/1
Diane Avriett	6/2
Scott Bumgardner	6/4
Jackson Barber	6/5
Ted Engel	6/5
Lisa Freer	6/6
Chuck Fretwell	6/7
John Savor	6/7
Pat Stroud	6/8
Randi Streufert	6/9
Cindy Smith	6/12

Gabbi Beck	6/19
Becky Emmer	6/19
Elora Powers	6/20
John-luc Alonzo	6/20
Jasley Montgomery	6/22
Elizabeth Medeiros	6/23
John Moselage	6/23
Myla Gray	6/23
Debbie Sparks	6/23
Ted Ryan	6/24
Noah Alonzo	6/26

Linda Pingel	6/13
Charlie Shamblin	6/13
Alice Turner	6/15

Marie Townley	6/27
Clara Hipp	6/28
Teresa Seiberlich	6/30

June Anniversaries

	# yrs	
John Aaron & Zoe Jovaag	4	6/1
John & Peggy Mosalaga	51	6/6
David & Denise Topp	40	6/8
Michael & Jessica Powers	19	6/10
Cynthia & Ray Gili	9	6/10
Garet & Page Baker	3	6/18
Karl & Kathleen Dolloff	31	6/25
Jeff & Kathy Fisher	48	6/25
Tom & Vera Yerman	43	6/26
Daniel & Sarah Barber	15	6/28
Ed & Bonnie Vinson	12	6/29
James & Sheri Cook	41	6/30

Prayer Requests

Members

Ingrid Hall
Judy Nance
Jesse, Grace, James
& Charity Norman
Teresa Petty

Family of Members

Page Dover (Stroud)

Friends of Members

Jane Amstutz (Streufert)
Marty Dunagan (Slaten)
Gene & Faye Edwards (Tyson)
Ava England (Anderson)
Jon Freese (Gatlin)
Jim Gilliland (Hyde)
Charmaine Goines (Petty)
Barbara Hart (Selcer)

Doug Emmer (Emmer)
Sherry Emmer (Emmer)
Kris Hall (Hall)
Ashley Koss (Schlie)
Jim Koss (Schlie)
Kathy Kreiman (Lewis)
Austin Martin (Petty)
Dusty Martin (Petty)
Christan McCall (Schlie)
Valerie McMullen (McMullen)
Lloyd Miller (Uffalussy)
Avery Morkert (Morkert)
James O'Connell (Pacenti)
Tim Stroud (Stroud)
Jo & Steve Vail (Vail)
Katie Williams' father

Alta Hook (Schroeder)
Stella Kuhn (McMullen)
Naomi (Randall)
Ollie Reeves (Simmons)
Les Seibert (Anderson)
Joyce Skiles (J Freer)
The Squires Family
Amy Turner, Lilly and Tabitha
(Turner)
Angel Weldon (Cox)

LONG-TERM: Joan Ashton, Marian Fretwell, Carolyn Kempson, Ida Jane Larson, Walter Meyer, Peggy Moselage, Paul Parker, Pastor Pingel, Stan Puterbaugh, David Ratchford, Pat Stroud, Robbie & Sue Barnes (Hyde), Bonnie Blair (Nance) Thomas Caines (Lowe), Bethany Dillard (Johnson)

The LUTHERN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
"Lutheran Early Response Teams" (LERT) Basic Training
at First Lutheran Camp, 1621 Lee Pike, Soddy Daisy
on May 31 from 9am-1pm

LERT participants will be introduced to the LCMS Disaster Response/LERT program, learn the basic nature of disasters, the

opportunities to respond to personal needs of the victims and how Lutherans can support families, congregations and their communities as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Basic LERT training is required for all volunteers to respond to LERT deployments and is a prerequisite for signing up for future LERT specialized trainings, such as the LERT Basic Chainsaw Training.

The class size - 50; lunch will be provided; class fee - \$20 (covers cost of Training Manual, ID card, and T-shirt). Cash in the appropriate amount and checks made payable to First Lutheran Church (memo line - LERT training) will be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Vinson via text or email.

Pastor Pingel's 60th Ordination Anniversary Party:

You can still reserve your spot. Please see your invitation for meal choices and other details. You can leave your check for \$40 per person in the plate today, with "Pingel Party" in the memo line. ***Deadline June 1***

VOTERS MEETING
June 8 @ 12:30 pm

Pulled Pork & Pulled Chicken
Sandwiches Provided
Last names A-I please bring dessert.
Last names J-Z please bring sides.





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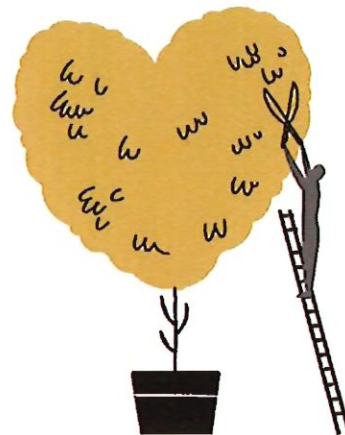
Growing future support for your organization

**Attend this free event to learn how endowments
help organizational fund goals**

Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing® (Thrivent Charitable) is helping hundreds of churches and nonprofits grow financial support through endowments. Attend this free workshop and learn how an endowment can help your organization achieve long-term goals.

During the workshop, we'll discuss:

- How an endowment can help grow your organization's budget beyond day-to-day operations to fund mission-related initiatives.
- Ways to educate your supporters on planned giving strategies to help your organization and help donors experience the joy of generosity.



Please join your Thrivent Member Network–South Region for this event.

Tuesday, June 3, 2025
11:30 a.m.
Chattanooga Marriott Downtown
2 Carter Street
Chattanooga, TN



Reserve your place today

Please call 402-708-6056 or email allison.vanroekel@thrivent.com to reserve a place for you and a guest.



Your hosts

This session is hosted by Thrivent Member Network–South Region.

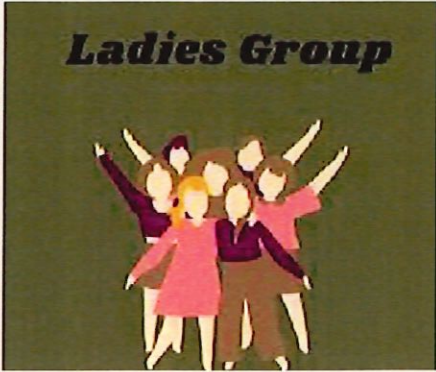


FLC *Friday Night SOCIAL*
Lookouts vs
BILOXI SHUCKERS
June 13 @ 7:15 PM

Game & All You Can Eat Buffet \$35
Game, All You Can Eat Buffet, Wine/Beer \$47

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP & PAY: JUNE 2

Ladies Group



*Ladies' Fellowship meets
at 6:00 on Thursday,
June 19, at the home of
Marie Townley.
Please bring an
appetizer to share.*

**Men's Fellowship meets at
6:30 on Thursday, June 19,
at Rib & Loin.**



Community Baby Shower for Choices Pregnancy Resource Center

Donations Accepted June 1 - June 22

Choices, Chattanooga's crisis pregnancy center, is celebrating 40 years of ministry to families in our area. Their mission statement is "We empower women and men facing pregnancy decisions to pursue abundant life in Christ."

They offer many free services including:

- pregnancy testing
- ultrasounds
- after abortion support
- parenting classes for women and men

Please consider donating to their annual baby shower which will enable them to restock their Baby Boutique for the moms and dads in their parenting program.

Place your donations in the designated area in the narthex any time between now and Sunday, June 22, and the items will be gathered and donated at the shower on the 24th.

Except where noted, very gently used items are accepted. Most-needed items include:

- Diapers (sizes Newborn - 4T)
- Baby laundry detergent
- Diaper bags (new)
- Diaper pails
- Baby hygiene products
- Bathtubs
- Pack & Plays
- Car seats (new)
- Strollers (new)
- Clothing (sizes Newborn - 4T)
- Video monitors
- Baby swings or bouncers
- High chairs
- Cribs
- Bassinets



Learn more about Choices at <https://team.choiceschattanooga.org>

BCA

Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2025! We held our second annual Senior Walk this past Monday to allow the high school seniors who attended BCA for pre-school, elementary or middle school to visit former classrooms and teachers! Our current students gave them a roaring welcome and congratulations as they went down memory lane here this week! We're so proud of the amazing and talented young men and women they have become!



Pictured l. to r.:

- *Lily Maples - graduated from East Ridge – attending Chattanooga State
- *Jonah Walker – Chattanooga STEM School – attending UTK
- *Casandra Vasquez - graduated from Collegedale Academy, attending Chattanooga State
- *Will Ellis – graduated from McCallie, attending Elon University, Greensboro, NC
- *Patti Grace Brannan – graduated from Silverdale Baptist Academy, attending Chattanooga State

Jayden Moore – graduated from Boyd-Buchanan, attending Morehead University

Isley Clark – graduated from CSLA, attending UTK

Isaiah Howard – graduated from Boyd-Buchanan, attending Chattanooga State

Isabelle Schremp – graduated from Chattanooga Christian, attending Ushran College, MO

Thomas Sykes – graduated from Boyd-Buchanan – attending Howard University, Washington, DC

*Brianna Jackson – graduated from Grace Academy, attending Western KY

Will Freeman – graduated from CCA, attending UTC

*BCA 8th grade graduates



Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates. We welcome them into the BCA Alumni family and wish them the very best as they begin high school this August! Our 8th graders will attend Boyd-Buchanan, Grace Academy, Notre Dame, Chattanooga Christian, North Western and Signal Mountain High Schools. We are so proud of our graduates!

June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7th Sunday of Easter 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	2	3	4	5 11:00 Evangelism	6	7 9:00-2:00 Camp Work Day with Lunch
8 Pentecost 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service 12:30 Voters Meeting w/ lunch	9 6:00 BCA Board 6:00 Parish Fellowship	10 9-2 Food Pantry 6:00 Social Ministry 6:00 Elders 7:30 Christian Ed	11 1:30 Bible Study	12 10:00 LWML	13 6:00 Lockouts Game	14
15 The Holy Trinity Father's Day LWML Mite Box 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	16 Newsletter & Calendar Deadline	17 9-2 Food Pantry 10:00 Quilters	18 1:30 Bible Study	19 6:00 Ladies' Fellowship at Marie Townley's Home 6:30 Men's Fellowship at Rib & Loin, Brainerd	20 Pastor Pingel's 60th Ordination Anniversary Party 6:30 Social 7:00 Dinner	21
22 1st Sunday after Trinity Food Pantry Offering 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	23	24 9-2 Food Pantry	25 1:30 Bible Study	26	27	28
29 2nd Sunday after Trinity New Council Installation 9:30 Divine Service 10:45 Vacation Bible School with lunch	30					

JUNE 2025

June Worship Assistants

June 1 8:30

Organist John Aaron Jovaag
 Assistants Frank Streufert
 Steve Kempson
 Ushers Chris Douglas
 Kurt Piepenbrink
 Altar Guild Michelle Bumgardner
 Linda Cox

June 1 11:00

Organist John Aaron Jovaag
 Live Stream Jordan Halabrin
 Assistants Yarman Team
 Ushers Townley Team
 Altar Guild Jordan Halabrin
 Acolyte Audrey Hipp
 Nursery Ashley Shamblin

June 8 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Frank Streufert
Jeff Anderson
Ushers Ralph Meissner
Tony Seiberlich
Altar Guild Marie Townley

June 8 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Eric Turner
Assistants Yarman Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Guild Carla Brooks
Acolyte Jackson Barber
Nursery Dari Selcer

June 15 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Jeff Anderson
Jim Post
Ushers David Topp
Chris Douglas
Altar Guild Michelle Bumgardner
Linda Cox

June 15 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Adam Weidman
Assistants Yarman Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Team Jordan Halabrin
Acolyte Colin Hipp
Nursery Jasley Montgomery

June 22 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Jim Post
Ushers Kurt Piepenbrink
Tony Seiberlich
Altar Team Ralph Meissner

June 22 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Charlie Simmons
Assistants Yarman Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Team Gary Tallant
Acolyte Ruthie Vinson
Nursery Dari Selcer

5th Sunday
Divine Service

June 29 9:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Eric Turner

Assistants	Yarman Team
Ushers	Townley Team
Altar Team	Ralph Meissner
	Jody Hyde
Acolyte	Shiloh Miller
Nursery	Ashely Shamblin



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