



# First Lutheran Announcements

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Mt. Carroll, IL

sharing Christ's love through  
worship, study, and service

**SUNDAY, September 4, 2022**

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

We proceed through Luke—this week an uncharacteristically harsh message to balance Luke's continual theme of forgiveness. It is good that after hearing these words, we can come to the table for strength to "carry the cross."

**Jeremiah 18:1-11**, the third selection from the semicontinuous reading of Jeremiah, expands on the metaphor of the potter. This is the only place in the Old

Testament that mentions a potter's wheel. In the second story of creation, God forms the soil into a human figure, adamah into adam, as would a potter. Jeremiah condemns Israel and Judah for their evil ways, but if they repents, God like a potter will reshape divine curse into blessing. In different ancient cultures, both men or women worked as potters. Christians have appreciated this passage as an affecting picture of an anthropomorphized deity. We are shaped by the Spirit of our baptism, reworked by God's hands, and according to the Bible, God's very being can be reshaped from condemnation into mercy. Some contemporary liturgical texts and hymns include the image of God as potter.

**Philemon 1-21** Reading Philemon makes clear that Christian ethics has always been debated: Paul is asking that Onesimus be treated now as a brother, not merely a slave; and yet the household codes tell slaves and masters to keep to their places. Thus on many issues both sides of ethical disputes can find some support in the Bible. We hear Paul's counsel for Christians to live in compassion to others and to enact the familial love given them in baptism. This is the only place in the three-year lectionary that appoints Philemon.

**Luke 14:25-33** The text presents the homiletical challenge of taking Jesus' words seriously without taking them literally. The charge to hate everyone and even life itself stands next to the call to love one another (Luke 10:27), and despite this command to give up all our possessions, in the Acts of the Apostles, Luke lauds wealthy Christians for their support of the community. Here Luke's repeated theme, that God forgives, is shown to have a cost. If there was no cost, if forgiveness is totally free, why did Jesus have to die? When we come forward for holy communion, we are indeed following Jesus and his cross.



## Wednesday Night Gathering

We invite you to take a break in your busy week to recharge your spiritual batteries and spend some time with family, friends and neighbors in God's presence. We look forward to joining together, regardless of where you are on your journey to lift our voices toward our creator in praise and thanksgiving. Will we see you this Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00pm?

**Rally Sunday Is Coming, September 11<sup>th</sup>**



## This Week At First

### Tuesday: 9/6

6:00p Open Mic at Bridges

### Wednesday: 9/7

8:00a Men's Coffee & Bible Study

3:30p Shepherding

4:30p Social Ministry

7:00p Weekly Praise & Worship Gathering

### Thursday: 9/8

10:30a Meals on Wheels

5:30p Choir Practice

### Friday: 9/9

Pastor's Sabbath

8a-12p Cottage Bakers

### Saturday: 9/10

8a-12p Farmer's Market

### Sunday: 9/11

#### **Rally Sunday**

8:15a Sunday School

9:00a Live Worship Service, on Zoom & Facebook Live Stream

10:00a Rally Sunday Brunch

## Thought of the Day

You are a Christian today because somebody cared. Now it's your turn.

Warren Wiersbe



Mark your calendars. We're kicking things off on Sunday, September 11th with a big Rally Day. Come and be a part of Worship that day and show your support for our next generation and their families. We'll worship at 9:00am, and include the blessing of our wonderful teachers and the blessing of students and their families.

It's the beginning of Sunday School so let Mrs. Yochem know if you would like to have your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, or a neighbor's child enrolled this year. We hope to have everyone show up to help give a special start to our Sunday School class with some special music during service just for them. Plan to

stay after service to enjoy a Rally Sunday Brunch with cake and ice cream in Fellowship Hall, down stairs. There will be a few other surprises you won't want to miss. This will be a great Sunday to invite friends and neighbors.

### Interested in Singing with the Choir?

Rehearsals continue this Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm. If you would like to join in, contact Janice Smith for details, or just come and join us.



### Meet Your Neighbors, Sign-up for Booth Duty

The Cottage Bakers meet in the church kitchen every Friday during the farmer's market season. Bakers, sellers, packers, etc., are all needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for your convenience. Many hands make light work. And, the pies are delicious! Please contact JoAnn Palmer with any questions.

### Happy Anniversary!

This Sunday marks the 5th Anniversary of our journey together. It's hard to believe that time has gone by so quickly. Barbara and I would like to thank you all for your support and love over these years, some of which have been extremely trying as we made our way through the Covid Pandemic. We have learned so much from you and look forward to walking with you into whatever God has planned for us in the near and long term. May God continue to bless us all.

### Birthdays This Week

Randy Holm - 6  
Pat Buckwalter - 7

### Anniversary This Week

John & Pam  
Albrecht - 8

### In Our Prayers This Week

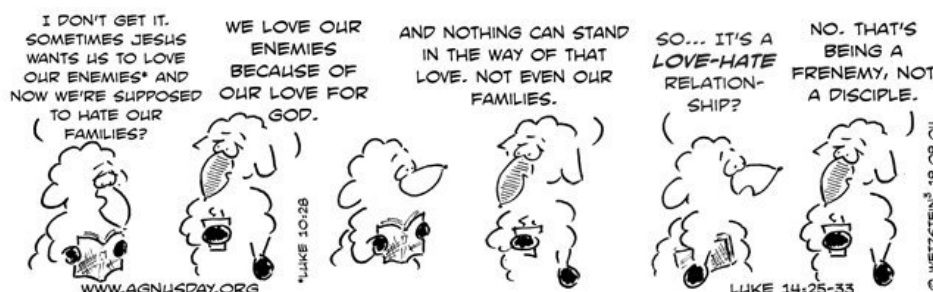
Nico Neely  
Haley McColley  
Sandy Shaw  
Jo Lyn Kruse  
Dolores & Al Fredericks  
Nicole Merboth  
Darlene Streicher  
Sandy Haas  
Ron Messenger  
Peggy Mader  
Richard Kehl  
Kenneth Kingery  
Nancy Schroeder  
Earl Gilliland  
Ashton Miller  
Dawn Rittmeyer

### In Assisted Living:

Lyle Hartman  
John Hovorka  
Earl Gilliland

### In Military Service here and abroad:

Aaron Hartman  
John Kaufman  
Benjamin Rath  
Logan Rittmeyer



### This Day's Smile

To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge! To do the will of God is the greatest achievement!

George W. Truett