

LEAVES FROM THE FOREST

June 2022



From our Congregational President, Jackie Bearden

Isn't it said that a picture is worth a thousand words? "Faces are the most interesting things we see" said artist David Hockney. I started painting pictures when I retired to Florida and I never thought I could draw a stick figure, a pear or flower until I received instructions. With a teacher; some desire; and probably even some family ability, I have produced some nice art for my home. However, I do not have an eye for drawing or painting faces. That is truly a skill! I am not the best at photography either. Abraham Lincoln said "There are no bad pictures, that's just how your face looks sometimes."

That all being said, Forest Oaks Lutheran Church is going to begin a picture taking project. This is so we will be able to create picture name tags, a data base of members pictures and even a directory. Our last picture directory prepared by Lifetouch is very out-of-date. There are many changes, new faces, missing faces, and errors. The sales pressure, I am sure, stopped many people from making an appointment to have a photo session.

Our goal is to take the picture when you attend church on Sunday, just an individual head shot. Being on the prayer chain, I often go to our out-of-date directory to see a face of someone who I have not met so my prayer can be matched with their face. I have had many people tell me they do that very same thing as well. We are hopeful that everyone – all attendees of FOLC will stand for a photo op so we can get to know one another and greet each other by name.

I am also asking that if you have a good photography eye and a call to provide some help to your church, you can take a few photos every Sunday; and put

these photos on a flash drive. Someone else (Judy) will be able to edit the pictures. Judy Ward already has a template made for the name tags, and Eloise Emke is helping to find a holder for the name tag. With Casey Braun's help we will find a solution for a data base to store these pictures to create a living directory.

Picture taking will begin in June, and this project may be ongoing as we receive new members.

Actress Lauren Bacall said, "I think your whole life shows in your face and you should be proud of that."

God Bless you,

Jackie Bearden

517-896-6880

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As many people are already aware, we have returned to in-class Sunday School. To my dismay, attendance has not been the greatest. Marlene Kuhn continues to help out and Jodell Burgdorf has been making the beautiful bulletin boards outside of the Sunday School room. The positive side to having lower attendance is we have been able to add some religious games to the class! Besides the lesson and crafts, the children have had fun learning more about the different people in the Bible and learning which books belong in the Old or New Testament.

Even though attendance has been down, those who have been here also have done their part with acolyting! Great job done by Angela, Emma, and Ethan!

Please continue to pray for Laurel and her family as she continues to be a fierce warrior against leukemia and pray for the FOLC Sunday School to grow!

Mark your calendars...VBS will be held July 11th-15th! Marlene Kuhn will be the leader of VBS this year. Feel free to contact her if you would like to help!"

Caryl Kellerman



**Vacation Bible School – July 11 –
15, 2022**

Rainforest Explorers

Jesus Leads the Way

*Oh, the depth of the riches....of God!
Romans 11:33*

Our theme this year is “Jesus leads the way”. We will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and throughout our lives. We might feel lost, but He will show us the way. He will never leave us. He treasures us so much!

At VBS the children will learn through Bible stories, Bible verses, songs, crafts, games, and snacks. We will need lots of children to attend as well as adult and teenage helpers. Please join us this year as we explore how Jesus will show us the way.

There is a VBS sign-up clipboard in the narthex or contact Marlene Kuhn for the many ways to help with our VBS.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS



April was a busy month and I would like to tie up some loose ends. The new address for Darleen Keck is 50 Largo Dr., Hot Springs Village, AR 71909-7970. Her thank you note is on the bulletin board behind the sign-up center. You will also find the address' of our two Adopt a Seminary Students from Fort Wayne, Anthony Mandile, at St. Paul's Lutheran, 39 Prospect St., New Hartford, Ct. 06057-2221 and from St. Louis, Tim Schulte, In care of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 401 S. Main St., Concordia, MO. 64020. We

have sent each a \$1,000.00 donation to help them complete their studies, but Pastor Fischer says encouraging cards or letters are so important at this stage of their career.

We are proud and happy to say we have given the rest of our Charity donations to Redeeming Life of \$1000.00, Future Maintenance Fund FOLC of \$1000.00 and to our Food Pantry \$1000.00. The Timber Pines Tennis Club has also given our Food Pantry \$1200.00 as part of their Charity giving.

Our last meeting was on Wednesday, May 4th at 10am. After our business meeting, Pastor Fischer installed a complete new Board of Directors for the 2022/2023 term. Bonnie Wright, President, Marlene Kuhn, Vice President, Miki Snyder, Secretary and Barb Stamer as Treasurer. Congratulations to all! We then enjoyed a celebration tea lunch and shared our tea cup stories. We assigned volunteers to pass out Mother's Day Devotion booklets next Sunday.

Remember on May 21st at 11am there will be a Memorial Funeral for Pastor Milton and Jan Lehr with a luncheon to follow. The Board of Directors will have a planning committee meeting on August 3rd at 10am in the conference room. I wish everyone a safe and fun summer.

Your president,

Bonnie Wright

QUILTING FOR CHARITY



June 5th



June 12th

QUILTING FOR



Flag Day – June 14th



June 19th

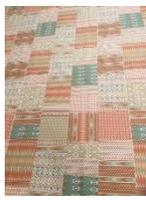


Summer Solstice – June 21st

God has been blessing us with a beautiful springtime. Even with the pollen in the air, one must revel in the green grass, trees and the lovely blooms all around us. We have renewed hope through the resurrection of our Savior and by watching the regeneration of the plants springing to life after the chills of winter which caused them to become dormant. Let us rejoice, yet again! God is good! Jesus is risen! Share the joy!

The quilting ladies have continued in their pursuit of making life better for others through the work of our hands and hearts. We were blessed to receive a new member this past month. Sherri is an experienced quilter and has belonged to other quilting groups. She has brought new ideas with her so we have a new project to incorporate into our efforts. We will be using all our leftover scraps of fabric by stuffing them into a pillowcase that will be sewn shut to make a soft bed for animals at the animal shelter. All kinds of fabric can be used for the stuffing so we will waste nothing while still making quilts, etc. Our assembling of quilts continues. It is nearing the time to start on our Christmas items so the creative juices will be flowing for new ways to raise funds for our Christmas charities.

Our completed projects are seen here:



~~~~~ Quilts for Lutheran World Relief ~~~~~ Baby quilts by Darlene

On May 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Suzanne's birthday. Her photo is pictured below:



**Happy Birthday, Suzanne!**

If you are curious about our group and how you might fit in, please just drop by between 1:00 and 4:00 on any Monday at the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. You need know nothing about sewing and you need bring nothing with you. Come as you are, no need to dress up. We are a casual group who share the love of being together and working while chatting. **BE ADVISED, IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY, WE WILL NOT MEET ON MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>.** (I add that in case you read this prior to the end of May.) We will be getting together every Monday thereafter throughout the summer. We hope to see you sometime.

May your summer be blessed with the Peace of our Lord!

*Karen*



**Body and Soul Food Ministry** It's hard to believe that the Body and Soul Food Ministry has been open for twelve years. We opened in May 2010 and by the end of May 2022, we have served over 106,000 people and over 5,500 families. We are in the process of updating our clients' information concerning address, phone number and number of members in the

household, along with proof of identification. Until the pandemic hit, we were personally interviewing each client, but for the past two years, we continued to serve our community with a drive-thru pick-up. We hope to begin interviewing in the near future. It helps us to get to know our clients better and we are able to better minister to their needs of body and soul. We continue to have our third Thursday Produce Drop, which is open for anyone with no restrictions and church members are welcome. It is drive-thru between 10:00-11:00am. We also are providing USDA boxes to 70 seniors, who register and meet the age, income, and residency requirements. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for their dedication to serving our Lord with their service to our community.

### **What's Your 80?**

In honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Forest Oaks Lutheran Church has set a goal of collecting 80 of something each month. During the month of February, we met our goal of 80 boxes of cereal for our Food Pantry. In March, we filled baby bottles with donations for Redeeming Life, and in April we far exceeded our goal of jars of peanut butter and jelly. Our goal for May is 80 cans of pasta. Thanks to all who are contributing to meet these goals.



**Finance Update** (from Jess Ward, Finance Committee Chairman):

Through the month of April, income for the church has been well over our budget, which is fairly common for the winter months. Expenses have run fairly close to budget. The Finance Committee decided to add some additional money to Debt Reduction for three months from our Unspecified Funds to reduce our mortgage. After our May payment our mortgage balance will be around \$45,000. Our LCEF CD came due in March and then we worked with LCEF again and started a new CD for two years just to get a better rate. The money in the CD is equal parts of Endowment Fund and General Fund. The office copier was the Future Maintenance item for 2022 and since that is not a problem, our computer expert thought it would be a great idea to replace the computers in the front office, finance, and the Pastor's computer. The Finance Committee and the Church Council agreed and they are being replaced now.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO ~

6/07 - Debbie DiCono

6/08 - Jodell Burgdorf

6/09 - Barb Mourand

6/12 - Starr Magaldino

6/19 - Robert Lineback

6/21 - Fallon Poholek

6/22 - Eric Mutschler

6/24 - Kimberly Lineback

6/25 - Hank Hansen

6/29 - Dennis Dix

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS GO OUT TO ~

6/03 - Steve & Terri Arndt

6/08 - Gary & Ellouise Emke

6/10 - Andrew & Sloan Fischer

6/12 - Andrew & Starr Magaldino

6/17 - Walter & Loretta Gilchrist

6/27 - Carl & Bonnie Kolling

6/27 - Hank & Joan Rullman

# Thank You

The Lehr Family would like to extend their gratitude to all who attended the Celebration of Life for Pastor and Jan Lehr. Thank you for the outpouring of love and beautiful sentiments. We are grateful for the legacy our parents & grandparents had created, for their service to Forest Oaks Lutheran Church for the years here. Thank you also to those who sent cards and notes to them when they moved out of Spring Hill. They loved getting these cards for special occasions and notes to say hi, especially during the years at Lutheran Haven. Our gratitude to you will remain in our hearts.

To my family at Forest Oaks Lutheran Church

I am so thankful and grateful to “all our family” at Forest oaks Lutheran Church for the cards, the flowers, the hugs, and the love and support my family and I received for Vivian’s tribute. Ever since Vivian’s passing on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Fischer and all of my church family have overwhelmed me with love and support, that I cannot hold back the tears. This is an experience that I never had before in my entire life. I never loved a woman as I have for Vivian for 34 years. She was unique in every way and a fun person to be with 24/7. I have a large void in my life and it is gratifying to be assistant to pastor and the food pantry. Thank you to my church family for being there for me and may “Our Lord bless all of you.”

Faithfully Larry Schmitz

## MEMORIALS MAY 2022

| DATE  | MEMORIAL/HONOR OF       | FUND NAME         | GIVER OF GIFT          |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 05/01 | (M) Pastor and Jan Lehr | Debt Reduction    | Wayne & Marilyn Nibert |
| 05/01 | (M) Theresa Tilman      | Debt Reduction    | Lawrence Schmitz       |
| 05/01 | (M) Pastor and Jan Lehr | Debt Reduction    | Lawrence Schmitz       |
| 05/01 | (M) Edna Heilmeyer      | Debt Reduction    | Lawrence Schmitz       |
| 05/01 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Food Pantry       | Lawrence Schmitz       |
| 05/01 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Debt Reduction    | Mrs. Gloria Carrow     |
| 05/01 | (M) Dennis Hoyt         | Major Repair Fund | Mrs. Margot Hoyt       |
| 05/01 | (M) Edna Heilmeyer      | Major Repair Fund | Roy & Alma Martin      |
| 05/01 | (M) Teresa Tillman      | Debt Reduction    | Ted Ryder              |
| 05/01 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Food Pantry       | Roy & Alma Martin      |
| 05/09 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Major Repair Fund | Mrs. Margot Hoyt       |
| 05/09 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Unspecified Fund  | Mrs. Anita Mutschler   |
| 05/09 | (M) Vivian Schmitz      | Debt Reduction    | Mrs. Mary Arndt        |
| 05/09 | (M) Teresa Tillman      | Major Repair Fund | Ed & Bonnie Wright     |

