

The Lights *And* The Herald



From the Heights

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church,
St. Paul, MN, established 1909



First Lutheran Church,
St. Paul, MN,
established 1854

Vol.171, No.10

“A combined October Newsletter with an insert for your church’s individual information.”

A Timely Word for the Church Today

By Rev. Stanley Ayashim

Beloved in Christ,



As I reflect on the life of our community, both locally and across our nation, I am struck by the gifts that God has entrusted to us. We are richly blessed with creativity, talent, and resources. And yet, we are also confronted with divisions, anxieties, and an increasing sense of isolation. These realities are not just distant headlines—they reflect our daily lives, our conversations at the dinner table, and even our fellowship within the church.

In such times, it is easy to fall into a transactional way of seeing one another. A doctor is valued only when we are sick, a neighbor only when we are in need, a pastor or friend only when a crisis arises. But God’s design for community is not built on temporary usefulness. Scripture reminds us: *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together”* (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The call of the Church is to be more than a collection of individuals with fleeting ties. We are invited into lasting bonds rooted in Christ’s love. Jesus declares: *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you”* (John 15:12). This is not a love that fades once the storm passes, but one that endures, sacrifices, and transforms.

Presence Over Structure

This truth challenges us to rethink what it means to be “the church.” Too often, we reduce the church to its physical look, a steeple, stained glass, or pews. But what happens when the building is gone? What happens when attendance declines or sanctuaries close, as we are witnessing in many places today?

Jesus has already answered this question. To the Samaritan woman at the well, he said: *“A time is coming when you will worship the God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...”*

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true worshipers will worship the God in Spirit and in truth” (John 4:21–24). In other words, the presence of God does not depend on location or architecture, it depends on Spirit-filled community.

When a blind person enters a sanctuary, they do not see stained glass or steeples. What they encounter is presence, the warmth of fellowship, the welcome of Christ, the love of God embodied in others. Shouldn't this be the true “look” of the church?

Learning From the Past, Leaning Into the Future

I recall the Deeper Life Bible Church in Nigeria during the 1990s, when televisions and technology were forbidden to avoid “worldly distractions.” Today, the same church streams services online and reaches millions with the gospel. The message remained the same, but the medium adapted. This is a lesson for all of us: the church must remain rooted in Christ but flexible in how we share His presence with the world. In our time, that means embracing not just buildings but also digital spaces, small gatherings, neighborhood ministries, and global connections. Whether two or three are gathered in a cathedral or on a Zoom call, Jesus promises: *“There am I among them”* (Matthew 18:20).

A Call to Unity

The divisions we face, political, economic, cultural, are threatening the fabric of both society and the church. Yet Paul's words in Galatians 3:28 still ring true: *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* Our task is not to mirror the fractures of the world, but to embody the unity of God's kingdom. Micah 6:8 calls us to *“do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”* Justice and kindness flourish when we honor relationships, not discard them. Unity grows when we choose presence over preference, Christ over category, and compassion over division.

Moving From Transactional to Transformational

Friends, the invitation before us is clear: to move from transactional ties to transformational community. To see the church not in terms of pews and programs, but in the lives touched, healed, and united by God's grace. To cherish those already in our lives, knowing that the person we overlook today may be the one God uses tomorrow to bring hope.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: *“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”* (Hebrews 10:24–25).

This is our call—to embody Christ's love in word and deed, to be church not just in structure, but in presence. May the world know us not by our buildings but by our love. May they encounter not just stained glass, but hearts shaped by grace, open to the Spirit, and ready to serve.

Grace and peace be with you all.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Coffee Hour following in the Reception Room**

EVERY WEEK

Alley Shoppe Donations - Mondays and Tuesdays

10:00 - noon - come to the front door and a volunteer will be there to assist you.

Alley Shoppe - Tuesdays - for clients - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Staff Meetings - Mondays at 10:00 a.m. - Pastor's Office

Bible Study - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Reception Room

And - Fridays- 7:00 p.m. by Zoom - Pastor Stanley Ayashim

Romeo Breakfast - Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. Perkins County Road D & WB Avenue

Movers & Makers - Wednesdays - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at First Lutheran

OTHER EVENTS

- October 5** **Blessing of the Animals** - 9:30 worship service
- October 6** **AHLC - WMA Meeting** - Pastor's office - 11:00 a.m.
- October 7** **All Building Users Meeting** - 2:00 p.m. Reception Room
- October 8** **AHLC - FPA Meeting** - Reception Room 5:00 p.m.
- October 11** **All - Craft Saturday** - Reception Room - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- October 12** **AHLC - Congregational Meeting** - Following Worship
FL - Congregational Meeting - Following Worship
- October 21** **AHLC - Congregational Council Meeting** - 6:00 p.m. Reception Room
- October 26** **Reformation Sunday** - Agape Quintet - 9:30 a.m. service wear **RED**.



Congregational Meeting

**There will be a Congregation Meeting for
both churches (AHLC and First Lutheran)
on Sunday, October 12th following the
worship service - Fellowship Hall and
Reception Room.**

**Look on your church's insert sheet for
information regarding the meeting for your
congregation.**

Are you looking for something to do?

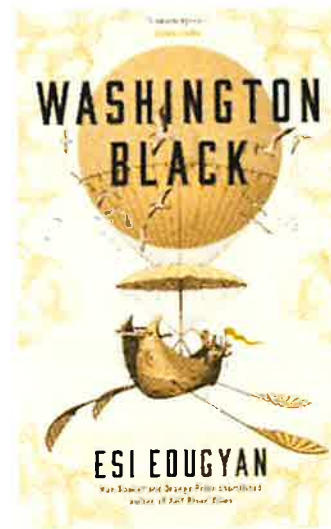


Craft Saturday, October 11th 9:30am - 12:30pm with Brunch

Join us in the Reception Room at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church for crafting and sewing time to do your own projects or try your hand at something new. Laura Rose Paradis of "Sew We Work" will be with us to assist with sewing machine help or crafting help and the best part is we get to build some new and old relationships while we craft. Brunch will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at 651-247-8926.

Book Club, Thursday - October 18th, 10:00am

We will gather for a Book Club study of the book, "Washington Black" by Esi Edugyan. Washington Black is an eleven-year-old field slave who knows no other life than the Barbados sugar plantation where he was born. When his master's eccentric brother chooses him to be his manservant, Wash is terrified of the cruelties he is certain await him. But Christopher Wilde, or "Titch," is a naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor, and abolitionist. This is their story. We will gather in the Reception Room at Arlington Hills Lutheran and of course, There will be snacks. Come, join us!



ESCo - Our Redeemer Lutheran - Craft and Bake Sale - October 25th 9-3
- Gustavus Adolphus - Craft Sale - Saturday, November 29th 10-3

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 26, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Agape Quintet will provide music for us. We encourage wearing **red** as the color of the day, but don't worry, if you forget, we will have red ribbons for you to wave.



Sunday Morning Choir
1st and 3rd Sundays - Rehearsal at 8:45 in the Sanctuary

Installation of the Presiding Bishop



Saturday, October 4, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. CDT
Central Lutheran Church | Minneapolis, Minn.

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants (Wine)	Ushers	Hospitality
October 5	Lessons - First Prayers - AHLC Mary Kowitz	Florence Rasmusson	David Almquist Tom Brackey	Florence Rasmusson Cheryl Hollman Krista Wood/Sister
October 12	Lessons - AHLC Diane Allmendinger Prayers - First	Elaine Rorhbach	David Almquist Wayne Hansen	First Lutheran
October 19	Lessons - First Prayers Barb Schmidt	Jim Persoon	Florence R Dennis R, David Almquist	Kathy Brackey Mary Kowitz
October 26	Lessons - AHLC Cheryl Hollman Prayers - First	Janine Almquist	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach	First Lutheran



November 2, 2025

We honor the members of our congregations who have died this past year since All Saints Sunday in 2024. Come light a candle in honor of them or a loved one. A bell will ring for those named below and for those we name in our hearts. See the list of members on your church's insert page.

Church Life Together!



**Alley Shoppe
Celebration
Pam Wiehe 25 years
As Director
Alley Shoppe 55 years.**



**Special Music by
First Lutheran Handbells
and
First Lutheran - Danielson Sisters**



OCTOBER PRAYER PROMPTS

Prayer for October

Heavenly Father, as October unfolds with its vibrant colors and crisp air, we're reminded of Your ever-changing yet constant hand in creation. As the trees release their leaves, help us let go of burdens and let us trust in Your perfect timing.

Protect and guide our loved ones this month. In every challenge, draw us closer to You strengthening our faith. As we celebrate the season of harvest, inspire in us a spirit of generosity and gratitude. Lord, in the quiet of this month speak to our hearts and remind us of Your unwavering love. With gratitude for Your many blessings, we trust in Your plans and promises to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Taken from: Coffee with Starla.com

1. **October Birthdays & Anniversaries**
2. **Loss and Grief**
3. **Fall Harvest**
4. **Blessings for Bishop Yeheil Curry**
5. **Blessing of the Animals**
6. **For teachers and staff**
7. **Worship, Music & the Arts Board**
8. **Finance, Property & Admin Board**
9. **Safety for students being bullied**
10. **The Homeless**
11. **Crafters and Quilters**
12. **Congregation Meetings**
13. **Indigenous Peoples' Day**
14. **Facing our Fears**
15. **Family**
16. **Those needing nourishment**
17. **Health care workers**
18. **Calm in a storm**
19. **New and Old friends**
20. **Sale of the Church Building**
21. **Congregation Council**
22. **Grandchildren**
23. **Medical and First Responders**
24. **Peace and Clarity**
25. **Our ministry partners**
26. **To making a difference**
27. **For mentors**
28. **Immigrants**
29. **Abundant Blessings**
30. **A New month ahead**
31. **Halloween trick or treaters**



HAPPY
Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
Tuesday, November 25, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

Please join with
First Lutheran, Grace Lutheran
Hope Covenant, Our Redeemer
Lutheran, St. Pascal Baylon Church
And Progressive Baptist Church
As we give thanks for all of God's
Blessings this year!

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
1115 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul, MN 55106



OUR VISION

“Arlington Hills Lutheran Church Community, A Beacon for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.”

OUR MISSION

“To Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all in word and deed.”

COMPANION CONGREGATION

Idegenda, Tanzania



AND



First Lutheran Church
464 Maria Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55106-4428

**Worshipping at Arlington Hills Lutheran 9:30 AM - Onsite and Online
Until Christmas Eve 2025 www.eastsidefirst.com for updates**



A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s Work. Our Hands. www.elca.org



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation open and affirming to LGBTQIA+ folks and celebrating Black, Brown, and Indigenous leadership.
www.reconcilingworks.org



A partner with the Eastside Health & Well-Being Collaborative aiming to achieve wide-spread and equitable well-being in the East Metro.
eastsidehealth.org



October News For Arlington Hills Members

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 12TH

Following the worship service - in person and by zoom.

This is the official notice that we are calling a Congregational meeting to update and vote on the sale of the church building. A zoom link will be provided for those unable to attend in person. If you need a Proxy/Absentee Ballot please let the office know.

Congregational Council Action

“A motion was made and approved by the Congregational Council on September 21, 2025 to call a Special Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2025 to vote on the sale, as is, at the cost of \$600,000.00.”

Here is the motion that we will be voting on:

“To approve the Congregational Council’s recommendation to sell the church building, to House of Praise COGIC for the amount of \$600,000.00.”

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Ebert	October 2
David Lauver	October 3
Silvester Vicic	October 3
Martha Alkins	October 4
Orval Osmundson	October 5
Kristin Vogelpohl	October 10
Betty Swanson	October 15
Barb Schmidt	October 15
James Persoon	October 16
Ryan Henk	October 17
Donald Gritzmaker	October 18
Joann Groth	October 25
Richard Anderson	October 25
Michelle Hanggi	October 25
Beverly Stickler	October 30

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Barb Schmidt & Jim Persoon
October 18 - Happy 50th!
Cindy & Mark Schreiber
October 26th

OCTOBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**TRUSTING IN THE RESURRECTION
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,**
we pray for the family of :
Betty Richter who died on Sept. 9th

ALL SAINT'S DAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2025
Honoring members who have died
since last All Saint's Day
*Please let me know if I've missed
someone you want included in this list.*

OCTOBER 12TH

NOISY CAN COLLECTION FOR TANZANIA.
Bring you loose change and let's make some
noise for scholarships!



Linda Brockway - January 20
Nancy Mapson - March 19
John Lind - March 29
Adeline Hansen - April 2
Justin Tkachuck - April 2
Dean Anderson - July 11
Esther Hallgren - July 11
Betty Erickson - July 25
Carol Brockway - July 30
Betty A. Richter - September 9

Financial Report Card

	2025		2024	
Revenue	Current	YTD	Current	YTD
<i>August</i>	\$ 22,971.51	\$ 304,715.33	\$ 62,311.15	\$ 247,871.35
Expenses	Current	YTD	Current	YTD
<i>August</i>	\$ 22,946.42	\$ 295,000.81	\$ 46,489.43	\$ 313,547.82
Surplus/ (Deficit)				
	\$ 25.09	\$ 9,714.52	\$ 15,821.72	\$ (65,676.47)

Your generosity of spirit and money makes all that we are as a church and a community possible. Please consider making an online donation by filling in the form found on our website. Your contribution will be processed by our secure payment center.

You may also mail your donation by cash or check, payable to:

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
1115 Greenbrier Street - St. Paul, MN 55106.

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of Jesus Christ.”



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October 2025 Herald Insert

A Publication of First Lutheran Church, 464 Maria Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106
Our Mission Question: "Does Love Live Here?" Established 1854, Vol.171, No.10

Upcoming News for First Lutheran Church

Congregational Gathering and Meeting

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 10:45am

Following worship at Arlington Hills, we will gather to talk about project updates, view progress pictures, and budget progress

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

Musical Prelude at 3:45pm

Worship at 4:00pm



Timeless Faith. Sacred Space. New Beginning.

FIRST LUTHERAN

October House Meetings

An informal time to gather and hear more about the building project at First Lutheran and an opportunity to give to the future of First Lutheran as our project looks towards December completion

October 16 at John & Corine Petraborg's Home

October 21 At Diane Williams-Johnson & Roger Johnson's Home

November Chapel Meetings

An informal time to gather in the old chapel in Norelius Hall to see the new improvements there and to see the progress at First Lutheran's Sanctuary Building, Watch for details....

The First Lutheran Capital Campaign for renovations and future ministry is well underway! We have already received \$120,000+ in pledged gifts and grants and this over the next few weeks, you will be invited to a house meeting to hear more about the project, anticipate our return to the First Lutheran Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, 2025, and given the opportunity to give to the ongoing ministry and mission of First Lutheran Church!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 2, 2025

Honoring those who have died since last All Saints Sunday, 2024

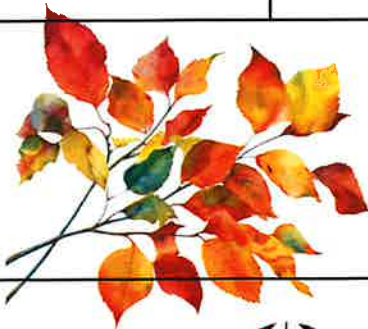
Carol Haslach
 May 7, 1942 - Nov. 12, 2024
 Louise Berg
 June 2, 1934 - Nov. 22, 2024
 Don Oseland
 Jan. 13, 1954 - Jan. 17, 2025

Lyle Hunt
 Nov. 13, 1936 - March 25, 2025
 Robert Miner
 Aug. 22, 1929 - Sept. 8, 2025
 Donald Belland
 Dec. 8, 1932 - Aug. 7, 2025

Prayers among us include...

Bob Anderson, Janice Behrens, Harold Sellie, Ed Selnes, Jack Dunkley, Laura Haslach, Joan Selnes, Don Haslach, Dwaine Berg, Charlotte Coan, Tom Hochstein, Dan Germain, and Delores Pulju, along with her two daughters, Sandra and Diane. Please let us know of any updates to this Prayer List. Text to Pastor Chris Olson Bingea at 651-247-8926. Thank you.

STAFF NAME	TEAM RESPONSIBILITY	EMAIL	PHONE
Christine Olson Bingea	Pastor	pastor.chris@me.com	651-247-8926
Stanley Ayashim	Pastor	pastor.ayashim@icloud.com	651-492-7785
Brenda Olson Bingea	Mission Development Director	brendajolson@me.com	651-247-0360
Kristin Wolla	Business Administrator Handbell Choir Director	kristinwolla@gmail.com	651-776-7210 Ext. 302
John Petraborg	Organist	jwpetraborg@comcast.net	651-484-4849
Corine Petraborg	Choir Director	cpetraborg@comcast.net	651-338-9948



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 Onsite and Online - **Until Christmas Eve 2025**
www.eastsidefirst.com for updates and ways to give generously



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eastsidehealth.org