

The First Messenger



JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Middle School Mission Trip.....	June	5 th -11 th
FLC Blood Drive	June	6 th
Office Closed	June	20 th
Vacation Bible School	June	20 th -23 rd
Office Closed (<i>Staff Development Days</i>).....	June	28 th & 30 th

Volume 31

June 2022

Issue 6

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Begins Sunday, May 29

Indoor Traditional 8:30 AM

Outdoor Contemporary 10:30 AM

Potluck Picnic to follow the outdoor service.

What's Inside?

Action Corps	Page 7
Calendar	Page 17
Children/Youth News	Page 11
Creation Care Update	Page 13
Dedicated Accounts Info	Page 5
The Link (WFLC)	Page 12
Memorials	Page 14
Pastor Joe's Message	Page 2
Pastor Lauryl's Word	Page 3
Parish Health	Page 10
Pillars	Page 6
President's Post	Page 4

Potluck Picnic

Sunday, May 29

11:30 A.M. - Following Our First Outdoor Worship of the Season!

Provided:

- Sloppy Joes
- Beverages
- Plates & Silverware

Consider Bringing a Dish to Share:

- A Salad?
- A Dessert?

If weather conditions are favorable, tables will be available for seating outside.
If not, the dining room will be the picnic option.

CLOSED
FOR
MEMORIAL DAY

The church office
will be closed on
Monday, May 30 for the
Memorial Day Holiday.

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

INVOLVING CHILDREN MORE IN WORSHIP: NOISY OFFERING!

A central part of being the Body of Christ is to cultivate people's sense of belonging to this community, because that was at the heart of Jesus' ministry. His movement was constantly about making people feel like they belong, especially people who didn't 'normally' or culturally feel like they belonged.

From his Beatitudes to his inclusion of social 'riffraff' into his circle of friends, to his advocacy for the disabled, the ill, and young children, Jesus was always giving belonging and ownership to people in his movement.

In the name of Jesus and his ministry, I want to continue to explore how to cultivate belonging and ownership for people in this place. I want us to move from a culture of consumerism to a culture of belonging and communal ownership. What I mean by that is I want people to view FLC not as much as a place where they go to receive religious goods, programs, and services, but to view themselves as FLC (as the saying goes, not just "I go to church, but I am the church.").

In a consumerist society this will be no small task, but we are not a business! We certainly want to be creatively effective in our evangelism, to be good stewards, and to follow the letter of the law, so we might use necessary business practices, but at our essence, we are not a business. We are not a factory. We are a people, called to cultivate belonging, ownership, and relationship amongst each other.

On that note and on the goal of cultivating more belonging and ownership in this community, one specific place we are going to start is by instituting Noisy Offering every worship service, collected by our children. Through this practice I want our kids to realize that they "are the church."

One of the well-intended, but potentially unhelpful adages about children and the church is: "Children are the future of the church." This is well-intended, but problematic. This implies that kids 'wait' as bystanders of the church, rather than owners of the church who belong to it NOW. Children are not the future of the church. They ARE the church. So, we are going to incrementally and continually give them more opportunities to integrate into worship.

With that in mind, this is the plan and these are the goals for having Noisy Offering every worship service:

The plan:

Noisy Offering will be a loose change offering collected by our kids during regular offering. We plan to institute this with the first Sunday in July (so, bring your loose change [and remember to spread it out!]). When the kids are finished collecting in their small buckets, they will dump them into the larger buckets at the front of the worship space for a 'joyful noise' (Psalm 98:4)! What is collected will go to either a global, local, or in-house ministry at the end of each month.

The goals:

- I. Give our youngest children more opportunity for ownership and participation in worship, as well as intergenerational interaction
- II. Provide opportunities for teaching the congregation about various organizations locally and globally, as well as in-house ministries at FLC
- III. Continue to cultivate the spiritual practice of generosity in our congregation

This practice might be a bit awkward at first, and slow 'out of the gates', but I have confidence that all of us will quickly form the habit for weekly Noisy Offering and come to celebrate and enjoy that moment in worship every service! It's a very specific thing, but Noisy Offering can have broad implications as stated in the goals above; plus, in my experience, it's a LOT of fun.

(Article continues on page 5)

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

On Saturday, May 21, I attended our NW MN Synod of the ELCA's Annual Assembly in a Zoom meeting. I joined people all around our NW MN Synod – church leaders, deacons, retired pastors, pastors, and Synod Staff and Leadership (along with some of our FLC members!) – it was really a joyous time to meet, Worship and pray together, hear inspiring speakers, and conduct the important business of our Synod. We elected new leaders to serve in our Synod – one of those is Jackie Buboltz who was elected to serve on the Synod Consultation Committee – a very select group of wise and faithful people who provide a forum for congregations/pastors who are troubled, to work out matters causing distress or conflict, making appropriate recommendations for their resolution.



We heard a report from our Bishop Bill Tesch (this report, the Bishop's excellent sermon, and all the Assembly business was recorded and will be available for anyone who's interested) in which he addressed the real need for our churches to become more inclusive and open to racial, cultural, gender and other differences -actively welcoming the people God calls our neighbors and family.

We passed a Resolution to recommend a guideline of 6% compensation increase in 2023 for rostered pastors, Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs), and other employees of congregations. We recognized milestone anniversaries for many of the churches and pastors in our Synod; and were introduced to several new Mission churches in our Synod. Bishop Tesch reminded attendees that it is expected there will be a "tsunami of pastors retiring in the next few years", and the need to encourage churches to identify and support people within our congregations who are interested in a ministry vocation.

Our ELCA Churchwide Representative Rev. Sara Cutter remarked how important our giving to the ELCA has been in feeding the hungry around the world, caring for national and worldwide disasters, and being a supportive presence right now in our Companion Churches in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Kaitlin Curtis, author of the book, Native, was our guest speaker. She reflected on her Christian and Indigenous roots and encouraged us to think about our grounding – what our stories are rooted in – the harm of stories rooted in hate and racism – and the invitation to tell a better story, using Jesus' stories as our model – to care for others, listen to the marginalized, lean into our pain, and to heal as we begin again and do what we love. And that was the theme of our Assembly:

ALL FOR LOVE.... MAKING GOD'S WAY KNOWN ON EARTH.

Thank **YOU** for your support for our NWMN Synod which supports us all,
Pastor Lauryl



CONGRATULATIONS SILSETH FAMILY!

FLC Member's Bob & Linda Silseth had an exciting day on Friday, May 13. They got to watch their grandson Chase Silseth debut in the major leagues, pitching for the LA Angels! A newspaper article in the Pelican Rapids Press details more about his exciting debut!

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Nathan Olson

Happy June, members of First Lutheran Church! I am your new Vision Council President. Before I introduce myself, I would like to thank the Vision Council members who have fulfilled their terms. Steve Schantzen, our past president, Chad Carlblom, our past treasurer, and Chris Malecka, member at large. Chris served as member at large for the last six years! Thank you all for your service to First Lutheran Church.



My wife McKenzie, our son Brennan, and I have been members of First Lutheran Church for approximately seven years. I grew up in Gettysburg, South Dakota and McKenzie grew up in Moorhead. We met in the Twin Cities and got married in 2007. We lived in Milbank, South Dakota and Fergus Falls before coming to Detroit Lakes in 2013. I work in the Section of Fisheries for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and McKenzie works in the Becker County Auditor/Treasurers Office. Brennan is ten years old and will be going into the 5th grade at Roosevelt Elementary in fall 2022.

I believe these are exciting times at First Lutheran Church. We have two wonderful pastors and awesome staff who have great energy. We have revamped our children and youth programs and seen our numbers increase. We continue to serve our community by providing assistance in multiple ways to those in need. And we recently welcomed eight families and eleven individuals at our latest new member service.

I would be remiss, however, if I didn't highlight some challenges that lay ahead, especially regarding our building. At the forefront of most of our minds is probably updating the kitchen, but there are also things that need to be addressed such as our heating and cooling system, the brick work at our outdoor worship area, and parking lot repairs. These issues were one of the reasons we wanted to visit with as many members as possible through the cottage meetings. Your feedback can help the Vision Council chart a path forward to address building needs while also investing in the programs and missions our members feel are important. If you did not have a chance to attend one of the cottage meetings but would still like to provide input, please reach out to myself, another Vision Council member, or the pastors. It is our hope to have a summary of the cottage meetings completed sometime this summer.

That's all for now folks! It is my prayer that everyone has a wonderful summer and with God's help and the assistance from all of you, First Lutheran Church will remain one of the pillars of our community.



PICNIC IN THE PARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Tuesday, July 12 from 4:45 PM to 7:15 PM, First Lutheran volunteers will be serving food at the Picnic in the Park event to raise funds for the Fuller Center of Housing. We are looking for 10 volunteers to help with this ministry. Volunteers meet at the Detroit Lakes City Park near the Band Shell. Please sign up by calling the church office or at the volunteer table outside the office.



PLEASE SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS WITH US!

Do you have a musical message you would like to share this summer or know of someone that would? Perhaps you have a relative visiting that would like to share their talents with us. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact the office or Karen Bimberg at karen@firstlutheranchurch.com.

Dedicated Account Update



With the beginning of the new budget year in July we will be reducing the number of dedicated accounts from 47 down to 23. Dedicated accounts are those cash in, cash out accounts for donations to funds such as: Jubilate Choir, Radio, Parking lot etc. I've listed the new fund headings along with the sub-groups in each. You will also note what accounts I've consolidated into the new funds. We've also removed the following accounts: current & future ministries, future property renovations, adult education, library, God's Faithful followers, food pantry, world hunger, LWR/ELCA Disaster response, Befrienders, Ministry reserve account, anniversary gift and centennial celebration. For those funds that were eliminated either they were consolidated to another fund or we will be using misc. in/out account.

Building and Equipment

- Building and Grounds (combining Parking Lot, Building Improvement, Landscaping, Stained Glass Windows)
- Sound & Technology
- Kitchen Remodel/updates (combining Wedding Coordinator & Funerals)
- Hospitality (combining Oasis, Action Corp, Christmas at Our House)

Worship and Music

- Music Fund (combining Jubilate Choir, Choir Robes, Hand Bells)
- Altar Guild
- Broadcast Ministry

Youth and Family Ministry

- Youth Fundraising
- Nat'l Youth Gathering
- Laker Prep. Daycare

Children's Ministry

- VBS
- Children's Ministry

Social and Global Outreach

- Missionary Support
- Parish Nurse
- Christmas Store
- Family Needs/Agape
- Homeless Shelter
- Creation Care

Staff/Education

- Continuing Education Pastor Ivers
- Continuing Education Pastor Skogmo
- Flex/Sabbatical

Miscellaneous

- In/Out
- Women of First Lutheran
- Flower Fund
- Memorial Unspecified

If anyone has any questions or concerns about reducing the number of dedicated accounts please feel free to call me. Susie 847-5656

(Pastor Joe's Update—Continued from page 2)

I worked with the Stewardship Team to select the beneficiaries of our Noisy Offering and here is the slate the team proposed for where our Noisy Offering collections will go in the upcoming year:

2022-2023

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Jul - Feed My Starving Children | • Feb - Global Health Ministries |
| • Aug - Lutheran Disaster Response | • Mar - Becker County Food Shelf |
| • Sep - Lutheran Social Service of MN | • Apr - Churches United [for the Homeless] (Moorhead) |
| • Oct - Lutheran World Relief | • May - VBS & Future Mission Trips for FLC Youth and Family Ministries |
| • Nov - Fuller Center for Housing (Detroit Lakes) | • Jun - Boys & Girls Club (Detroit Lakes) |
| • Dec - FLC Agape Fund | |
| • Jan - ELCA Seminary Support | |

The Vision Council has approved this slate. I think it is a great list, and we'll do our best to inform you all about each of these ministries and organizations when the time comes. Thank you, Stewardship Team!

As we continue to strive to open doors for people in worship, fellowship, and learning here at FLC, I am pretty excited about this experiment to cultivate not just consumers of this community, but owners who belong to it.

So, bring your loose change, and children of FLC, get ready to help us out in each worship service!

Thank you for all that you do, dear church.

-Pr. Joe

Pillars

*Ministries that support our pastors and one another
in faith growth through worship and fellowship.*



By, Mackenzie Hamm



MEMORIES OF A MUG!

Well, it has been awhile since we have had to grieve over an item of a special loved one but this weekend it happened. After my son finished his Oreos that he was enjoying in his great grandpa's mug, the cup got knocked over and broke. This cup is the last of the mugs we have around from Mike's Grandpa Clarence. Every time Mike would drink coffee from this mug he was reminded of Grandpa Clarence's sense of humor and wise life advice he would tell us while enjoying a cup of coffee together. This broken mug still sits on our counter, as I don't think any of us have the heart to throw it away. Liam feels bad about it being broke, Mike is sad that it was the last mug of his grandpa's, and I, wanting to honor Mike's sadness, just leave it there. I leave it there and we have had dinner, breakfast and lunch a few times now. It did bring us a weird laugh as one kid slid it together to look like

it wasn't broken, so then my daughter Hope came to pick it up to put it in the dishwasher. To her surprise it is broken! She asks us why this is still sitting here, which then brings another opportunity for Mike to talk about his Grandpa. Grandpa has been dead now about 4 years. We think of him often but we also know that the memories will fade with our children as they were young. We are happy to have these moments to share the great things about him with the kids again. I do know that I will have to dispose of this cup sooner or later, but until then it brings up fond memories of a great man who took in a non-biological grandson to raise as his own.

We have all lost or will lose someone in our lives at some point. I have lost an infant daughter where I kept everything we owned of hers, because I could, as there were not many items. I have lost a grandma who lived with me for 10 years where I couldn't keep everything because there were so many belongings. I remember having a hard time throwing away even her eye glasses, toothbrush, and medications. Grief is hard and confusing and I still find it hard to cope sometimes, but I have to hold on to things that bring me a smile about those who have passed on. Especially knowing that a day will come where we will be together again!

So, don't feel bad when you are struggling with what to do with the newspaper your husband last read, the dishes that are left in the sink by your wife, the car your parents drove, or the clothes your child last wore. Take time to hug the belongings, smell the scents, and talk about the memory the item brings.

I found this website as I was looking up ways to grieve the loss of belongings of loved ones. Check it out!

<https://whatsyourgrief.com/sorting-through-belongings/>

JOHN 16:22 "So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

Support Ministries Coordinator,
Mackenzie Hamm

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

June Leader: Linda Dahlin

Gregg & Nicole Benson
Benjamin & Bridgette Bergman
Freddie & Barb Brackett
Kenneth & Marlys Christianson
David & Connie Coalwell
Dennis Dahl & Gloria DeShaw
Richard & Linda Dahlin
Jeff Doyle & Launa Edvall-Doyle
Janet Engen
Douglas & Carol Fliss
Kyle & Jenn Fode
Shawn Ford-Milligan
Dean & Karen Fossand
David & Ardis Hanson

Steven & Lisa Hanson
Eric Hausten & Tammy Merkins
Gordon & Gretchen Henrikson
Brian & Paula Hines
JoAnn Kvistero
Arnold & Judith Larson
Jennifer Leadbetter
Benjamin Noah
Richard & Carol Lee
Sharon Leitheiser
Ladd & Denise Lyngaas
Richard & Shan Manke
Ryan & Chelsea Manke
Emily Milligan

Deanna Motschenbacher
David & Mary Ann Mueller
Gary & Darcy Nansen
Michael & Kimberly Pladson
Lawrence & Kellie Remmen
Kevin & Debra Ross
Linda & Robert Silseth
Charles T. & Tamara Thompson
Viggo & JoAnn Thomsen
Joan Westlake
Beverly Wilson
Jeanette & Earl Wohlman

Action Corps serves the Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provides desserts for funerals and serves other congregational events.

The month you are on Action Corps, you will be called by your Action Corps leader to see when and how you would like to participate. For Sunday mornings: You **can serve** (set-up, serving and/or clean up). You **can donate food** items or you **can donate money** to purchase food items. You will only be called as the need arises for funerals & other events.

We accomplish big things when everybody does a little bit! Thank You!!



July Leader: Lester & Glenette Olson

Clifford & Jan Adkins
Dale & Ramona Amundson
Bruce & Karen Bergeron
Clifford & Karen Bimberg
Delores Brekke
Donald & Janet Bridgers
Donald Busker
Marty & Kim Christianson
Gerald & Darlene Cleveland
Lyle & Wanda Dahl
Myron & Pam Dybing
David & Jeannine Eiesland
Dean & Jo Leen Eklund
Annabelle Erickson

Mark Everson
DuWayne Fingalson
Todd & Denise Gaard
Don Getz
Phyllis Green
Arvin & Twila Halvorson
Elyda Handegard
Mary & Mark L. Jensen
David & Kathryn Larson
Kay Larson
Michael & Taressa Lukes
Jennifer & Kevin Mosher
John & Naomi Mousseau
Janice Ness

David & Pamela Nustad
Arlene Olson
Lester & Glenette Olson
Scott & Desiree Rader
Lynn Schulberg
Shirley Stenseth
Wayne & Jocelyn Tang
James & Susan Weber
Jay Wheeler
William & Deborah Wickum

Each family/person has a 3-month quarter in which they will be called upon for serving. If you know which Sunday you would prefer to help serve during Sunday Coffee Fellowship time, please contact your leader and let them know! Call the office, 847-5656, if you would like to change the season in which you serve.

NEW MEMBERS!!

Welcomed into membership in August 2021 Members are listed in **Bold**



Robert Guetter & Kaitlinn Sillerrud



Cole & Kelsey Helbling
Daughter: **Sawyer**



Gordon & Gretchen Henrikson



Mark & Mary Jensen



Kelsey & Anthony Karlen
Children:
Christopher & Thomas



Jenna Leadbetter & Ben Noah
Son: **Hudson Leadbetter-Noah**



Ernie & Diane Mancini



Barb Moser



Steve & Sue Quam



Dave & Judie Wood

NEW MEMBERS!!

Welcomed into membership in May 2022 Members are listed in **Bold**



Matt & Kelly Ask
Children: Camden,
Carter & Kellan



Paul & Joleen Backlund



Ryan & Melissa Brodsho
Children: Hendrix,
Jameson & Blakely



Alex & Alyssa Hagedorn
Children: Lucy & Willow



Jessica Jensen
Children: Jase, Jaelynn
& Jenner



Holly & Daniel Gustner
Children: Avery & Lucas



Kayla & Sam Ruppert



Delbert & Nora Saarinen



Sharon Schanilec



Eric & Alexa Stelzer
Children: Ian & Grant

NOT PICTURED NEW MEMBERS

Connie Goff

Kevin & Jennifer Mosher &
Children: Mathew, Emma & Trevor

Kayla Klatt & Tyler Hilde
Children: Alexis, Gavin & Jaelyn

Matt & Jodie Johnson

Emily Olson



Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

Stretch Your Body

Spring's return can provide a motivational boost to start — or restart — healthy routines and prepare your body to take on the day.

The science of stretching has evolved in recent years. Once thought of as a way to “warm up” before exercise, experts now see long-term improvement in joint flexibility as a main benefit of stretching.

Stretching daily, or several times a week, can deliver long-term benefits, including:

- Greater flexibility and range of motion, which makes physical activity less painful and more productive
- Reduced risk of injury, since supple muscles and flexible joints are more resilient during activity
- Minimized muscle shortening and tightness, which can result from underuse and can leave people weak

For tips and step by step information on stretching go to:

<https://www.silversneakers.com/blog/stretching>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/stretching/art-20047931>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/the-importance-of-stretching>

Did you know?

30% of people walk for exercise making it the most popular form of exercise.

Choose an exercise activity that works for you

It is important to exercise by doing something you enjoy. Research has found that the more enjoyable we find exercise, the more likely we are to continue doing it.

We all enjoy different things, so it's important to find an exercise activity that works for you. Here are a few things to consider when choosing an exercise activity:

1. Do you like variety or are you a creature of habit? Some people prefer a variety of classes or exercises while others may choose to do just one activity such as walking several times a week.
2. What are you good at? It is human nature to prefer activities that we are good at, so play to your strengths.
3. Do you prefer to be with others or go solo? For some exercise is “me” time, while for others group accountability keeps them on track.
4. Do you like to be indoors or outdoors? This could certainly vary depending on the Minnesota weather.
5. Do you want something high-energy or more low-key?

The point is exercise of any kind is important. Choose an activity that you enjoy and can do safely whether it be alone or with a group.

I love any activity I can do outside such as walking, gardening, biking, and hiking. Find something you love to do and enjoy!

I can do all this through him who gives me strength – Philippians 4:13

Blessings to you!



Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR VBS!!

VBS is June 20th thru 23rd

9 AM to 3 PM for K-5th Graders

9 AM to 12 PM for preschoolers

Registration forms can be picked up at the volunteer table, or printed off from our Children's Ministry page on the church website. Please complete both the registration form as well as the health form and either drop them off at the church, or email them to Emma. **Registration forms are due by June 6th!**

If you would like to volunteer to bring a snack for one of the days, please click on the link on our website or contact Emma.



Middle Schoolers leave for the Mission Trip on June 5th. They will be working to help people in the Duluth community who need it the most. They will experience long days and full hearts, and would appreciate any prayers you can offer.

***On behalf of the middle schoolers going on this trip, thank you to everyone who donated this year. You didn't just help pay for registration on our rental van, you paid for the memories and impact that will be made next week. Thank you.



We are already starting our search for teachers and small group leaders for next year. If this is something that you feel called towards, please contact Emma. We always need more help within our youth and children's programs.



Thank you for your donations during Lent for the Lutheran Disaster Response!
We were able to donate \$4,720.00 because of your generosity.

The Link

Update from the Women of First Lutheran Church—Written by Norma Smith

The month of May has gone by way too fast. It has been so cold and now May flowers will be June flowers. June will also be time to plant your garden.

The Lenten project that the FLCW sponsored to collect items for Personal Care Kits had a very positive response. One hundred and two Personal Care Kits are assembled and ready to be delivered to Wadena in June. Thank you to everyone who participated, we had a wonderful response!

The Great Get-Together on April 30 was attended by 14 people. Jean Benson gave devotions and Beve Melgaard led us in a Sing Along of some fun songs. Along with the rolls and coffee each person talked about something exciting happening in their lives.

Response to the survey is still being requested! I encourage all women of FLC to give your opinions and suggestions to continue the ministry of women at First Lutheran Church. The survey is available on the Volunteer Table.

With summer always being so busy we are not planning any events until fall.

UP-COMING EVENTS:

- **NW MN Synod Convention**—September 16 & 17 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls.
(Watch for information to register.)
- **Co-Council Meeting**—August 17 at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room

Enjoy your summer. God Bless each of you.

-Norma



QUILTING GIFTS

FLC quilter, Judy Maxwell presents FLC member, Louanne Gerdes, with a beautiful hat quilt lovingly made by the FLC quilters especially for her!

SUMMER QUILTING SCHEDULE

The quilters will meet two Tuesdays a month during the summer. They plan to meet the following Tuesdays: June 7 & 14, July 12 & 19 and August 9 & 16.

CREATION CARE TEAM



FLC TREE PLANTING EVENTS 2022

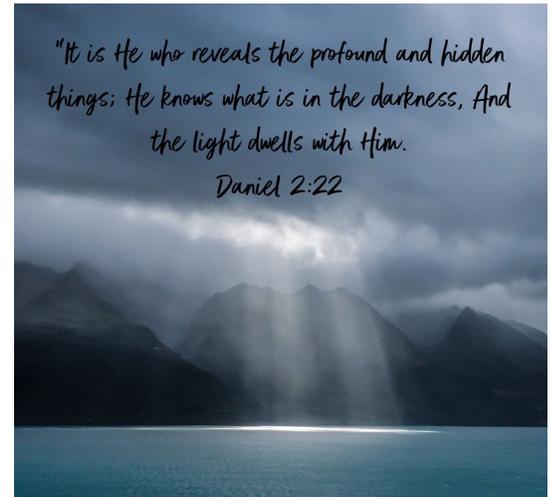


THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!



HIDDEN TREASURE

Written by Patti Cummins



Daniel 2:22 It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.

Three years ago, when my faithful and much-loved 4-legged companion Harley passed away, I decided a huge boulder at the corner of my property would be his final resting place. I went by it every time I mowed or raked my yard. As I cleared away brush in front of the boulder, I spotted several rocks forming a round circle in the side shadow. Further inspection disclosed three rhubarb plants, protected somewhat by the rocks, but quite anemic due to lack of sun and nutrition. I dug them up, then divided and transplanted them. I now have six healthy plants that will provide lots of baked goodness in the future.

Then last spring, I decided to pull up all the annoying vines covering everything on my yard's wooded edge. By mid-summer, I had grape clusters hanging on vines that were climbing up a troupe of trees. Friends advised me that my rampage against the vines had inadvertently pruned the main vines and allowed them to bear fruit again. I've lived here for ten years and didn't know that treasure was there.

I think about the Bible that way sometimes. Verses I've read for years are revealed to me in new ways when my mind and heart are readied by the Spirit to grow in understanding. Exploring the passages with others also opens new perspectives and implications for me. I love it when linguistic and biblical scholars discover more precise meanings for the original text language, hopefully bringing us more clarity in God's word. It is exciting to explore texts bypassed in previous study, to see what treasure they hold.

The Old Testament was never my go-to part of the Bible in the past. All the "son of" lineage records seemed tedious (other than those of Jesus) and the constant and sometimes extreme violence was uncomfortable and didn't sync with the message of God's great love and grace in the New Testament. But as I continue to study the Old Testament, "pruning" away some of those things, the messages of God's promises (which His people didn't always believe), His faithfulness (even when His people weren't faithful to Him), and the great love He had for us (especially in the laws He gave to guide and protect us), come out of the shadows.



FLC acknowledges with grateful appreciation these memorials which have been received this past month.

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: Baby Paisley Benson

Given by: Ardys Horner

ALLELUIA RINGERS FUND

In Memory of: Edna Beske

Given by: Diane & Jim McCormack

Given by: Cliff & Karen Bimberg

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

BUILDING & GROUNDS FUND

In Memory of: John & Janet Johansson

Given by: Cindy Brufloft

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Julian Omberg

Given by: Cindy Brufloft

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

Given by: David & Margarte Schiller

Given by: Ruth Price

In Memory of: Juanita Askegaard

Given by: Ruth Price

YOUTH & MISSIONARY FUND

In Memory of: Baby Paisley Benson

Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

HONORING OUR MILITARY

Army & Army Reserves

Kurt Anderson	1970-1972
Gary Bendewald	1964-1966
Wayne Benson	1966
LeRoy Berg	1947-1952
Cliff Bimberg	1969-1971
Rod Boyer	1958-1960
Clarence C. Brown	1918-1919
Daniel C. Brown	
Denver O. Brown	1943-1946
Donald S. Brown	
Gust Brown	1952-1955
Walt Christensen	1953-1956, 1961-1964
Gerald Cleveland	1953-1956
Dennis Dahl	1967-1970
Earl E. Dreyer	1951-1953
David Eiesland	1958-1964
James Elletson	1957-1965
Duane Erickson	1954-1956
Otto Evenson	1950-1952
Ronald B. Fasteen	
Carl Fingalson	1955-1959
James Hagle	1968-1993
Arvin Halvorson	1952-1954
Howard R. Hansen	1969-1971
Russ Hanson	1971-1972
Thomas Harper	1982-2005
Ray Heino	1955-1957
John Hoeglund	1953-1955
Nels Hoeglund	
Jon Horner	1956-1958
Clayton Jensen	1946-1948
Tallack Johnson	1955-1957
David Johnston	1984-1986
Tom Klyve	1973-1979
Curtis G. Listul	1953-1956
Thore Mathison	1914
David Moe	1969-1972
Paul Ness	1952-1954
Tom Neunenfeldt	1974-1977
Lester Olson	1962-1964
Ken Schur	1954-1956
Don Smith	1957-1959
Raymond Swanson	1950-1953
Rodger Tinjum	1955-1956
William Wegscheid	1977-1983
Norman Wegscheid	1953-1954
Lowell Wenberg	1955-1957

Marines

Christopher Ness	1992-1998
------------------	-----------

MN Army National Guard

Karl Malchow	1960-1966
Delroy 'Pete' Mathison	1959-1965
Claude Mosher	1954-1964

ND Air National Guard

Matt Christen	2011-Present
Ted Cihak	21 Years
LaVerne R. Maxwell	1963-1969
Travis Nelson	2005-Present
Bob Rheault	1971-2000

ND Army National Guard

Jean Bollig	1951-1952
Dave Melgaard	1966-1973
Daniel Peterson	2008-Present
Josh Peterson	2008-Present

Navy/Reserves

Gust U. Brown	1945-1948
Emil Dunham	1951-1963
Carl Fingalson	1967-1989
Henry E. Fischer	1944-1946
Alexander Gerdes	2005-2017
Harley Gerdes	
Jerome 'Jerry' Herman	1954-1958
David L. Johnson	1969-1974
Phil MacPherson	1965-1969
Dave Nustad	1966-1970
Ole Olson	1956-1960
Steven F. Suter	1972-1975
Sharon Wesbrook	1960-1963
Roger Wheeler	1959-1967

Air Force/Reserves

Bruce A. Barrett	1951-1955
Michael J. Fillmore	1969-1971
Don Getz	1951-1955
Keith Gilbertson	1963-1979
Gary Goreham	1976-1981
James L. Jacobson	1964-1999
Lyle C Johnson	1945-1947
Bob Lund	1955-1958
Bob Rheault	11971-2000
Victor J. Rolle	1951-1955
Colonel William Tesch	1999-2021
Dr. Robert Westlake	1958-1960

Currently Serving

Brandon Armour
Brenden Lies
Moira McCormack
Tyler Wickum



Happy
Memorial
Day!

SAVE ME, O GOD, FOR THE WATERS HAVE COME UP TO MY NECK. I SINK IN DEEP MIRE, WHERE THERE IS NO Foothold; I HAVE COME INTO DEEP WATERS, AND THE FLOOD SWEEPS OVER ME.

(PSALM 69:1-2)



Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

The seemingly endless winter, followed by the cold wet spring, weighed heavily on all of us, but the toll it is taking on our farmers and all who draw their living from agriculture is enormous. I write to ask for your prayers, your vigilance and where possible, your help.

Prayers: Water is a gift from God which has the power to wield both refreshment and destruction. The flood waters that over centuries enrich the soil with generous deposits of sediment, also, when they persist, render the land useless. Even our understanding of baptism reflects this reality. The waters of baptism promise renewal of life and the cleansing of forgiveness (Titus 3:5-6), and they also bring about our death to sin (Romans 6:4). Our farmers understand this dynamic better than most of us. It's why, when it comes to praying about the weather, they might say, "watch out what you ask for!" And so that is why I've asked the farmer on our staff, SAM Kathy Levenhagen, to offer a prayer at this moment when our farmers are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to get in the field and plant before it's too late. I invite you to use this or a similar prayer in your own daily devotions and in your congregation's prayers of the church.

O Lord, we come to you in this season of wind, rain, sun and flood.

God of Creation, water is the basic gift of life. As water spreads out and covers land and roads, may the rich, nutritious mud give food for your people. Lord in your mercy...

God of Creation, You have made us care-takers of livestock and wildlife. Even the animals feel the panic of the floodwaters. Please provide shelter for the creatures who share our planet. Lord in your mercy...

God of Creation, Your people are weary of the weather over the last six months. Give us strength to see the shoreline once again. May the devastation of property be small. So many people have experienced lost in varying degrees and we look to You for comfort. Lord in your mercy...

God of Creation, may we be the voice of hope in a time of despair. May we lament prayers for those who have none. May we be quick to respond with help, whether sandbags or rebuilding. Lord in your mercy...

Lord, we lift these prayers to You on behalf of Your people. We know there is not one place on the planet where we can go where You are not already present. We pray in confidence because Jesus rose from the grave to give us hope. In Jesus' holy name. Amen

Vigilance: The stress of these times can be overwhelming, and we can't predict who will be most affected. Please pay attention to the people in your community. Offer a word of encouragement, the promise of prayer and the offer of care in whatever way God makes you able.

Help: While we are powerless over the weather, real help can come in many forms. The simple heartfelt expression of care is probably the most impactful. This is part of what it means to be the body of Christ together – we love each other through the toughest of times. Tangible help can be a lifesaver, too. Consider a monetary gift to local agencies that offer aid to people in distress. I encourage you to give to our synod's Easter Appeal: half of the money goes for direct grants to congregations for food and housing programs to assist people in their local community and the other half is for Lutheran Disaster Response's relief efforts in Ukraine.

Dear one, let's not let crisis-fatigue hold us back from being there for one another through these difficult times. "For you are the body of Christ," (1 Corinthians 12:27). The church was built for times like these. Thank you for your good care of one another, and for your prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Bill Tesch,
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contem Outdoor Worship 11:30a Potluck Picnic  1st Outdoor Service	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 	31 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	1 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Oak Crossing Service 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh	2 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	3 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	4
5 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	6 9:00a FLC Blood Drive 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	7 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circ., Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	8 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Pelican Landing, Devo. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh	9 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circle 2:00p Linc Park/Winch Wshp	10 11:00a Shelter Mtg 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	11
12 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contem Outdoor Worship	13 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	14 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:30a Rebekah Circ, Din Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	15 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecuman Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 4:00p Personnel Mtg 5:00p Worship Team Reh	16 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	17 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	18
19 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship 	20 Vacation Bible School Church Office Closed in Recognition of Juneteenth 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	21 Vacation Bible School 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	22 Vacation Bible School 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh	23 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	24 11:00a Shelter Mtg 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	25
26 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contem Outdoor Worship	27 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	28 Staff Development Day Church Office Closed 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	29 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh	30 Staff Development Day Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	1 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	2



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Volume 31 Issue 6
Non-Profit Organization

The First Messenger is published monthly and mailed to the members and friends of First Lutheran Church. The purpose of this publication is to inform the congregation of church activities and upcoming events. Articles for publication are to be submitted to the church office by the 20th of each month.

Office Hours:

Winter Hours
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Monday—Friday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Fridays
8:30 AM to Noon

Office Phone: 847-5656
Fax Phone: 847-7009
flc@firstlutheranchurch.com
www.firstlutheranchurch.com

Vision Council

President: Nathan Olson
President-Elect: Gail Colby
Secretary: Deanne Udby
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

Erin Erickson, Scott Sonstegard, Carla Solem,
Todd Gaard, Tanner Duncan, & Kari Stattelmann

Foundation Board

President: TBD
President-Elect: TBD
Secretary: Patti Cummins
Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Ryan Manke, Les Perry, Les Perry,
Lynn Schulberg, Don Busker & Pam Orth

Congregational Staff

Lead Pastor:

Pastor Joe Skogmo pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com

Associate Pastor:

Pastor Lauryl Ivers pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com

Youth and Family Ministry Director

Emma Duncan emma@firstlutheranchurch.com

Business Manager:

Susie Reitmeier susie@firstlutheranchurch.com

Support Ministries Coordinator:

Mackenzie Hamm mackenzie@firstlutheranchurch.com

Communications Director:

Melissa Christianson melissa@firstlutheranchurch.com

Information Technology/Media:

Cory Oswald cory@firstlutheranchurch.com

Parish Nurse:

Denise Gaard denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

Worship Music Coordinator:

Karen Bimberg karen@firstlutheranchurch.com

Adult Choir Director:

Kathy Larson klarson@detlakes.k12.mn.us

Bell Choir Director:

Carla Hansen Hansencarla62@gmail.com

Missionary Pastor:

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

**Worship is broadcast on KDLM-1340 AM and on
93.1 FM Radio each
Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM.**

**Worship is also webcasted on the church website
www.firstlutheranchurch.com.**

**Worship is also broadcast on T.V. on Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**