

The First Messenger



JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Recognition of 4th of July—Office Closed ...	July	5 th
Summer Bible Study Begins (see page 2)	July	11 th
Susie's Sunday Sendoff	July	24 th
Healing Service	July	24 th

Volume 31

July 2022

Issue 7



Salad & Dessert Potluck

Sunday, July 24
Following Outdoor Worship

Come help us celebrate and bid farewell to Business Manager, Susie Reitmeier, for her 11 years of faithful service to First Lutheran Church.



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WE ARE HIRING!

Business Manager

Job Description & Application can be found at www.firstlutheranchurch.com





912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218.847.5656
www.firstlutheranchurch.com



WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

MONDAY, JULY 5TH

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Our lives are full of enormous expectations (real or imagined). We have familial expectations, personal goals, expectations from our workplace, social obligations, cultural standards of appearance, cultural standards of success, clients, patients, customers all calling – all the time, alerts and reminders on our phones and written into our calendars. We are always doing, going, preparing, producing, consuming in some never-ending pursuit of supposedly proving our worth. If that's all we ever do, if that's all our life is about, well then, that is utter madness. Not only is it madness, it's its own condemnation. Jesus warned us of such, that if we do not trust that we're already valid through his love, then we're "condemned already" (John 3:18), then we spend our lives torturously chasing the end of the rainbow in some mad pursuit of feeling whole and complete.

This is why the gospel is so freeing: you don't have to do any of that. You are already loved and holy, because God says so. God says so because you are a part of the creation that God calls "good." God says so in every single Old Testament covenant. God says so in Christ Jesus. God says so in Christ's ministry. God says so in Christ's death. God says so in Christ's resurrection. God says so in Christ's ascension. God says so in sending the Holy Spirit. God says so in God's Word. God says so in Baptism. God says so in Holy Communion. God says so in God's eternity. YOU ARE ALREADY ENOUGH.

So...breathe. Take a break. You don't have to prove anything to anyone. You have permission. In fact, it's a divine imperative, a command.

Remember, we have a God who tells us in Psalm 46:10 to "be still." We have a God who tells us in 10 of God's greatest rules "to rest" (sabbath). We have a book in the Bible that tells us that if all we ever do is toil away for material or social gain, then we're missing the point, then we're just "chasing the wind" (Ecclesiastes 2:17). The gift of life is meant for enjoyment, for 'eating, drinking, and being merry' (8:15). We have a God who loves us for who we are, not for what milestone we've achieved or obligations we've met, but, simply and profoundly, because...we belong to God.

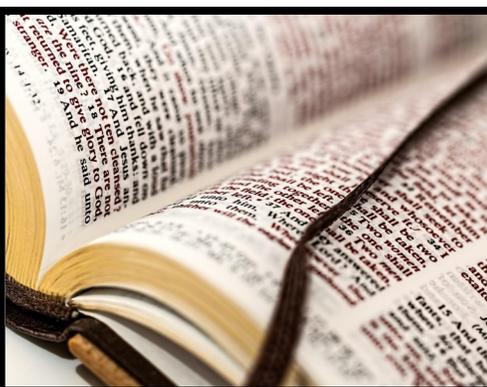
Such is the great Lutheran emphasis we see in Scripture: we are free to be. God's love in Christ Jesus has declared and proven us valuable and beloved. So, as pressures mount from all around, remember that your worth is secured. You are an heir of salvation (Romans 8:17) from whom nothing and no one can ever separate the love of God (8:38-39); you were freed for freedom (Galatians 5:1).

So, take a pause. Take a breath. You are free. You are valid and validated. You are loved. You have permission to say no. You have permission to take a break. You have an obligation to uphold healthy boundaries. You have a divine command to rest.

And if none of this motivates, perhaps humility will. You don't have to do it all. Who do you think you are? Jesus?

Finally, remember that the name God gives Godself in the Old Testament is YHWH. An unpronounceable word. It is speculated by some scholars, like Richard Rohr, that YHWH is the onomatopoeia of breathing ('onomatopoeia' is a word that is a sound – like 'boom' or 'clang'). So, as you take a moment to breathe, you're uttering the name of God. As you take a moment to breathe, you are praying. Your moment of breath is sacred, divine.

So, my friends, with all that, "Enjoy your summer. It's later than you think." -Pr. Joe



Bible Study

"Summer Nights with the Old Testament" Led by Pastor Joe Skogmo

6:15 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: TBA

Four Sessions:

July 11: Books of Moses

July 25: Wisdom Literature

July 18: Historical Books

August 1: The Prophets

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” (John 17:11)

Dear family in Christ,

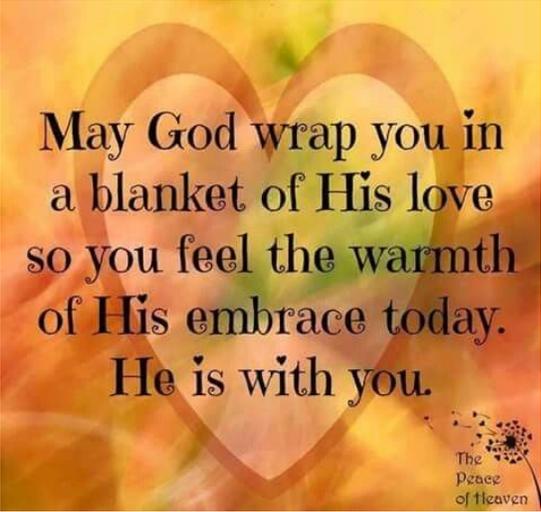
Last week the Supreme Court changed Roe vs Wade. The members of our congregation have thoughtful reasons to choose all sides of this very emotional and political issue. Listening respectfully and caring for each other tenderly is very important right now. The ELCA's social statement on Abortion is grounded in the conviction that “Christians are united in Christ through faith with both the freedom and obligation to engage in serious moral deliberation.” I encourage you to read this statement for faithful engagement on this issue in order not to divide us but to allow each of us to hear and love each other ways that demonstrate Jesus' compassionate grace, wisdom and justice.

I have personally known women who made the tragic decision for an abortion – one was a child raped by her father; another was a woman who learned in her third trimester that one of the twins she carried was dying and if she didn't abort this twin, both the healthy twin in her womb, and the woman herself, were at risk of dying. Another woman was a friend who almost bled to death after getting a “back alley abortion”, since she couldn't emotionally and financially afford the pregnancy. I also have friends and family who chose to continue an unintended pregnancy, for the sake of the child they carried, even though it jeopardized their own health and wellbeing, and they were grateful they could make this decision with good support around them.

I do believe the command to chose life, and to not kill is God's good will for us. But ours is not a perfect world yet, until Jesus returns, as our war Veterans and police officers in violent situations, and women who face many unimaginable challenges, understand only too well.

I hope everyone in our Church family knows that they are welcome to talk with their Pastors, Youth and Family Ministry Director, and Parish Nurse about this issue. Our church is a place of love and grace for everyone, and we will accompany you through any challenges you face, assuring you of God's love, listening without judgement, and praying you will find your way to the abundant life God has planned for you.

With hope and peace,
Pastor Lauryl



May God wrap you in
a blanket of His love
so you feel the warmth
of His embrace today.
He is with you.



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.

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Nathan Olson

Well, judging by the recent warm weather, I think it is safe to say that summer is here. The change of the seasons is probably what I like the most about living in Minnesota—even though the winters can get pretty long! And similar to the changing seasons, our lives change and our church changes. By now, I assume most have heard that our beloved Business Manager, Susie Reitmeier, is retiring July 31. We thank her for her loyalty these past 11 years, are excited for her next chapter, and pray that God be with her throughout her retirement. It is the hope of church leadership to find a replacement as soon as possible to minimize any disruption to the church's work.

Thinking about change, I wondered what specific things the Bible says about the topic. So I cheated and utilized biblegateway.com to do a search. In the New International Version (NIV), the word "change" appears 71 times. Now most of the time when "change" is mentioned, it is pretty mundane. But there are a few verses that mark some major events in the Bible:

Matthew Chapter 18, Verses 2-4

²He (Jesus) called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

John Chapter 2, Verses 2-11, Jesus Changes Water into Wine

²On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

And one of the most important stories of change I found in the Bible was Saul's change into Paul:

Acts Chapter 9, Verses 1-22, Saul's Conversion

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁷Then Ananias (a disciple from Damascus) went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

If God can change Saul—a fierce persecutor of Jesus' followers—into Paul—one of the most prominent Christian evangelists—then I know God will be with us while we navigate this change of finding a new Business Manager. I ask that you keep all of church leadership in your prayers while we start the search for this important position and give us grace during the transition.

Until next month, enjoy the summer weather!

Pillars

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



By, Mackenzie Hamm



ACTION CORPS: Action Corp is a group of parishioners who worship here at First Lutheran. Yes you all are all assigned to an Action Corp group. One month a year each parishioner is assigned to an Action Corp group to help provide a time of fellowship in between church services by serving treats on Sundays throughout the year. We also ask for help to provide treats if there is a funeral during your assigned month. If you are busy during the month you are assigned, please help out during one of the other months that works for you!

Please take the time to Call or respond to the sign-up sheet that is sent to your email or phone.

Options for helping:

- Server: Server (set-up 8:45 am, serve Fellowship 9:30 to 10:30 then Clean up) *if you want to set up before church the doors are open by 8 am. Do what is easiest for you!
- Donate food items (baked or bought)
- Donate money for her to use to get food items.

If this is a ministry you feel called to, please feel free to sign up and lead as many Sundays as you would like! We hope fellowship is bringing a sense of community back to the church! Enjoy your time together! If you don't receive an email about this throughout the year, please reach out to me because you might have been missed! There is always a sign up on the Volunteer table and you can sign up anytime!



Picnic in the Park: Fuller Center of Housing Fundraiser Picnic Coinciding with Music in the Park: First Lutheran Provides servers on Tuesday July 20th which is led by Bob Jernberg..Here is who are signed up so far and thank you in advance! Fern Brown, Cindy Bruflodt, Sue Christensen, Patti Cummins, Terry & Sandi Kemmer, Glenice Marxen, Mary Waalen, Cheri Haderly, Jodi Wheeler & Bill Wegscheid. Free shirts are available for volunteers to pick up to wear in the office. Reminder—set-up is at 4:45 and meal is served from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.



Homeless Update: We continue to help people daily with assistance from gas, food and finding shelter and much more. We have served over 450 meals since January 1st. These meals are prepared from parishioners and frozen and people come to the church to microwave them or take them with them to eat. Thank you for being a ministry to those who are hungry!

How can you help?

- **Movers**—We have been having individuals and other organizations reach out to help with moving furniture. Do you have the time and strength to be of help?

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give”*

Winston Churchill

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

July Leader: Les & 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 Eiesland
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

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!!



August Leader: David & Carol Moe

James & LaValle Andersen
Ruth Balega
Harriet Barrett
Joseph & Kimberly Bergquist
Larry & Adrienne Buboltz
Greg Buckley
Sonny & Dawn Chase
Shari Cole
Gloria Dahlen
Rebecca DePree
Don & Kay Dimond
Philip & Margaret Doll

Marlys Douglas
Scott Duenow
Emma & Tanner Duncan
Nathaniel & Christine Gerdes
Richard & Sandra Hanson
Marilyn Hedstrom
Matthew & Diana Hedstrom
Robert & Cynthia Hilgers
James & Beverly Jacobson
Mike & Cheryl Kohler
Rebecca Mallow
James & Diane McCormack

Larry & Kathleen Mickelberg
David & Carol Moe
Markus & Destany Okeson
William & Deb Ormseth
James Ramstad
Delbert & Nora Saarinen
Nick & Michele Schons
Scott & Andrea Sonstegard
William & Christine Tesch
Justin & Kimberly Wegleitner
Marilyn Weiler
David & Judith Wood

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.



Parish Health

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

Suicide Prevention

Pastor Lauryl and I recently attended a workshop regarding suicide prevention. The workshop was meant to equip leaders of faith communities with ways to minister to those impacted by suicidal desperation. This includes ministering to those who are currently considering suicide, those who are anxious that a family member or friend might be considering suicide, those that have lost a loved one to suicide, and those who have experienced suicidal thinking in the past but are not any longer. Unfortunately, these 4 groups make up a substantial percentage of members in nearly all faith communities. Because a significant amount of stigma and taboo continues to surround the topic of suicide, these persons often suffer in silence which isolates them and increases the risk of further suicides and self-injury.

In a recent sermon, Pastor Lauryl talked about the staggering numbers of people who are affected by suicide.

- * An estimated 6% of adults and 17% of adolescents are thinking about suicide right now.
- * 30% of us have lost someone to suicide.
- * One in every four persons has experienced suicidal thinking.
- * There are 20 Veteran suicides every day.

These numbers are most sad to me! That is a large amount of people who are considering suicide or are impacted by suicide in some way! What can we do about this?

We used to think that it was better not to talk about suicide and not to ask someone if they are thinking about suicide. This is not true! I encourage you to talk about it! If you know of someone who is feeling deep hopelessness or despair, don't be afraid to ask them questions such as these:

"Are you in so much pain that death feels like the only option?"

"Are you thinking about suicide?"

Research shows repeatedly that asking questions like these does not cause suicide, instead it gives that person the chance to talk, to know that someone notices them and cares.

I pray that if you are thinking of suicide, you will find someone you can talk to who will provide hope and support. Think of 3 people you can talk to when needed. Pastor Joe, Pastor Lauryl, and I are available to talk, you can reach us at; 218-847-5656. The Suicide Prevention Hotline number is 800-273-8255 where someone is there 24 hours a day, every day.

God's peace,
Denise

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director



Vacation Bible School was held on June 20—23 at the church. It was led by counselors from Luther Crest Bible Camp. Everyone who was able attend had a great time! Thanks for sharing your children with us! It was a wonderful week!

Nine FLC Middle Schoolers, along with 3 adult chaperones went on a 5 day mission trip to Duluth, MN. They did a lot of hard work, met a lot of new friends and made a lot of amazing memories!



hey. in case you forgot,
YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD!
pretty cool, huh?



VALLEYFAIR TRIP

Middle Schoolers & High Schoolers! You are invited to Valleyfair on August 10! Register on the youth page on the FLC website. We are sharing a bus with Trinity Lutheran, so it's first come first serve. We only have 27 seats—so sign up quick!

The Link

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

This month I am going to write about WELCA. All women who belong to an ELCA church become part of WELCA—Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In Minnesota we are part of NW MN Synod and locally First Lutheran Church is one of 12 Churches in Conference 6.

There are many opportunities for women to choose from. Altar Guild takes care of communion. There are 2 people to a team, who prepare, serve, and clean up. The choice to serve is 8:30 AM or 10:30 AM on communion Sundays. The need for more people is urgent, the more teams the less times you need to serve. New people will be trained.

Quilters is a group of women who meet every Tuesday morning during the school year and the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays in the summer. Starting time is 8:30 AM, coffee break at 10 AM and quitting time 11:30AM, however you can come and go at your convenience. You do not need to sew or run a machine there are other things to do. These quilts are mostly sent to LWR, some are sold and the money is used to buy supplies. LWR is working for Jesus where our hands and feet can't go, but we know wherever they go and whoever gets them are blessed.

There are 3 Circles at this time, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursday. They all meet during the day as most are elderly people, however there could be evening ones too.

- * Bible Study comes from the Gather Magazine
- * Fellowship-getting to know each other
- * Awesome desserts to enjoy
- * Support Honorary Members (shut-ins from the congregation)

We support the Synod by sending half of our Circle offerings each month.

- * In October we start collecting good, clean blankets that are distributed locally where needed.
- * In November we have Thank Offering with the total proceeds going to Churchwide in Chicago and used for educational material which includes our monthly Gather magazine.

Co-Council meets regularly in the conference room on a Wednesday after all Circles have met. This group of 8 women, representatives from each Circle takes care of business matters and plans activities.

Twice a year, spring and fall a Gathering is held in our Conference. Each church at some time serves this event, smaller church may help another church. A Bible Study and speaker ends with lunch. Always an inspirational morning. Once a year NW MN Synod convention is held at a church in the synod. There is a Triennial convention held every 3 years which is nationwide- this year in Phoenix, AZ.

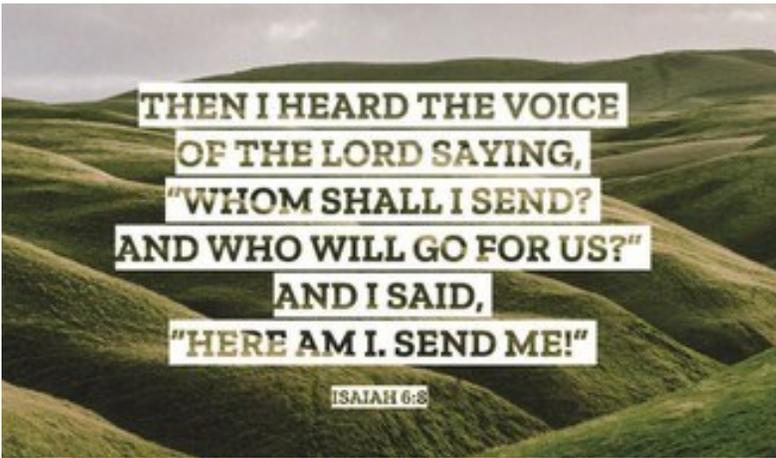
Circles are supporters of LWR. Quilts, Personal Care kits, School kits, Baby care kits and Fabric kits are delivered twice a year in June and December to Wadena. Pollman Trucking transports them to Minneapolis and from there to Maryland until they are loaded in a container and sent to places where needed. Any family or organized group can help with LWR. The Crisis Center and Churches United are also supported.

June 6th Wayne Benson and friends delivered to Wadena: 104 Personal Care kits, 57 Quilts and 20 Baby Care kits. We thank you. School supplies are collected starting in July and they will be delivered in December. FYI Sandy Willprecht for many years has sewn all the school bags. Thanks to you.

Happy 4th of July to all of you! From your WELCA or FLCW President, Norma Smith



Thank you to those who donated and helped back kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief!



DOORS

Submitted by, Patti Cummins

I love the song, "Here I Am, Lord." Boy, I wish it were that easy to discern where God is calling me! Driving along the beach one day, I spotted a father and son playing frisbee. Just as the father cast the frisbee, the son gazed away at some distraction and the frisbee narrowly missed hitting him in the head. There was a time I wondered if my own distractions or lack of focus were keeping me from perceiving and opening a door God was calling me to. How many "frisbees" was I missing?

I revealed this concern to some tablemates over coffee during fellowship one day, and a friend in Christ assured me that there were many doors through which I could serve God, and that, if I overlooked one, another would emerge. I stress less about it now. Some opportunities so strongly spark my passion with conviction and/or joy that I'm compelled to walk through those doors (puppet ministry, VBS lunch lady, Bible and book study). Washing communion cups one Christmas Eve when I was alone instilled such peace and serenity. A warm smile and a desire to know our church family are all that's needed to usher or greet. Serving in the kitchen really gives me a chance to know my fellow servers better. I'm glad I didn't miss those frisbees.

Other doors require more thoughtful and prayerful consideration – is this something for which God has equipped me, or that can be a spiritual growth experience (as teaching Sunday School, serving on Council or Foundation have been)? I so appreciate those who read the Bible lessons, but I won't be jumping at the chance to speak up front. In elementary school, I fainted so often giving oral book reports that the teachers allowed me to do all of them written. I've spoken to groups at work, church and other activities as an adult, something I do when required or when I strongly feel God's call. I love all the artistry others have shared to enhance our worship experience and illuminate God's message, but that talent has not seemed mine. I still ask, is this a frisbee that will nurture my growth as a follower of Jesus?

And you will never see me raise my hand and cry "Pick me!" to enter some doors. I am a great appreciator and lover of music (I miss Brooklyn's violin), but I won't be singing in the choir. I sit up front usually so I can sing out and not offend anyone who chose the seat before me (the band is very forgiving).

I continue to learn about all the pieces, small and large, that come together to help God's people grow in knowledge, compassion, and love for neighbors. There are so many gifts that can be offered in service to others, and we receive so many spiritual gifts back in the offering – love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, thankfulness, faithfulness, gentleness, and generosity. I just need to keep my eye open to any "frisbees" that come my way.



Thank you to Kurt Anderson and Don Busker for getting the cross and other wall hangings back up in the dining room! It looks great!



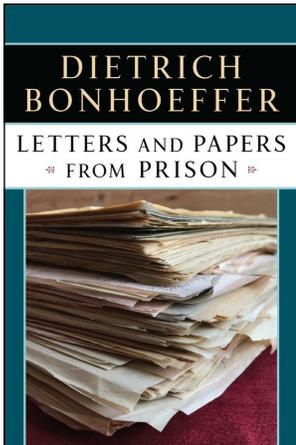
60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

60 years ago Richard & Mary Mackenthun were married at First Lutheran. Today, they enjoy connecting online to watch services at FLC. In celebration of their wedding anniversary on June 30, their children are

hosting a card party for them. If you would like to send a card of well wishes, please send them to: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mackenthun, 5615 Fox Court, South Beloit, Illinois 61108.

UPDATES FROM THE FLC LIBRARY

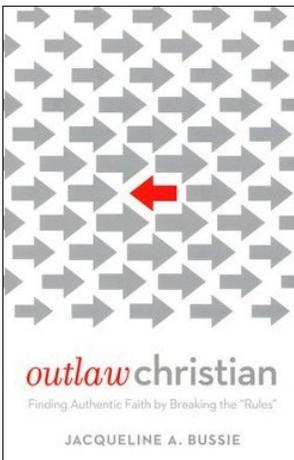
We have two new books in the library!



“Letters and Papers from Prison”

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is a poignant story of friendship and love, faith and hope, as the tide of history turned against Germany and Bonhoeffer's own life drew to a dramatic, lonely, and tragic close.



“Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules”

by Jacqueline A. Bussie

A provocative, intelligent, and beautifully written work that wrestles in real-world terms with often taboo questions about doubt, love, despair, hope, and justice. This author will be the featured speaker at this fall's annual NW Minnesota Women's Synod meeting.

Missing books replaced in the library:

- “I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education” by Christine Lamb and Malala Yousafzai
- “Finding My Way Home: Pathways to Life and the Spirit” by Henri Nouwen
- “Dark Sun Rises” by Denise Williamson
- “Cancer-Now What?” by Kenneth C. Haugk
- “Mama’s Bank Account” by Kathryn Forbes

Books still missing (if you have one of these, or a copy you would like to donate, please leave in the office and thank you):

- “Through the Life of a Child into the Heart of the Spirit” by Rhonda Gail Shelton-Flem
- “All Together in One Place” by Jane Kirkpatrick
- “Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II” by Jack Canfield, Kimberly Kirberger, and Mark Victor Hansen
- “Laughter is the Spice of Life” by Women of Faith, Nelson Publications
- “Prepare Enrich Workbook for Couples”
- “Five Love Languages of Children” by Gary D. Chapman
- “Is That Poop on My Arm” by Justin Lind-Ayres
- “Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God” by Francis Chan
- “One Tuesday Morning” by Karen Kingsbury
- “Sunrise (Sunrise Series-Baxter 3, Book 1)” by Karen Kingsbury



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

JUBILATE CHOIR FUND

In Memory of: Del Hultgren

- Given by: Laverne & Judy Maxwell
- Given by: Cliff & Karen Bimberg
- Given by: Betty Fischer
- Given by: Dolly & Kris Tovson
- Given by: Ardis Hegna
- Given by: Rod & Carolyn Boyer
- Given by: John & Bonnie Nordstrom

KITCHERN FUND

In Memory of: Del Hultgren

- Given by: Dave & Carol Moe

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Del Hultgren

- Given by: Rick & Shan Manke
- Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer
- Given by: Viggo & Joann Thomsen
- Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Del Hultgren

- Given by: Fern Brown

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

- Given by: Fern Brown

UNSPECIFIED FUND

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

- Given by: Paul & Lisa Weber
- Given by: Don E. Johnson
- Given by: Lyle & Wanda Dahl
- Given by: Judie Risberg
- Given by: Jim & Cindy Legler

In Memory of: Juanita Carlisle

- Given by: Mary Lou Anderson

In Memory of: J. Kindseth

- Given by: Rick & Shan Manke

WFLC FUND

In Memory of: Esther Lindgren

- Given by: Fern Brown

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of: Del Hultgren

- Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

- Given by: Bob Jernberg



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's caregiver support and respite care services solely focuses on the caregiver. We acknowledge the hard work that goes into caregiving and strive to give as many resources we can to the caregiver to help them get many tools in their tool belt for both themselves and their loved one. We provide several virtual services like virtual respite (phone and video), coaching, counseling, support groups, training & education, emergency care planning, check-ins, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and

REACH training. We also offer respite care if your loved one is 60 years and older, or has a form of dementia or other chronic illnesses. It is non-medical care meaning we do not administer medications, do transfers, or assist in hygiene cares. I can also get you resources in the area that you may not know about if you are needing more than we can offer. We love partnering with other providers and the more help for the caregiver the better. LSS wants to truly help caregivers in taking time for themselves and having everything they need to do the hard work they do every day. My phone number is 218-220-7517 and my email is Cassandra.walsh@lssmn.org



"It is with heavy hearts that we are announcing the retirement of our Business Manager, Susie Reitmeier. This is a heavy announcement because Susie has been an enormously impactful presence for the community of First Lutheran Church over the last 11 years. She has been a faithful matriarch of the staff, a steady and leading presence among the congregation, and, of course, an exceptional manager of all things business in the office from diligent financial management to the coordination of the day-to-day operations of the office. We will indeed grieve her departure as grief is the price we pay for love, and we have been so loved through Susie's vocation at this place. We are also filled

with gratitude and joy. Grateful that we were blessed by Susie and joyful that she has discerned her retirement and now endeavors into new things with her beloved family.

On the logistical side of this transition here is where we are and hope to go in the process: The Personnel Team has posted the position for future candidates. Susie's final date of employment will be July 31st. We aim to observe a 'Farewell and Godspeed' service for Susie on July 24th. If we do not find someone before Susie leaves, we are already and currently exploring options for temporarily contracting out the base financial management duties of the Business Manager position. We seek to manage this transition as seamlessly as possible with relatively few interruptions to the basic functioning of the office, but we do ask for your patience, your grace, and perhaps even your volunteerism if needed.

Finally, we ask for your prayers, FLC. Prayers for Susie and the congregation to finish well together. Prayers for the staff, the Personnel Team, and the Vision Council as we navigate the best and most faithful way forward while also processing and grieving this change.

Once more, we give thanks for Susie. Well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21)!

-Peace, Pr. Joe"



Dear Friends,
Thank you so very much for all your love & kindness to me. You made my transition from Tennessee to Minnesota eleven years ago, bearable. The weather, not so much!
Thank you to the best staff of all times! You have made coming to work every day an adventure. I never knew what the day would hold!
Friends, you are in good hands with Pastor Joe & Pastor Lauryl leading you. Continue to be supportive and best of luck to you all.
Peace & Grace
-Susie -

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	2
3 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	4 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	5 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 6:00p Worshp Tm Reh.	6 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Oak Crossing Wr Svc 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project	7 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	8 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	9
10 Sunday Schedule <i>Baptism: Daxton Rasmussen</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	11 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:15p Summer Bible Study	12 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 5:00p Vol. @ Picnic in the Park 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 6:00p Worshp Tm Reh.	13 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project	14 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circ, Din Rm. 2:00p Linc Park/Winch Wor. 5:00p Young Life, Din Rm.	15 10:00a Esther Lindgren Funeral 12:00p AA, Library 2:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	16
17 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	18 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:15p Summer Bible Study	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for Staff Development Day 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 6:00p Worshp Tm Reh. 6:00p Stewardship Team Mtg.	20 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project	21 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 6:00p Creation Care Mtg	22 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	23
24 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> <i>Susie's Farewell Sunday</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contem Outdoor Worship	25 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:15p Summer Bible Study	26 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 6:00p Worshp Tm Reh.	27 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project	28 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	29 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	30
31 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	1 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:15p Summer Bible Study	2 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 6:00p Worshp Tm Reh.	3 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Oak Crossing Wrshp 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project	4 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	5 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	6



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Volume 31 Issue 7
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.

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Winter Hours

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

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
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Fridays
8:30 AM to Noon

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Secretary: Deanne Udby
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

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Todd Gaard, Tanner Duncan, & Kari Stattelmann

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President-Elect: TBD
Secretary: Patti Cummins
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**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.**