



# The First Messenger

## MAY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Last Day of Sunday Confirmation</b>	<b>May 2</b>
<b>Last Day of Wednesday Confirmation</b>	<b>May 5</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>May 16</b>
<b>Senior Luncheon</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>Outdoor Worship Begins</b>	<b>May 30</b>

Volume 30

May 2021

Issue 5



**Sunday, May 16th**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

*RSVP is required*

If the weather is over 50 degrees we will be holding the Annual Meeting outdoors, if under 50, we will be meeting in the Dining Room.

## Outdoor Summer Worship

**Begins Sunday, May 30**

**8:30 AM**

**Indoor Traditional Worship**

**10:30 AM**

**\*\*Note Time Change\*\***

**Outdoor Contemporary Worship**

All services are offered in person or online.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend worship in person.

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# PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

*Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo*

With May being the month of our Annual Meeting (May 16<sup>th</sup>), I thought I would share my annual report/reflection in this month's newsletter.

Sisters and brothers, thank you for this past year.

My first instinct was to fire off about how brutal and turbulent this last year was, but what immediately interrupted that was gratitude. Sincerely. I am not one to override or repress my lament! Trust me. Genuinely, I am more grateful for this last year than I am bereaved.

Almost nothing has been easy for any of you in this last year, especially with regard to the life of your congregation. Yet, with remarkable determination and grace, so many of you dug in. There has been so much triumph and abundant life this past year.

To be sure (I told you I was not one to repress my lament), as I reflect on this past year, I also want to name that all has not been triumphant. We have grieved the loss of beloved friends and family; we have toiled together in the midst of scary diagnoses; many of us have had to painstakingly heal from various physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual ailments; members of our church and our families have experienced ups and downs; additionally, doing God's work as individuals, teams, and as a community does not come without exhaustion, trial & error, defeat, and stress. All of this, of course, exacerbated by Covid.

And, yet...God has been with us and for us all along. And, yet...we have remained church together by the Holy Spirit. And, yet...so many of you have come together in the face of all these varying challenges to help this community see them through, and experience forms of resurrection and abundant life. Life is filled with much brokenness, but life *together* provides hope, strength, and joy. No wonder Jesus created the church. Again, with remarkable determination and grace, so many of you dug in this past year, and FLC is better because of it, and empowered to propel into the year to come.

Think about what your prayer, time, and financial generosity have done in the face of this most convulsive of years:

- Your generosity not only sustained our congregation's participation in God's loving work in the world, it has caused such participation to thrive.
- We have revamped and built new ministries from Youth and Family to the emergency shelter.
- We have responded to the vacancies in the Kids First Preschool program with a relationship with Laker Prep to deliver space for fulltime toddler care, and thereby helping to mitigate some of the detrimental childcare deficits in our area.
- You have called two fulltime pastors in Pastor Lauryl and myself.
- We have added personnel – an AV Tech position to run sound and video during worship, which has proven to be an ESSENTIAL job requiring particular skill that delivers accessible and meaningful worship to hundreds of households every single week.
- We have called current part time staff into fulltime positions (Emma and Mackenzie).
- We have developed an incredible resiliency to respond creatively and faithfully to the pandemic's grip on our way of being (from the staff's creativity, to the wisdom of the Restart team, to plexiglass in the sanctuary, to radio broadcasts, to the required cleaning between usage of spaces, to Drive-Up Communion services, to supplying iPads for homebound people with little to no technological access, to providing worship music safely, creatively, and faithfully, to providing online, hybrid, and in-person youth ministries, to opening our doors safely to select community groups that meet the needs of so many that struggle with mental health and behavioral diseases, and so much more).
- We have cared for and protected one another. Despite even having an occasional active case of Covid-19 within our spaces, our measures and commitments to health and safety have prevented us from being a site of a SINGLE transmission of this most insidious virus.

Your generosity, your commitment, your prayer, your discipleship...created all of this!

*(Continued on Page 3)*

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

We will look back at 2020/2021 as a dark year in the history of our congregation, but we will also look at it and see that it was a year where God's light shined so brightly in and through this community that the darkness could not overcome it.

Speaking of that Light, I would like to thank so many people and groups in this congregation.

Thank you to those of you who have graciously sent me texts and emails of encouragement. You will never know how much those meant to me, especially in the most trying times of ministry in this past year. Thank you for your warm welcome to my family.

Thank you to the Vision Council for their consistent leadership and stewarding discernment on decisions big and small. Thank you to the Personnel Team for their expertise and careful attention to detail to make sure we are being fair and ethical stewards of our community's resources and of our staff's livelihoods. Thank you to our Children's Ministry and FLY Teams for resolutely committing to the faith formation of our children through such a volatile year of education.

Thank you to those who helped lead us into faithful and meaningful worship. Worship does not happen automatically. It takes the energy and commitment of many people. I want to thank this past year's readers, ushers, bell choir members, communion assistants, AV and soundboard operators, and, of course, our incredible musicians. So many of you have shared your time and gifts in order that this community may have worship that, first and foremost, proclaims the living and loving God of grace, but also worship that accompanies the grieving, rejoices with the joyous, nourishes the body and soul, and worship that calls us each to discipleship. Thank you. This doesn't happen without you.

Thank you to our staff, which has been patient with me and empowered my pastoral ministry. They are exceptionally gifted and work hard, but most clearly to me, they are driven by the calling of the gospel. This is undeniably evident in each and every one of them. They have taught me so much. Thank you to Pr. Lauryl, who has been a profoundly gracious, compassionate, and impactful colleague. She makes me a better pastor.

Thank you to each of our team ministries that continued to live into their calls to serve our neighbor and steward our resources faithfully. Thank you to each and every one of you, First Lutheran Church.

At this point I would normally articulate my goals as a pastor and for us as a congregation, but, honestly, I am just happy we are here, that we are together, and that God is present with us as we come out of this tumultuous time. Indeed, I have goals regarding worship, fellowship, and learning here at FLC, but for now I am overwhelmingly satisfied just to report my gratitude and hope.

Finally, my friends, I pray, as we are called into the mission of God's work, that we continue having a community centered on the love of Christ – trusting that love, and reflecting that love.

I say this now and will likely say this every year because it will be true into eternity: we do not know what this next year will bring, but knowing the saintly and sinful, beautiful and broken nature of this world, this next year will be filled with both tears and laughter, sorrow and joy. We do not know what changes the coming year will bring us personally or as a community, but we do know that will have the *same* God – with us and for us, now, and forever.

I give immeasurable thanks to the living God, experienced in Word, Sacrament, and through all of you. God bless each and every one of you now, and forever.

Peace, Pr. Joe

Thoughts for blessings.....

Our church is blessed right now to be a place of support for many people in our area who need shelter, food and clothing. Every weekday I watch as the neighbors Jesus asked us to love, come into our office. You would be so proud to see how well we provide much appreciated practical care! We give them the homemade food our members made for them, snack bags that Becker Food Pantry brings to us, and clothing and hygiene supplies you donated. What if we added a small bag to put in with their other supplies – a little "soul food" - something to lift their spirit – maybe a prayer you write on a card that has helped you through hard times, or something to hold onto that reminds them they are children of a God who loves them no matter what? Most of our visitors spend their days in a hotel room, or in their car, or going to the Library to use the computers or their phone to check on jobs and other supports. Maybe having a prayer in their pocket, or a small devotional book, or something to hold on to, would be an extra blessing and an encouragement to find their way home.

If you're interested in creating a little blessing bag, please bring it in!

And God bless you, always,  
Pastor Lauryl

# LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

*Let mutual love continue....Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:1,7)*

This month, at our Annual Meeting and in our Committees, we will be electing new leaders, and their Committees will say good-bye to some of the leaders who have faithfully served us. Most of you could write a better and longer letter of

thanks for our First Lutheran Church leaders than I (and I hope you will!), but I would like to add my letter of gratitude and observations - from the time I first talked with them two years ago, to the present.

Dear Leaders of First Lutheran Church,

You are some of the most dedicated and wise church leaders I have ever had the privilege to meet! Leaders on Vision Council, Personnel, Foundation, WELCA, Quilters, Altar Guild and Flower Team, Worship Team, Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds, Children's and Youth Ministry, Faith Formation, Social Concerns, Visitation, Creation Care....have so generously volunteered your time and energy, whenever you were needed, more often than could normally be expected! You provided the important talent and expertise our church needed, through extremely challenging years for this congregation. You persevered through pastoral crises, then searched for and found interim ministry support. You sustained and encouraged our staff members through the strain of so many changes. You led the way in discerning the safest and best way to operate a church through a pandemic and forced sheltering, loss of staff, major shift in our Pre-school to Toddler program.... and you creatively managed a process of calling new pastoral leadership -in a way that's now a Synod model for other churches. You prayed for and found the most outstanding Lead Pastor for our church, enthusiastically supported and approved staffing improvements- including our exciting new Youth and Family Ministry. You asked hard questions on behalf of the congregation, and sought their support to open a ministry to shelter the homeless at our church, which has blessed so many of our neighbors. You honored our work for the world by signing the Covenant for Creation. You challenged our members to match funds to support important missions like Feed My Starving Children, Churches United for the Homeless, the Becker County Food Shelf, and our Agape Crisis fund – in addition to supporting our overseas missions and Missionaries. You respectfully advocated for safely opening our church services, encouraging our musicians and supporting our Worship Teams. You helped us stay connected with each other, and with the communities and world we serve.

You are not only outstanding in our church, but are active in contributing to our whole community, and with all this you keep your families a priority, and show respect and love in all you do. Along with all these gifts, you share a humble and strong faith in Christ in ways that inspire the leaders who'll follow you.

Thank you for sustaining me with your prayers and your faithful witness to Christ,

May God bless each and every one of you,  
Pastor Lauryl



## PARKING LOT COMMUNION SERVICES

Drive-Up Holy Communion is offered at 10:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Please RSVP via the weekly update or by contacting the church office.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** We will **NOT** be having Drive-Up Communion on **Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** or **Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** due to the busyness of the church parking lot on those days. If you would like to schedule a time to receive Holy Communion in lieu of this missed Sunday, please contact Pr. Joe or Pr. Lauryl in the church office.

# PRESIDENT'S POST

*Update from Vision Council President Jackie Buboltz*

Well... that was crazy! What else can you say about this past year? I will conclude my term as your Vision Council President at the end of May. In my first article in June 2020, I shared the poem below. I had no idea how many times I would reflect on the words of this poem in the last year to change my perspective from frustration, worry, exhaustion to gratefulness and hope. There have been challenges but many positive changes and hope toward the future.

*Be Thankful*  
-Poet unknown

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?  
Be thankful when you don't know something.,  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.  
Be thankful for the difficult times.  
During those times you grow.  
Be thankful for your limitations,  
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.  
Be thankful for each new challenge,  
Because it will build your strength and character.  
Be thankful for your mistakes.  
They will teach you valuable lessons.  
Be thankful when you're tired and weary,  
Because it means you've made a difference.  
It's easy to be thankful for the good things.  
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who  
Are also thankful for the setbacks.  
Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,  
And they can become your blessings.

Thank you to the Vision Council members for their commitment in time and sharing their gifts. It has truly been my pleasure to work with each Council member. Although the decision and discernment can be weighty, there is time for levity and humor. The Personnel Committee met diligently throughout this year to bring recommendations forward that ensured staff was supported and able to use their skills and talents in the most effective manner. Thank you Personnel Committee!

Thank you to the Restart Team for their diligent work to navigate a pandemic, the always changing mandates and information from government agencies. Early in the pandemic, I asked that we frame our thinking around what can we do instead of what we cannot do. They took that to heart and along with the staff, we came together in creative ways to continue to worship.

Our pastors and staff have been nothing short of amazing! Throughout this year, they have remained steadfast to the congregation and ministries of FLC.

It has been an honor to serve as your Vision Council President. Thank you for your prayers, patience, and grace as we navigated this year together.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12

# Pillars

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



By, Mackenzie Hamm

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP STARTS MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:30 AM.**

Our contemporary 10:45 indoor service will change to outdoors at 10:30 AM. With Summer around the corner changes come. With changes come opportunities to help serve! Many of the snow birds are back in town and we would love your help with our services! Please take time to look at the ways you can help below and let me know! Thanks in advance. Service runs smoothly because of helpers like you!



## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

I have been emailing out sign ups for **Ushering & Greeting on Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45/10:30**. If you do not have email and would like to help, please call the office and let me know and I will sign you up. I am always looking for help and want to make sure you have the opportunity to share your gifts!

If you are receiving emails for ushering and greeting and feel like you are not able to help out with this ministry anymore and would like to be removed from the emails, please reach out to me in the office.

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP SET UP:**

I am looking for 1 or 2 people to help assist with setting up outside before the 10:30 worship service. Is this something you can help with a couple times this summer? Please call me!

*May you find your spiritual and divine gifts given to you and bless the world with them,*  
Mackenzie Hamm  
Support Ministries [Coordinator](#)

**WHOLLY  
DEVOTED**

**2021  
NWMN Synod,  
ELCA  
Synod Assembly**

The 2021 NWMN ELCA Synod Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday, May 22nd from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The goals of this years assembly are Being Faithful in Relationships, Being Authentic in Welcome and Demonstrating a Love that Makes a Difference. The keynote speaker will be the Reverend Dr. Willie James Jennings who is currently Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana

Studies at Yale University Divinity School. FLC is allowed 5 voting members. Please prayerfully consider being FLC's representative at the assembly. Anyone who is interested can contact the church office for more information. Early bird registration is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ [denise@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:denise@firstlutheranchurch.com)

## **FLC Blood Drive May 2, 2021 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Vitalant Blood Mobile will be in FLC Parking Lot on 5/2/2021.**

**There are just a few appointment times still open. Thank you, donors!**

**Please call Denise for an appointment or visit [bloodhero.com](http://bloodhero.com), sponsor code: dlfirst.**

## **Walk With Ease starts May 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM**

Hey everyone! Spring is here! Or at least the calendar says it is! The weather must warm up, right? Well, I am ready to start spending more time outside and be more active. I decided to do the Walk With Ease program and I was going to do it on my own, but then thought it would be so much more fun to do it with others! Please join me and see what benefits walking can be for all of us.

Walk With Ease is a walking program to encourage people to start walking and stay active. Walk With Ease is designed to be a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable way for people to develop and sustain a personal plan to make walking part of their everyday life. The benefits include increased balance, strength and walking pace, building confidence to be physically active and improve overall health, and reduce pain and discomfort from arthritis. This program is designed for people with arthritis and for people who want to get more physical activity. The program is promoted by the Arthritis Foundation and the MN Department of Health. It is for everyone!

Please notify Denise at 847-5656 or [denise@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:denise@firstlutheranchurch.com) to sign up for the program or if you have questions regarding Walk With Ease. The first session will be May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Weather permitting, we will meet on the patio (just off the library) of FLC. At this first meeting we will discuss further meeting times and places, and how the program works. This program will be a hybrid type class. We will try to walk together at least once a week and other times just check in by email or phone. There is a Walk With Ease guidebook with excellent information and tools to help you along the way. There is no cost to you for the book.

This will be a fun and safe way for us to gather and also to get exercise! I can't wait to get moving again after this past winter and I hope that you will join me!

## **Exercise Can Help Manage Low Blood Pressure**

**Low blood pressure can cause a fall** when the heart is unable to get blood to the brain as quickly as needed. As a result, the person becomes dizzy or lightheaded. This commonly occurs when a person changes position after being inactive.

If you feel lightheaded or dizzy when changing positions, get into the habit of sitting or standing still for a few minutes after changing positions to allow blood time to get to the brain (getting up from a chair or getting out of bed).

**Regular exercise can help** improve your body's ability to adapt to changing positions, but if the problem is severe, talk to your doctor.



# Children & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan  
Youth & Family Ministry Director



We have finished up with our Faith Formation opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year. I hope that we provided Faith opportunities that could meet your family's needs during this very unique and backwards year. Thank you for sticking by us as we navigated unknown waters.

We will NOT have Vacation Bible School this summer. I am sad to share this news, but also want to give alternative options for a faith opportunity this summer!!



We work with 3 different Summer Bible Camps that have amazing things to offer! Summer fun, with water, camping, fishing, group games, music, worship and deep dives into biblical stories and verses! These camps are an amazing opportunity for your kids to try something new, meet new people and truly experience the love of Jesus all around them! Each of these camps offer different dates, lengths and styles. Please visit one of the 3 camp websites or call the camps for more information. Our camps that we work with are:

- Luther Crest Bible Camp (located in Alexandria, MN) <https://www.luthercrest.org/>
- Pathways-Emmaus Bible Camp (Located in Park Rapids, MN) <https://pathwaysbiblecamps.org/>
- Camp Cherith (Located in Frazee, MN) <http://camp-cherith.com/>

If you decide to register any children for one of these camps, please let us know and we will send a small scholarship that will help a little with the cost!

Please watch for a summer letter in July that will update you about the 2021-2022 school year, and will direct you on how to register for Sunday and Wednesday School, and get you prepared for our back to school activities that will be happening!

Thank you to all of the amazing Children's Ministry Team Members that stepped up to fill coordinator positions. You are all a huge blessing to our program and I cannot thank you enough!

Sara Aelony

Joanie Malecka

Deb Ormseth

Courtney Schantzen

Alissa Mork

Krystal Meyer

DeAnne Udby

Destany Okeson

Paula Schulz



We need Sunday and Wednesday School teachers for next year!! Our awesome team is starting to reach out to people about teaching next school year. This is a very rewarding and fun opportunity that is lighthearted and not an immense amount of work. We are looking for people who want to hang out with some awesome kids and also want to learn with them and help them grow in their faith through biblical stories. We provide a very easy curriculum to follow, so there is no need to feel unqualified!

Anyone with love for Jesus in their heart is qualified! But to put a number out there, we are looking for almost 40 volunteers in just the Children's Ministry alone.

If you feel called to this ministry, please contact the church office. They will put you in touch with Paula Schulz, Cindy Brufloft or Dawn Chase to talk with you about the opportunities!



I will be on maternity leave from early May to mid July. If you have questions during this time, please contact the office, and talk to a staff member, they will put you in touch with the right people while I am out on leave.

Blessings and love to you all as we enter a warmer and exciting season!

Emma Duncan



# Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan  
Youth & Family Ministry Director

Last day of Confirmation Class is Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm in the Sanctuary! This is an end of the year class that will include both Wednesday and Sunday Confirmation Youth!! Please plan to be there, as Pastor Joe and Pastor Lauryl are excited to celebrate the last class with all of our youth, 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade!! We will still have confirmation classes on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you to all of the amazing people that have stepped up and filled ALL of our Volunteer Coordinator Positions! You are all a huge blessing to our program and I cannot thank you enough!

A special thank you to:

- ◆ Kari Borgmann
- ◆ LeAnn Mouw
- ◆ Jessica Burhans
- ◆ Dawn Chase
- ◆ Cindy Brufloft
- ◆ Michele and Jeff Sliper
- ◆ Meg Barker

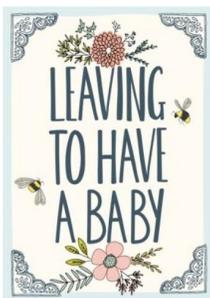


Thank you for helping bring this new ministry to life!



We are starting to look for volunteers who would lead small groups for our Confirmation youth as well as teachers for our Sunday and Wednesday School programs! We need a total of around 50 Volunteers throughout both the Children's and Youth Ministries. If you feel like this is a place that you are being called to, please reach out to the church office and they will put you into touch with either Cindy Brufloft, Dawn Chase or Paula Schulz.

As we transition into a new style of ministry, we are excited that Confirmation will be moving to a 2 year Curriculum, which will then give our high schoolers more opportunity to be involved with our church community through service, worship and fellowship! Parents, we also know that you want more information on exactly how we are transitioning into this new 2 year program, and I promise that details are coming. We plan to send out letters by grade, with all of the information you could need sometime in the early summer after things have calmed down.



I will be on maternity leave from early May to mid July. If you have questions during this time, please contact the office, and talk to a staff member, they will put you in touch with the right people while I am out on leave.

Blessings and love to you all as we enter a warmer and exciting season!

Emma Duncan



# FREE TREE GIVEAWAY

at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN  
Given away by the FLC Creation Care Team

**Sunday, May 2nd, 2021**

9:30 AM to Noon in the FLC Parking Lot, by the playground

## Tree options include:

- Paper Birch
- Black Chokecherry
- Cranberry Bush
- Red Splendor Crabapple
- Black Hills Spruce

We are offering 6"-10" bare root trees — Limit will be 3 trees per person  
If you would like help planting your trees, please contact the church office.



**Creation Care TEAM! Get together.**

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the EARTH...**

**Thursday, May 20 7:00 PM**

At Gary and Jonna Goreham's home  
Maple Hills Orchard, 29355 130<sup>th</sup> Street, Frazee MN

Join us as we gather ideas, plan new programs, and move forward to address the climate crisis!  
Do you have ideas? What can we all do to care for earth?  
YOU can make a difference! Come, discuss, bring ideas!!

This open air discussion will be held outside, with social distancing being observed.

Bring a chair. Open to all ages. For more information,  
Call Scott Sonstegard 218-849-0876, Gary Goreham 701-200-6583, or Jim McCormick 218-234-1303.

# The Link

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

Greetings! As I sit here to write by the old treadle sewing machine that came from my grandmother I am thinking about her. She sewed so many things with that machine; dresses, lots of doll clothes, and aprons. An apron was always worn mainly to protect her dress beneath, but it had many other uses like carrying eggs from the chicken coop, fresh peas or beans from the garden, or as a pot holder to remove a hot pan from the oven. At times she would wipe her perspiring brow or wipe away my tears. I wonder what my grandchildren will remember about me? Certainly not my big aprons!

Here is one of my favorite poems written by Phyllis C. Michael titled God Knew.

God knew we'd need a guiding hand  
A loving heart to understand  
When all the world was strange and new  
For babies don't know what to do  
That's why God made Mothers!

God knew we'd need a lullaby,  
A soothing voice if we should cry  
Two listening ears, a kiss to heal  
God knew we'd need a mother's smile  
Two arms to comfort, a love to share.

Her words to teach us how to talk  
Her faith to follow day and night  
Her prayers to give us second sight.  
God knew we'd need her patient way  
God knew we'd need her love to teach  
The human things His hands can't reach.  
That's why He made mothers!



Happy Mothers Day to each of you --- Enjoy every wish, every hug, every moment blessed by love because you deserve them all.

-Norma Smith

## Loose Change Offering in the Easter Season | Our Global Partners in India



**Did you know that we, the NWMN Synod, have a Lutheran Companion Synod in India?** We do, and it is called the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church. It has 800,000 baptized members and over 5,000 congregations! Like us their ministry context tends to be within rural settings.

**What does it mean to have a Companion Synod?** Each synod has a companion around the world. Our companion is the AELC in India. This means we have a partner in sharing and doing the work of the gospel on a global scale – a clear biblical calling (Matthew 28:19). We collaborate on a number of levels

from education, medical, and social ministries.

**What is the Loose Change Easter Appeal?** Throughout the six-week Easter Season, we are inviting you into bringing along any loose change whenever you worship, and/or to the church during the week to be dropped off and designated to helping our global partner, AELC in India. The funds will help our companion sustain and execute their critical ministries, while also being split with Lutheran World Relief in India which provides crucial flood relief in the area (a particular challenge for our companion as they regularly struggle with monsoon rains).

If each of you brought in some loose change over these next six weeks, it will accumulate and be more impactful than you'd think. It is incredible what we can all do together.

# STEWARDSHIP TEAM UPDATE

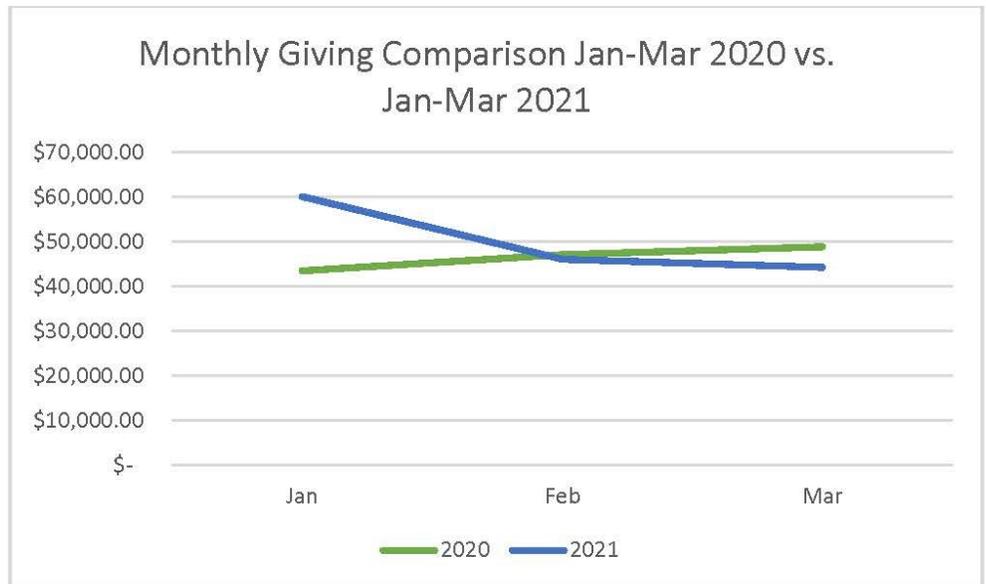
Below please find the financial report for the quarter ending March 31, 2021 (January - March) The overall trends show:

- we are experiencing greater giving in terms of total gifts than the same period last year
- the number of contributors is down 14% from the same period last year
- the expenses in February and March exceeded income in those 2 months
- the actual expenses for the quarter exceeded the budgeted expense amounts for the quarter
- the giving by method numbers do not show a difference from the same period last year
- the giving by family numbers for 2021 show increases in 3 groups (\$100-\$500; \$1K-\$2K, \$2K-\$5K) as compared to the same period last year.

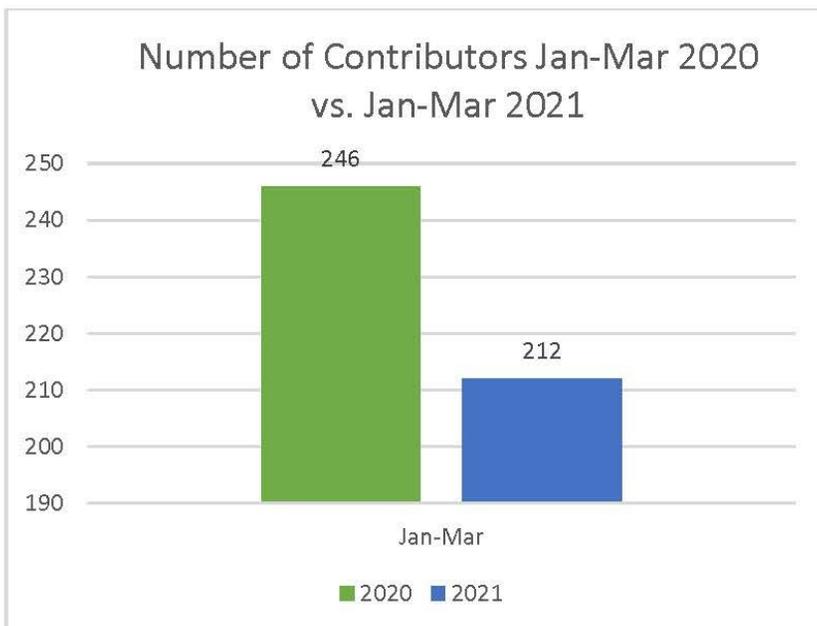
The overall giving for the full year 2020/2021 is greater than the full year 2019/2020 while the number of contributors is lower. Graphs courtesy of the stewardship team.

## Giving Jan-Mar 2020 vs Jan-Mar 2021

Month	2020	2021
Jan	\$ 43,497.13	\$ 60,137.09
Feb	\$ 47,129.73	\$ 46,054.05
Mar	\$ 48,867.36	\$ 44,275.27



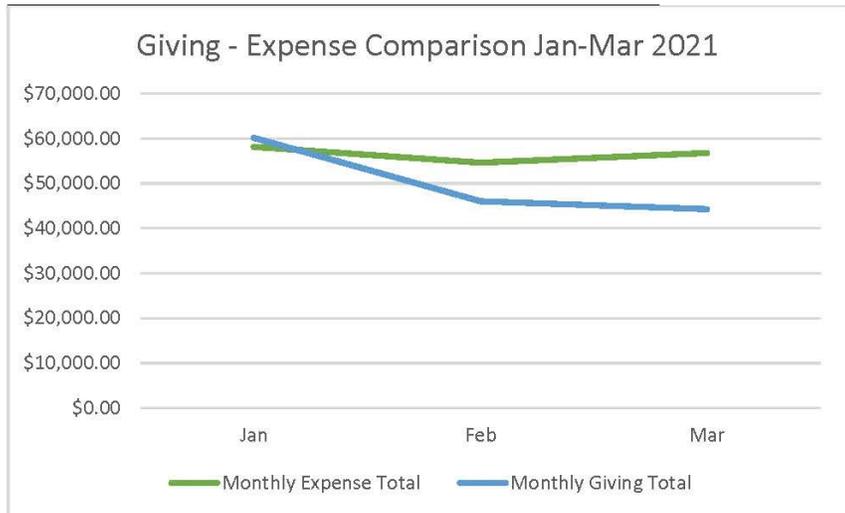
## Number of Contributors Jan-Mar 2020 vs Jan-Mar 2021



**Monthly Actual Expenses vs. Actual Income (Gen Fund) Jan-Mar 2021**

Month	Benevolence	Personnel	Business Management	Member Care/Outreach	Spiritual Growth-Adults	Spiritual Growth-Children	Spiritual Growth-Youth	Worship Celebration	Monthly Expense Total	Monthly Income Total	Monthly Income minus Monthly Expense
Jan	\$5,874.34	\$36,251.63	\$14,043.40	\$237.00	\$917.50	\$79.79	\$741.61	\$7.99	\$58,153.26	\$60,167.09	\$2,013.83
Feb	\$2,717.16	\$39,448.48	\$10,198.11	\$55.00	\$0	\$1,509.00	\$495.88	\$194.00	\$54,617.63	\$46,054.05	-\$8,563.58
Mar	\$3,887.87	\$37,503.78	\$13,659.57	\$109.00	\$248.00	\$202.88	\$281.80	\$866.21	\$56,759.11	\$44,275.27	-\$12,483.84

Month	Monthly Expense Total	Monthly Giving Total
Jan	\$58,153.26	\$60,167.09
Feb	\$54,617.63	\$46,054.05
Mar	\$56,759.11	\$44,275.27



**3rd Quarter FY 2020/2021 Actual Expenses vs. Budget:**

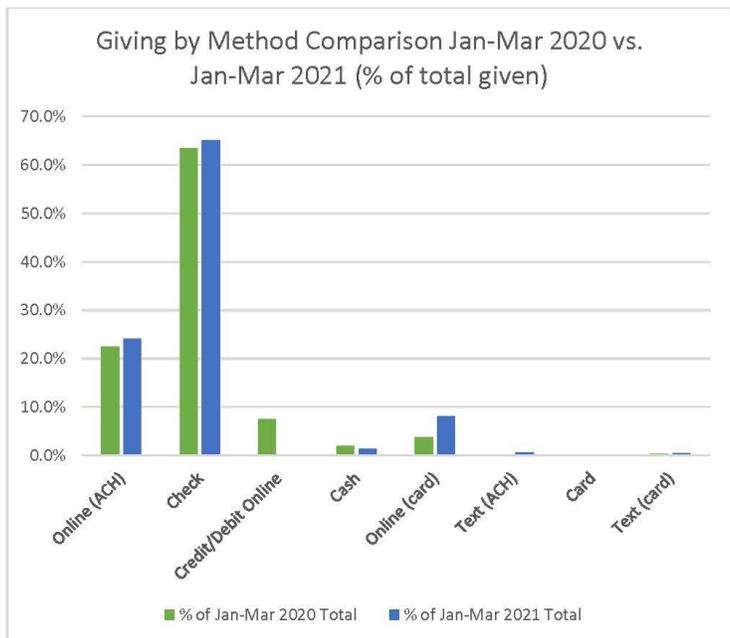
Actual Expense Total = \$169,530.00

Budgeted Expenses = \$162,114.11

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2020/2021 Actual Expenses: Personnel plus Business Management = \$ 151,104.97 (89% of total quarterly expenses)

**Giving by Method Comparison Jan-Mar 2020 vs. Jan-Mar 2021 (\$)**

Method	% of Jan-Mar 2020 Total	% of Jan-Mar 2021 Total
Online (ACH)	22.5%	24.2%
Check	63.5%	65.1%
Credit/Debit Online	7.6%	0.0%
Cash	2.0%	1.4%
Online (card)	3.0%	8.1%
Text (ACH)	0.2%	0.7%
Card	0.1%	0.0%
Text (card)	0.3%	0.5%



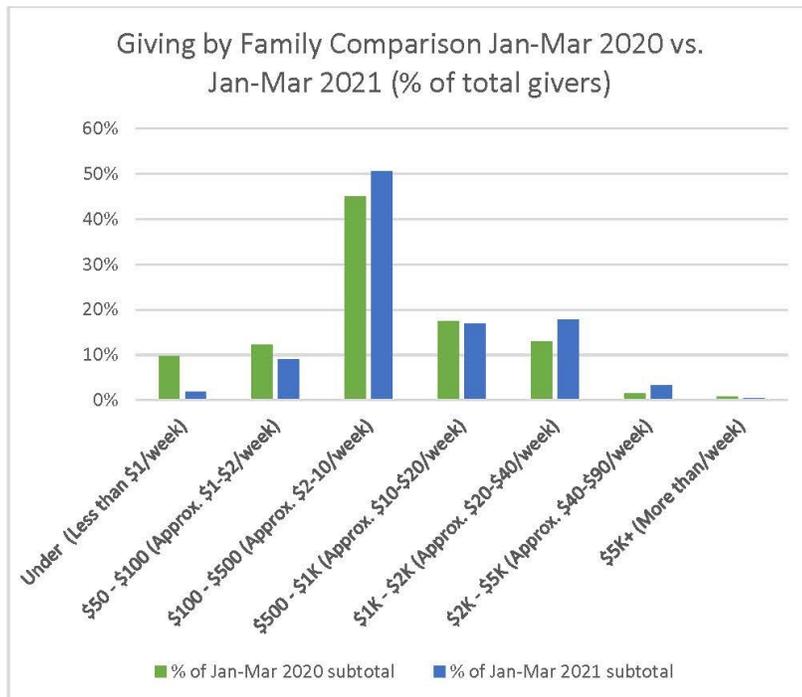
**Giving by Method Jan-Mar 2021:**

Check or Cash = 66.5% of total giving

Electronic method or other = 33.5% of total giving

## Giving by Family Comparison Jan-Mar 2020 vs. Jan-Mar 2021

Giving Groups	% of Jan-Mar 2020 subtotal	% of Jan-Mar 2021 subtotal
Under (Less than \$1/week)	10%	1.9%
\$50 - \$100 (Approx. \$1-\$2/week)	12%	9.0%
\$100 - \$500 (Approx. \$2-10/week)	45%	50.5%
\$500 - \$1K (Approx. \$10-\$20/week)	18%	17.0%
\$1K - \$2K (Approx. \$20-\$40/week)	13%	17.9%
\$2K - \$5K (Approx. \$40-\$90/week)	2%	3.3%
\$5K+ (More than/week)	1%	0.5%



## GIFT IDEAS!

With Mother's Day and Graduations coming up, please think of the quilters here at First Lutheran Church for your gift ideas. You can purchase Quilts, Quilted Pillows and Lap Ropes for mothers and graduates. If interested, please call the office and they will put you in touch with a quilter who can help you.



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

### AGAPE FUND

**In Memory of:** Jon A Horner  
Given by: Ardys Horner

### KITCHEN FUND

**In Memory of:** Rick Dickson  
Given by: Ardys Horner

### RADIO FUND

**In Honor of:** Beverly Barrett  
Given by: Betty Fischer

### YOUTH FUND

**In Memory of:** Sandy Restine  
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

# Update From Trinity Hope



## News from Trinity HOPE

*This is one of a series of articles which we make available each month to keep our supporters informed about our activities. Trinity HOPE, a not-for-profit charitable organization, raises funds and administers feeding programs that provide a noon meal for the hungry children who attend our schools in Haiti where the Good News of Jesus is shared daily.*

2024 Hunters Place, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 ● admin@trinityhope.org ● (615) 394-4950

Web Page: www.TrinityHope.org ● Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

## ***“Reflection on Past 10 Years”***

*By, Lyn Williams*

It has been several years since I have been to Haiti with John Hall and my relationship with Trinity HOPE began way before that trip. Yes, I call it a relationship because for me it is much more than just my support to a great mission organization. It is also a love, passion, and a devotion. My relationship began in April of 2011 when I attended a Rotary meeting where John Hall, the founder of Trinity HOPE, was the presenter. John shared the work that Trinity HOPE was doing in Haiti to feed the hungry physically and spiritually. I was so very moved and wanted to help. I



worked with John and our Rotary Club for years to raise money to help feed the children by sponsoring a school. During the past 10 years I was blessed with getting to know Denise and Keith and several Feeding

Program Directors who are all amazing people! I also had the life changing opportunity to travel to Haiti and meet these wonderful children and see exactly where and how the funds are spent. The children were filled with joy and actively participating in class. The feeding programs were well run and the schools and feeding program directors were held accountable for every dollar spent.



My relationship with Trinity HOPE has forever changed me for the better. I would love nothing more than to grow the Trinity HOPE family so they may continue to feed more children. I hope if you are reading this you might want to join the family with your support. That support will change into a beautiful relationship that will be fulfilling and lasting. I look forward to the next 10 years and see the impact one meal of rice and beans at a time has on these precious children.

# May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>25</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Healing Service</i> <i>Baptism</i> <i>Last Day of Sunday School</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wshp 9:30a Sunday School, Rec Rm 9:30a Confr Class, via In-Person 10:45a Contemporary Worship 4:00p FLC Ditch Cleanup	<b>26</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>27</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 2:00p Constitution Mtg 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, DH 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>28</b> <i>Last Day of Wednesday School</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 6:45p 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Confirm, In Person 6:45p Wednesday School 6:45p 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Conf, Zoom	<b>29</b> 7:30a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	<b>30</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> <i>FLC Blood Drive</i> <i>**No Drive Thru Communion</i> <i>Last Day of Sunday Confirmation</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wshp 9:30a FLC Tree Giveaway 9:30a Confr Class, via In-Person 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>3</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>4</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>5</b> <i>Last day of Wednesday Confirmation</i> 6:30p Men's Bible Stdy, Hol Inn. 6:45p ALL Confirmation Grades	<b>6</b> 7:30a Women's Bible St, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning Com 4:00p Personnel Mtg, Din Rm	<b>7</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wrshp 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>10</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>11</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>12</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. Inn.	<b>13</b> 7:30a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	<b>14</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wshp 9:30a Annual Meeting 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>17</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>18</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 4:00p Exec. Comm Mtg 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>19</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:00a Ecumen Worship	<b>20</b> 7:30a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning 7:00p Creation Care Event	<b>21</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Healing Service</i> <i>Senior Breakfast</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wshp 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>24</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>25</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, DH 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>26</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:30a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning 2:00p Visitation Mtg	<b>28</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30a Traditional Online Wshp 10:30a Outdoor Contemp Wshp	<b>31</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library	<b>1</b> 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA (Chapel) 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh	<b>2</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7:30a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	<b>4</b> 12:00p AA, Chapel 12:00p Prayer Team	<b>5</b>



## **The First Messenger**

First Lutheran Church  
912 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Volume 30 Issue 3  
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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

f1c@firstlutheranchurch.com  
www.firstlutheranchurch.com

### **Vision Council**

Chairman: Jackie Buboltz  
Vice-Chairman: Steve Schantzen  
Secretary: Catie Herman  
Treasurer: Chad Carlblom

Chris Malecka, LeAnn Mouw,  
Nathan Olson, Nathan Mork,  
Carol Lee, & Kari Stattelmann

### **Foundation Board**

President: Adrienne Buboltz  
President-Elect: Steve Glunberg  
Secretary: Susan Busker  
Treasurer: Susan Schaffer  
  
Kevin Shipley, Dan Berg,  
Ryan Manke, Mason Pender,  
& Patti Cummins

## **Congregational Staff**

### **Lead Pastor:**

Pastor Joe Skogmo    pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com

### **Associate Pastor:**

Pastor Lauryl Ivers    pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com

### **Youth and Family Ministry Director**

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### **Support Ministries Coordinator:**

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### **Communications Director:**

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### **Information Technology/Media:**

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### **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](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.com).**

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