



The First Messenger

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

Blessing of the Pets	August	15th
New Member Welcome	August	22nd
Blessing of the Backpacks	August	29th

Volume 30

August 2021

Issue 8



AUDIO VISUAL TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are in desperate need of more volunteers to help provide a very vital ministry for this church.
 We are able to train anyone interested in helping out.
 For more information, please contact Mackenzie in the office.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual report for year ending June 30, 2021 can be found on pages 15-18.

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PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Practicing All Family Communion

What is a sacrament? Baptism and Holy Communion are the two sacraments of the Lutheran faith. But again, what is a sacrament?

In something called *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, Martin Luther made his argument that a sacrament is something that is 1) found in the Bible, 2) commanded by Jesus, and 3) a physical sign that communicates the love and grace of God. According to Luther, those are the criteria for what makes something a sacrament, and this is how we arrive at Baptism and Holy Communion as the two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition.

That is roughly what a sacrament *is*. Our Lutheran theology also makes certain distinctions on what a sacrament *means*.

For instance, relying on Scripture, we do not view the sacraments as works that you and I do in order to please God. Luther maintains in *The Large Catechism*, the sacraments are “not our work, but God’s work...not a work that we do but...is a treasure that God gives.”

Along this line, at a recent baptism I emphasized that in baptism we are not dedicating the child to God; rather, through water, God expresses God’s dedication to the child. Baptism and Communion are not acts of devotion as much as they are receiving God’s invisible grace in a visible form. Through the sacraments we receive physical expressions of God’s love, not the other way around.

So, then, what do sacraments mean? They mean that God loves us, forgives us, and is gracious to us. They serve as a sign that God is *for* us.

With all this said, let’s now talk about one of the changes your pastors believe would be a faithful way to practice Holy Communion.

In our letters of call, we as pastors have the obligation and authority to preside over ‘Word and Sacrament’ in the life of our congregation. Pastor Lauryl and I have discerned according to Scripture and Lutheran doctrine to institute something called *All Family Communion* as our sacramental practice here at First Lutheran Church.

In short, this means that we will welcome and commune people of all ages and lift any and all conditions on the reception of the Lord’s Supper.

Because of what a sacrament is and means – a sign of grace instituted and freely offered by God, and not something earned – we find it faithful and necessary to lift these prerequisites to receive it.

One of the most immediate and common concerns about communing even our youngest members is: “But they aren’t ready. They don’t understand it.” This is a thoughtful concern, and it comes from a place of good reverence for the Lord’s Supper. We have discerned, however, relying on Scripture and Lutheran doctrine, that there is no need for such concern. First of all, Jesus maintained in no uncertain terms that children actually understand him better than adults (cf. Matt 18:3). Second of all, for the same reasons we baptize infants, we can faithfully commune all of our children. The infant has no concept or ability to conceptualize God, and we baptize infants because God’s love and grace is a free gift, promised beyond the child’s ability to ‘understand.’ We are applying this same logic to Holy Communion.

(Continued on page 3)

¹Martin Luther, “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church,” in *Martin Luther: Three Treatises*, ed. James Atkinson, trans. Charles M. Jacobs (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966), 162 (cf. 219-220).

²LC 5:17-18, 22, in *BC*, 461.

(Continued from page 2)

For what it is worth, this is not all that radical of an idea. Infants were communed in the early and medieval church, and this is practiced in many ELCA congregations.

Remember, by Lutheran definition, the sacraments are neither “good works” to be saved, nor “rewards” for good behavior or achievement; rather, they are physical signs of God’s gracious love – and grace, by definition (and according to Ephesians 2:8-9), is *free*. Therefore, one need NOT *earn* their way to Christ’s table through certain behavior, or by coming of a certain age, or through educational requirements.

To further address the concern of a child’s “readiness” or “understanding” as a condition for receiving Holy Communion, I will again quote Luther:

Christ does not say, ‘If you believe or if you are worthy, you have my body and blood,’ but rather, ‘Take, eat and drink...Do this.’...whether you are worthy or unworthy...

This sacrament does not depend upon worthiness...on the contrary, we come as poor, miserable people, [we come] precisely because we are unworthy.

In other words, this is ‘medicine for the wounded, not a reward for the accomplished.’ Our children need the ‘medicine’ of knowing that they are loved just as much as anyone else, thereby making their inclusion at the table necessary.

Finally, our discernment, in part, can be capped off in these words by the theologian, William Placher: “The table of the Lord’s Supper is his, not ours; it is not our place to institute selectivity that he never imposed.” And remember: Jesus told us explicitly not to guard children from coming to him (Matt. 19:14).

I will lead a Temple Talk on the institution of *All Family Communion* during worship on Sunday, September 12th (Rally Sunday!) as a deeper dive into our decision, and as a celebration of *All Family Communion*. On that Sunday we will invite all people, including our youngest worshippers to receive the Lord’s Supper.

To be sure, we will continue to leave it up to families and children if they want to receive Holy Communion, but the invitation will be open. We and Emma will continue to provide substantive Communion education: particularly, the concentrated 5th Grade Communion instruction, parent/child instruction booklets, and multiple lessons within the Confirmation process.

This change may at first appear to be a change you have to get used to, and that is okay, and we firmly believe that this is a faithful and necessary move, and that the gift of God’s grace proclaimed in the Lord’s Supper will build and nourish the faith of our *whole* congregation.

³The Rev. Eric. W. Gritsch, Ph.D., “Infant Communion”, in *Institute for Luther Studies* (Gettysburg, PA: Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1.

⁴LC 5:17-18, 22, in *BC*, 468-469, 473

⁵William C. Placher, *Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2001), 126.



Do You Find it Hard to Hear in Church?

If so, we want to hear from you! First Lutheran Church is considering adding a Tcoil Hearing Loop assistive listening system to the sanctuary. This remarkable technology wirelessly feeds clear sound directly into most hearing aids and cochlear implants. No receiver packs or headphones are necessary. If you believe installing this type of system at First Lutheran would benefit you or someone you know, please contact the church office asap. Thank you!



LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

My dear Family of Christ of First Lutheran Church,

Twenty-five years ago, on July 21st, 1996, after completing my Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary, and my Internship at English Lutheran Church in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, I was called to be their first woman Associate Pastor, and ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It was a day of unbelievable grace and joy!

It wasn't an easy path – after high school, when I asked the pastor of my church about pursuing a pastoral call, he informed me that women weren't allowed to be pastors in the Lutheran Church. So, with a heavy heart, I pursued other careers – but my heart wasn't settled until Jesus revealed his gracious welcome for me, and my church in Seattle encouraged me to attend Seminary. I didn't know if there really could be a place for a divorced, single parent, woman minister, but God opened the doors, and people kindly opened their hearts, and 25 years later, here I am, so very thankful to serve Jesus as your Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church!

I've had to answer questions along the way from men and women about whether God really calls women to be leaders and pastors in the church. While I respectfully recognize that some religions, even Christian denominations, deny women's roles in pastoral leadership, I keep my focus on Jesus and on God's word, for my final authority. I feel we could spend more time teaching about women's leadership and ministry throughout the ages, and even now. There are so many stories in the whole Bible that reveal God's plan and joy for women's leadership and ministry, and many modern books that detail that history. Biblical women are daughters, wives, mothers, sisters, farmers, caregivers, chefs, military leaders, prophets, successful business owners, medical professionals, teachers, preachers, disciples, evangelists, wisdom seekers, leaders, composers, prayer leaders, philanthropists..... Our Roman Catholic friends offer a fuller focus on Jesus' mother, Mary, who is an exemplary model of obedient and faithful life with Christ – from whom both girls and boys, and men and women can learn much. When Jesus sent his disciple, Mary Magdalene, to be our first evangelist, preaching the good news of his resurrection to Jesus' other disciples, it is clear that Jesus sends both men and women to preach his message of hope and love. *Jesus said to her.. "Go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" And Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, and she told them that he said these things to her. John 20:17-18)*

My hope is that I will be a faithful witness of Jesus' grace, truth, life and love; that I will fulfill my vows to carry out the Word and Sacrament ministry to which you and God have called me; that the girls and women in our church will realize pastoral ministry is open to them; that the boys and girls, men and women in all churches will realize that God calls both males and females to serve with their spiritual gifts in mutual respect for each other; that our families, communities and world will continue to be blessed by all the ways each of you answer God's call in your lives – loving, learning, praying, growing, forgiving, working, playing, teaching, listening,..... being - God's beloved family on earth.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. " (Matthew 28:18-20).

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Steve Schantzen



Friends at First Lutheran – as I read this morning from Psalms 100:2 “Worship the LORD with joy; come before him with happy songs!” I’m reminded of being a child sitting in the pew wondering when these “happy songs” would be over. I do appreciate many songs I grew up with, but it wasn’t always the part of service I really looked forward to. Fast forward many years as we sit outside at our services on the lawn with our amazing worship team, I can’t say how much my heart has changed to hear (and quietly sing) music and songs of praise! I want to take a moment this month to thank our dedicated music and worship team for all that they do. The weekly practices, the devotion to filling the church and neighborhood with music on

Sundays, and the attention to detail—most of us never even notice. I’d like to thank Karen Bimberg, and all of you who share your musical talents with First Lutheran as it truly sets us apart and enriches our connection with God.

A quick briefing on what is new or going on in Council this last month. As times progress and the way folks gather changes, there was a need to update our Funeral Policy. Pastor Joe brought forward changes which were reviewed and approved in our June meeting. Susan Bjorklund has committed to serving a three-year term on our Personnel Committee, her term was approved and we are very grateful for her commitment. Pastor Lauryl gave an update from the Synod Assembly in May, which Pastor Joe, Todd Gaard, and Susie Reitmeier joined during the virtual conference (thank you all for attending). If there is any interest in attending in 2022, please reach out to the staff or Pastors as we are always looking for FLC representation to this important yearly gathering.

As this was our first official meeting with the new members on Vision Council we also reviewed our upcoming year’s budget. Some things on the agenda for July’s meeting will be an update from Laker Prep and how licensing is progressing. We will be reviewing a Child & Youth Safety Policy for implementation at FLC and we will also be discussing a proposal for updating tables and chairs in the dining room. If there are any questions or you would like to know more on the monthly business of Vision Council please don’t hesitate to reach out!

So to all those who sing; Sing with Joy! I will join you, just likely more quietly, but with lots of Joy!

Steve

Pillars

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



By, Mackenzie Hamm

NEW MEMBERS! We are so excited to have new members join us here at First Lutheran throughout the last year! We will be welcoming them on Sunday Aug 22nd during church services. Please contact the church office if you would like to become a new member. During fellowship time we will be introducing the new members to our different ministries here at First Lutheran. Please come say hi and welcome them to the First Lutheran Family.

We have so many ministries here at First Lutheran Church. These ministries cannot happen without amazing volunteers like you! Please consider joining these teams to help out where you feel it would benefit your heart of service and provide joy for others! For a list of all the ministries and ways you can get involved check out our website or contact the church office!

Audio Visual Tech Team: We are in desperate need of more volunteers to help provide a very vital ministry for this church. Would you like to help out with the Sound board and videoing the services on Sundays and on Wednesdays? The more people who can learn how to do this amazing service, the more opportunities there would be to have a rotating schedule. We need you! Training is provided! Please Contact Mackenzie in the office!

Oasis Team: Help prepare and serve pizza & salad to families each Wednesday evening throughout the programmatic year. This meal is open to everyone! The first Pizza night will be on Wednesday September 15th at 5:15 PM—6 PM. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful team of individuals please contact the front office! We need you!! If you can't help every Wednesday and would like to rotate we will work with you!

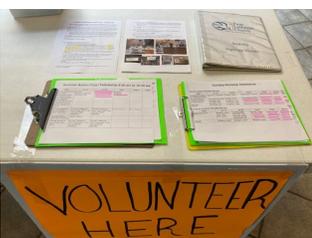
Hospitality Team: Do you want to be a part of providing ideas to enhance our hospitality here at First Lutheran? Please attend the meeting Wednesday Aug. 4th at 11:30 in the dining room.



Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants and Lesson Readers: Welcome back! Thank you for providing great hospitality here at First Lutheran Church. I have updated the responsibilities so if you would like to refresh what each role entails please look in the book on the shelf in the narthex. There are usher & greeter name tags on the shelves for you to write on each Sunday.



Name tags: Now through the end of September we are asking everyone to come and pick up their name tag to take it home. We are asking that you keep your name tag at home now so we don't have to keep track of them here at the church. If you want to add a magnet to your name tag for \$2 or buy a plastic one for \$8, please sign-up on the name tag sign up sheet by the office.



Volunteers: Please always check sign-ups and activity book on the table in the snack area for all the ways we are needing volunteers.

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

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

August

Leader: 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
Jim Hunnel
David & Kathryn Larson
Kay Larson
Michael & Taressa Lukes
David & Beverly Melgaard

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!!



September Leader: Catie Herman & Marilyn Tinjum

Dennis & Mary Lou Anderson
Verly Anderson
Claudia & Duane Arne
Dick & Lonni Beaton
Steve & Missy Doppler
Carl & Janice Fingalson
Barbara Haugen
Dylan Herman
James & Carolyn Herman
Jay Johnson & Anne McKay
Jan Kvidt
Curtis & Audrey Listul
Eric & Katie Lundmark

Janelle & Fran Maday
Kalan & Renee Malchow
Delroy & Elizabeth Mathison
LaVerne & Judy Maxwell
Basil & Myrna Mielke
Thomas & Phyllis Neuenfeldt
Carl & Carol Oberholtzer
Darlene Olson
Bruce & Judy Palm
Christopher & Heather Perry
Les & Norma Perry
Gerald & Ruth Price
Victor & Jean Rolle

Evelyn Rusten
Charles & Barb Scherzer
Thomas & Elizabeth Schroeder
Daniel & Deborah Sprague
Beth Tinjum
Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum
Dennis & Angela Weaver
Gaylen & Catharine Weisenburger
Gregory & Melissa Wokasch

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



It has been an exceptionally hot and dry summer! The following information was taken from the National Weather Service and the CDC.

What is a heat wave? A heat wave is a period of abnormally hot weather generally lasting more than two days. Heat waves can occur with or without high humidity. They have potential to cover a large area, exposing a high number of people to hazardous heat. Heat can be very taxing on the body.

How to Stay Safe During Excessive Heat Events

Outdoor Activities

- * Slow down. Reduce, eliminate, or reschedule strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day. Those particularly vulnerable to heat such as children, infants, older adults (especially those who have preexisting diseases, take certain medications, live alone or have limited mobility), those with chronic medical conditions, and pregnant women should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.
- * Dress for summer. Wear lightweight, loose fitting, light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight.
- * Minimize direct exposure to the sun. Sunburn reduces your body's ability to dissipate heat.

Eating and Drinking

- * Eat light, cool, easy-to-digest foods such as fruit or salads. If you pack food, put it in a cooler or carry an ice pack. Don't leave it sitting in the sun. Meats and dairy products can spoil quickly in hot weather.
- * Drink plenty of water (not very cold), non-alcoholic and decaffeinated fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty. If you are on a fluid-restrictive diet or have a problem with fluid retention, consult a physician before increasing consumption of fluids.
- * *Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician.*

Cooling Down

- * Use air conditioners or spend time in air-conditioned locations such as malls and libraries.
- * Use portable electric fans to exhaust hot air from rooms or draw in cooler air.
- * Do not direct the flow of portable electric fans toward yourself when room temperature is hotter than 90°F. The dry blowing air will dehydrate you faster, endangering your health.
- * Take a cool bath or shower.

Check on Others

- * Check on older, sick, or frail people who may need help responding to the heat. Each year, dozens of children and untold numbers of pets left in parked vehicles die from hyperthermia. Keep your children, disabled adults, and pets safe during tumultuous heat waves.
- * Don't leave valuable electronic equipment, such as cell phones and gps units, sitting in hot cars.
- * Make sure rooms are well vented if you are using volatile chemicals.
- * For more heat health tips, go to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov)

COVID-19 Update

- The COVID-19 cases are rising again in the United States. New variants continue to develop.
- The Delta variant (the newest variant) is more contagious than the other variants.
- The current vaccines are effective in preventing serious illness and hospitalizations due to all variants of COVID-19.
- People who have not been fully vaccinated against [COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov) are most at risk.
- Children 12 years and over can receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Essentia, Sanford, and Becker County Public Health have vaccines available for anyone, 12 years and over.

If you have questions regarding COVID-19 or the vaccines, call your provider or notify Denise at 844-5656, email; denise@firstlutheranchurch.com.



Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director



TIME TO REGISTER!! ALL 6th-12th Graders need to register online! Head to the Youth Ministry Page and click on the correct age registration!



All Ages are welcome to our Blessing of the Backpacks Service! This will be a celebration of all of the students heading back to school this fall! Please bring your backpacks and yourselves for a blessing on August 29th at either service!



10th Graders: Turn in Mentor information to Emma as soon as possible.



TIME TO REGISTER!! Time to Register!! 3yrs old-5th Graders, please register on the FLC website for either Sunday or Wednesday School!



All Ages are welcome to our Blessing of the Backpacks Service! This will be a celebration of all of the students heading back to school this fall! Please bring your backpacks and yourselves for a blessing on August 29th at either service!



Abundant Grace Garden—Produce Available

Please stop by the church and pick up delicious, nutritious vegetables - fresh from the garden - for your home and for your neighbors who can't come into town! Your donations are appreciated and will go to help the Becker County Food shelf - now and into the Fall. Below you can check out the produce that's been growing this summer.



RALLY SUNDAY will be on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
RALLY WEDNESDAY will be on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



TUESDAYS IN THE PARK COMMUNITY MUSIC SERIES has returned this summer! The music line up is as follows:

- August 3 – Ulen Centennial Band
- August 10 – Doc & the Scrubs
- August 17 – DeMasi Brothers
- August 24 – Mark Fogelson
- August 31 – The Becker County Dixieland Authority

The picnic in the park is from 5:30-7:00 pm. Music will begin at 7:00 pm.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!—On Thursday, July 20th, Picnic in the Park made \$1,177 dollars with a profit of about \$800 dollars going to Habitat for Humanity. First Lutheran had 11 volunteers and served 232 people. Thank you for volunteering!

The Link

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

Are you all enjoying summer? I know some people like the hot weather but it is not ideal for me. It has been a real challenge keeping the garden growing. Our efforts have paid off as now we are into canning vegetables.



All Circles will be meeting in August. After 15 months of not meeting it will be good to get back to normal. New members are always welcome to join a Circle, which includes Bible study, refreshments, and fellowship. Reorganizing will be in September so this is a good time to join.



Have you registered for the 33rd Annual Synodical Women's Convention scheduled for September 17-18? Our church is a part of Conference 6 and this year our group has some responsibilities at the convention to help with ushering and greeting so if you can volunteer it would be appreciated. Pastor Lauryl will be honored for 25 years of ministry at the banquet on Friday night. Patti Cummins is our voting delegate.

Mark Your Calendars

- Co-Council will meet August 11, 2021 at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room.
- Fall Gathering will be in Wadena. More information to come.

Blessings to all.
Norma Smith



THANK YOU—Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for your generous expressions of support. My family feels so loved by you all. This love is what makes the Detroit Lakes Community a wonderful place to call home!

-God bless you, Sue & Lyle Sonnenberg & Family.

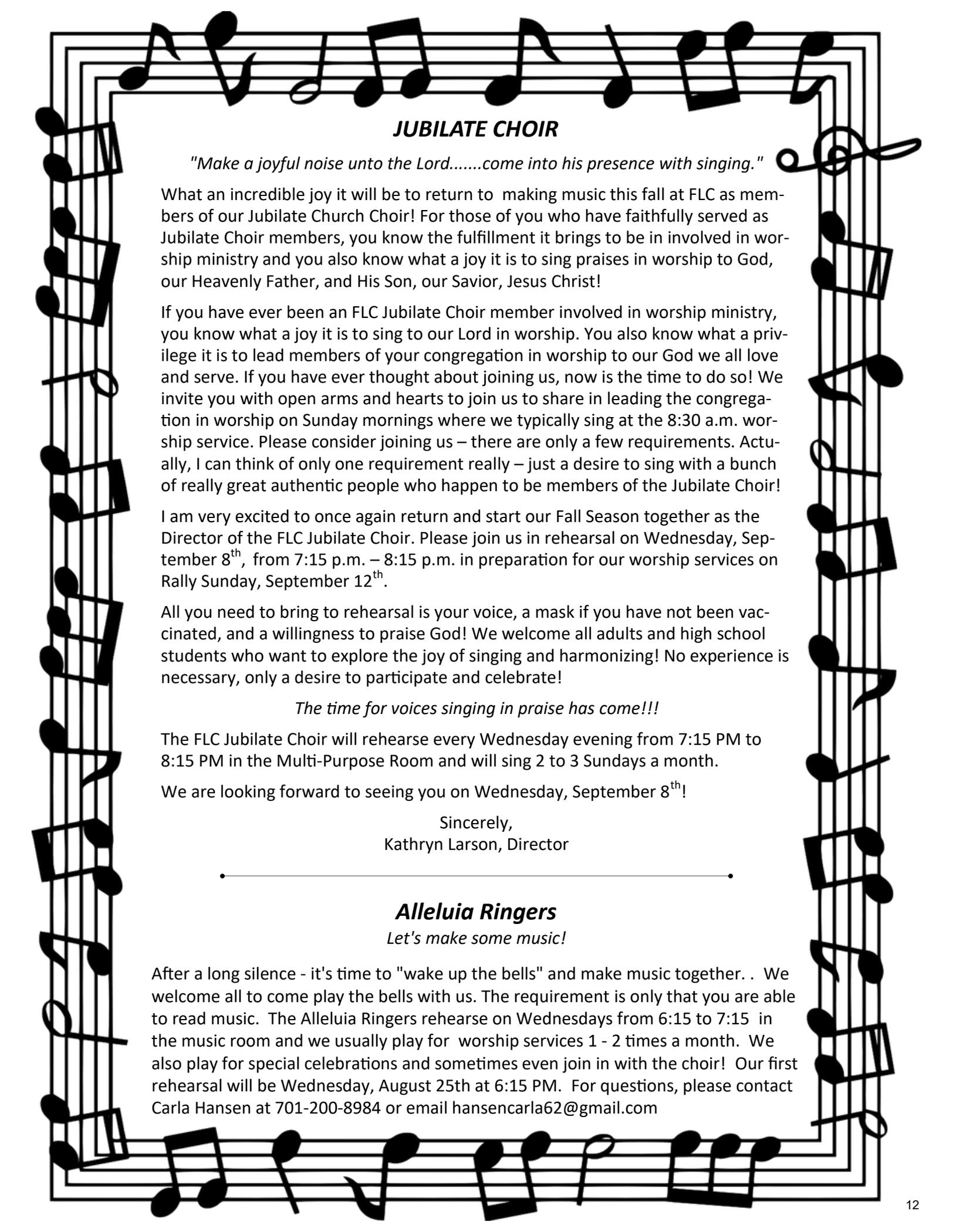


Blessing of the Pets! We invite you to bring your pets to be blessed at both the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Services on Sunday, August 15. Please only bring indoor domesticated animals to the indoor service. Both large outdoor and indoor pets are welcome at the 10:30 service.



QUILTS FOR SALE!

The FLC Quilters have returned to quilting. They now have quilts available for sale. If you would like to check out the quilts that are available for purchase, please contact the church office to be connected with one of the quilters for more information.



JUBILATE CHOIR

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.....come into his presence with singing."

What an incredible joy it will be to return to making music this fall at FLC as members of our Jubilate Church Choir! For those of you who have faithfully served as Jubilate Choir members, you know the fulfillment it brings to be involved in worship ministry and you also know what a joy it is to sing praises in worship to God, our Heavenly Father, and His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you have ever been an FLC Jubilate Choir member involved in worship ministry, you know what a joy it is to sing to our Lord in worship. You also know what a privilege it is to lead members of your congregation in worship to our God we all love and serve. If you have ever thought about joining us, now is the time to do so! We invite you with open arms and hearts to join us to share in leading the congregation in worship on Sunday mornings where we typically sing at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Please consider joining us – there are only a few requirements. Actually, I can think of only one requirement really – just a desire to sing with a bunch of really great authentic people who happen to be members of the Jubilate Choir!

I am very excited to once again return and start our Fall Season together as the Director of the FLC Jubilate Choir. Please join us in rehearsal on Wednesday, September 8th, from 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. in preparation for our worship services on Rally Sunday, September 12th.

All you need to bring to rehearsal is your voice, a mask if you have not been vaccinated, and a willingness to praise God! We welcome all adults and high school students who want to explore the joy of singing and harmonizing! No experience is necessary, only a desire to participate and celebrate!

The time for voices singing in praise has come!!!

The FLC Jubilate Choir will rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room and will sing 2 to 3 Sundays a month.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 8th!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Larson, Director

Alleluia Ringers

Let's make some music!

After a long silence - it's time to "wake up the bells" and make music together. . We welcome all to come play the bells with us. The requirement is only that you are able to read music. The Alleluia Ringers rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 in the music room and we usually play for worship services 1 - 2 times a month. We also play for special celebrations and sometimes even join in with the choir! Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 25th at 6:15 PM. For questions, please contact Carla Hansen at 701-200-8984 or email hansencarla62@gmail.com



MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUND

In Honor of: Jack Robert Manke
Given by: Ryan & Chelsea Manke

FOUNDATION FUND

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero
Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

In Memory of: Vern Seal
Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero
Given by: Friends & Family
Given by: Cindy & Jim Brufflodt
Given by: Darrol & Grace Nichols
Given by: Bruce & Jean Hein

In Memory of: Marilyn Jernberg
Given by: Ruth Land
Given by: Patricia & Matt Gryder
Given by: Polly Boggs
Given by: Earl & Eileen Hoefler
Given by: Stacy Voller

In Memory of: Dick Tovson
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Memory of: Harry Rishovd
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Memory of: Larry Rishovd
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Honor of: Dolly Tovson
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Honor of: Sue Leitheiser
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Honor of: Pastor Joe Skogmo
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

In Honor of: Pastor Lauryl Ivers
Given by: Arlene Rishovd

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero
Given by: Rod & Carolyn Boyer
Given by: Mary Nordmark
Given by: Les & Glenette Olson

In Memory of: Bradley Graber
Given by: Connie Graber

QUILTING FUND

In Memory of: Virginia Earley
Given by: Lorraine McCawley

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero
Given by: Jan & Carl Fingalson
Given by: Edna Mae Pearson
Given by: Pete & Liz Mathison
Given by: Louanne Gerdes
Given by: Fern Brown
Given by: Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum

In Memory of: Vern Seal
Given by: Delyle & Sandi Willprecht
Given by: Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum
Given by: Ken & Marlys Christianson
Given by: Fern Brown

In Memory of: Virginia Earley
Given by: Delyle & Sandi Willprecht
Given by: Louanne Gerdes
Given by: Fern Brown

In Memory of: Henry Fischer
Given by: Carl & Janice Fingalson

In Memory of: Jon Horner
Given by: Family & Friends

In Memory of: Deverly Dobrenski
Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Sharon Jacobson
Given by: Bob Jernberg

UNSPECIFIED FUND

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero
Given by: Betty Fischer

In Memory of: Sharon Jacobson
Given by: Patricia Leonard

In Memory of: Marilyn Jernberg
Given by: Terri Jernberg

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of: Vern Seal
Given by: Ted & Lynn Cihak
Given by: Patti Cummins
Given by: Cindy & Jim Brufflodt
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

CORRECTION: The FLC quilters gave a radio fund donation in honor of Charlotte Hoeglund's 101st Birthday, which she celebrated on May 18, 2021.

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

Consuming the Gospel, One Meal at a Time

By Keith Logan, Co-Executive Director, Trinity HOPE

Even facing a tumultuous year throughout Haiti, God provided the blessings necessary to allow Trinity HOPE to serve more meals to hungry children this school year than ever before. For the first time in the history of the ministry, Trinity HOPE served over 6,750,000 meals to children, teachers, and cooks in over 200 Christian schools. This feat did not come without significant challenges. Haiti faced unexplainable and irrational fluctuations in the value of their currency (Haitian Gourde), disruptions in operations due to widespread political unrest, and limitations on safely traveling within the country due to both COVID-19 restrictions and a rise in gang violence. Trinity HOPE was certainly not immune from those distractions, and we found ourselves having to make many "game time" adjustments. Fortunately, we have a God bigger than all those challenges and He was "a lamp unto our feet", providing us a way to successfully navigate the path we found ourselves on. We give God all the thanks and glory for the blessings and protection this past school year.



As we look ahead to the upcoming 2021/2022 school year, we continue to be amazed and grateful. God has positioned Trinity HOPE to be able to add an additional 35-40 new feeding programs this September. This will allow approximately 10,000 additional children, teachers, and cooks to receive a nutritious meal every school day. As we know from experience, close to half of these children are likely only receiving a meal at home every one-to-two days. They will now be able to better comprehend the education they are getting, and most importantly, be able to better retain the Good News of Jesus Christ they are hearing in their Christian schools. Praise be to God!

If you are interested in partnering with Trinity HOPE to help us feed these beautiful children, please visit our website at www.trinityhope.org, or email us at admin@trinityhope.org. Thank you for your continued support, and may God continue to bless you and your families.

Sonstegard Tax & Accounting LLC

Certified Public Accountant

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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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To the Vision Council
First Lutheran Church

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of First Lutheran Church which comprise the Statement of Mission Receipts & Expenditures-Cash Basis and Designated Funds Summary for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed compilation engagements in accordance with Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management has elected to omit substantially all the disclosures ordinarily included in financial statements prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the company's revenue and expenses. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

The supplemental schedule, Designated Funds Summary, is for informational purposes only.

Sonstegard Tax & Accounting LLC

July 15, 2021

Any U.S. tax advice included in this written or electronic communication was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by the taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding any penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or applicable state or local tax law provisions.

First Lutheran Church
Statement of Mission Receipts & Expenditures-Cash Basis
 July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

	<u>Jul '20 - Jun 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Income	626,412.96	646,600.00	-20,187.04
Total Income	626,412.96	646,600.00	-20,187.04
Expense			
Benevolence	27,235.43	26,100.00	1,135.43
Business Management	126,724.52	147,450.00	-20,725.48
Member Care/Outreach	1,070.00	2,550.00	-1,480.00
Personnel	434,286.31	437,100.00	-2,813.69
Spiritual Growth-Adults	2,026.50	2,000.00	26.50
Spiritual Growth-Children	4,008.42	15,000.00	-10,991.58
Spiritual Growth-Youth	10,079.78	12,450.00	-2,370.22
Worship Celebration	5,129.46	3,950.00	1,179.46
Total Expense	610,560.42	646,600.00	-36,039.58
Net Income	<u>15,852.54</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,852.54</u>

**First Lutheran Church
Designated Funds Summary
For the FYE June 30, 2021**

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Ending Balance
<u>Building & Equipment</u>				
Building Improvement	24,043.14	3175.77	40.00	27,178.91
Capital Campaign	1,340.00	0.00	1340.00	-
Sound & Technology	8,079.87	485.00	1778.28	6,786.59
Landscaping	52.91	0.00	0.00	52.91
Kitchen Remodel	16,805.15	1945.00	0.00	18,750.15
Stained Glass Windows	4,087.42	0.00	0.00	4,087.42
Parking Lot	67.50	0.00	0.00	67.50
Flower Fund	1,986.55	1445.15	2084.30	1,347.40
Current & Future Ministries	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
Future Property Renovations	12,705.37	0.00	0.00	12,705.37
<u>Worship & Music</u>				
Adult Choir	877.81	341.91	0.00	1,219.72
Choir Robes	160.00	0.00	0.00	160.00
Women's Choir	186.91	0.00	186.91	-
Altar Guild	3,599.58	125.00	0.00	3,724.58
Hand Bell	1,145.42	200.00	82.70	1,262.72
Broadcast Ministry	200.09	6609.00	5079.00	1,730.09
<u>Youth & Family Ministry</u>				
Youth Fundraising & Ministry	9,655.87	2018.71	200.00	11,474.58
National Youth Gathering	4,619.22	0.00	0.00	4,619.22
Coffee Ministry-Earl's	1,823.13	0.00	1823.13	(0.00)
Adult Education	23.09	0.00	0.00	23.09
Children's Ministry	11,876.58	20.00	4014.49	7,882.09
Preschool	(6,958.35)	61451.37	57228.03	(2,735.01)
God's Faithful Followers	755.20	0.00	0.00	755.20
Library	(37.26)	0.00	0.00	(37.26)
Action Corp	17,860.65	335.46	747.86	17,448.25
Oasis	875.18	0.00	0.00	875.18
Wedding Coordinator	1,475.00	0.00	0.00	1,475.00
WELCA	899.98	1033.18	1460.00	473.16

**First Lutheran Church
Designated Funds Summary
For the FYE June 30, 2021**

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Ending Balance
<u>Social & Global Outreach</u>				
Food Pantry	-			-
Family Needs/Agape	2,636.61	66683.13	45916.13	23,403.61
Homeless Shelter	-	64220.78	66781.25	(2,560.47)
Missionary Support	8,507.07	4705.00	0.00	13,212.07
LWR/World Hunger	5.00	365.00	365.00	5.00
Christmas at our House	4,186.88	125.00	0.00	4,311.88
Christmas Store	1,352.10	0.00	0.00	1,352.10
Parish Nurse	7,361.53	7536.68	10061.77	4,836.44
Community Outreach	1,656.13			1,656.13
Befrienders	92.74	0.00	0.00	92.74
<u>Miscellaneous</u>				
Anniversary Gift	2,147.08	0.00	0.00	2,147.08
Centennial Celebration	720.92	0.00	0.00	720.92
Misc. In & Out	1,606.69	59210.95	59936.12	881.52
Memorials Unspecified	2,705.61	1205.00	0.00	3,910.61
Ministry Reserves	45,238.92	0.00	0.00	45,238.92
<u>Staff/Education</u>				
Cont. Ed-Pastor	1,496.19	0.00	0.00	1,496.19
Cont. Ed-Assoc. Pastor	3,043.64	0.00	100.00	2,943.64
Designated Totals	213,463.12	283,237.09	259,224.97	237,475.24
General Fund Totals	<u>85,955.52</u>	626,412.96	611,241.83	<u>101,126.65</u>
Total	\$ 299,418.64			\$ 338,601.89
Checking and Petty Cash			207,686.39	
Mission Investment Fund			<u>130,915.50</u>	
			338,601.89	
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 299,418.64</u>			<u>\$ 338,601.89</u>

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	2 5:00p Al Anon, Library	3 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA, Library 9:30a Rebekah Circle, DH 2:00p Rachel Circle, Lounge 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh 7:00p CM Volunteer Orientation 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	4 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7:00p YM Volunteer Orientation	5 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	6 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	7
8 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Outdoor Contemp Wship	9 5:00p Al Anon, Library	10 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA, Library 4:00p Sons of Norway, DH 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh 7:00p YM Volunteer Orientation 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	11 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol Inn 7:00p CM Volunteer Orientation	12 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning Com	13 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	14
15 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> <i>Blessing of the Pets</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	16 5:00p Al Anon, Library	17 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	18 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 4:00p Personnel Meeting	19 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning 1:30p Constitution Meeting 5:00p Executive Mtg	20 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	21
22 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> <i>New Member Welcome</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 9:30a New Member Fellowship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	23 5:00p Al Anon, Library	24 8:00a CDS, Conference Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, DH 6:00p Worship Team Reh 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	25 6:30a Men's Bible Study	26 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning 2:00p Visitation Team Mtg	27 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	28
29 Sunday Schedule <i>Blessing of Backpacks</i> <i>Baptism</i> 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	30 5:00p Al Anon, Library	31 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a AA, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Worship Team Reh 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	1 6:30a Men's Bible Study	2 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	3 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	4



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
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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

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Vice-Chairman: Nathan Olson
Secretary: Deanne Udby
Treasurer: Chad Carlblom

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Tanner Duncan, Carla Solem, Carol Lee,
& Kari Stattelmann

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President-Elect: Steve Glunberg
Secretary: Patti Cummins
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Les Perry & Adrienne Buboltz

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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.**