



The First Messenger



August Highlights

Congregational Meeting & Vote	August 9 th
Parking Lot Communion	August 16 th
Blessing of Pets	August 23 rd
Blessing of Backpacks	August 30 th

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Issue 5

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE

Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 11:30 AM

The meeting will begin at 11:30 AM on August 9. We will open the meeting with prayer and devotion, review the voting process, call for a motion to extend a letter of call to Pastor Lauryl Ivers as Associate Pastor on the recommendation of the Call Committee and approved by the Vision Council.

Members of FLC will have two options to vote. You can attend the outdoor socially distanced meeting on the church lawn or drive through the parking lot and vote between the hours of 11:30 AM and Noon.

The results will be announced in person after the vote, via text, email and website as well as announced at the August 16th worship service. Please note, you are not required to stay until the meeting is adjourned for your vote to count, but you must be present to receive and cast your ballot vote. A drive through parking lot vote is also available for those not comfortable with the in person vote.

If the August 9th outdoor worship is cancelled due to inclement weather, the vote will take place on August 16th using the same process outlined above.

If you have any questions, please review the letter sent out with more details or call the church office at 218-847-5656.

What's Inside?

Calendar	Page 15
Children's	Page 8
Creation Care Team	Page 12
Memorials	Page 14-15
Outdoor Worship Info	Page 5
Pastor Joe's Message	Page 2
Pastor's Lauryl's Post	Page 3
Parish Health	Page 6
Pillars	Page 5
President's Post	Page 4
WFLC	Page 8
What's Happening	Page 15
Youth News	Page 7

CELEBRATE
NATIONAL S'MORES DAY



August 10th

CONTACT US



Please continue to reach out to the church office via email or phone if you are in need of anything. If you are calling, please leave a message and we will respond ASAP.

PASTOR JOE'S MESSAGE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Hello, everyone!

Wow. That's about all I can say to start off my first newsletter message to all of you. Wow. Thank you. You have blessed my family and me so sincerely. We are very grateful to be here. Thank you for all your gifts, warm words, and encouragement. A special shout out to those who helped us move into our new home (That whole moving day was unbelievable! We are still blown away. You all must have broken some kind of record – 1 hour and 19 minutes to move from storage into our house across town. That is NASCAR pit crew level efficiency. It went so well that I have moving day survivor's guilt.). Thank you, all, for making us feel so welcomed. I thank God for your generosity of spirit.

At the same time, all of this gratitude uniquely comes with some pain. We are being revealed such a generous and loving community, but because of this time of COVID we cannot fully be present and interact with you, our generous and loving community. COVID is keeping us from getting to know each other the way a new pastor and congregation should be getting to know each other.

This isn't how it's supposed to be and I just want to name that. We should be having real fellowship, sharing each other's stories, shaking hands, laughing, conversing, eating, drinking, and being merry in one another's physical presence. I wish I could see your full faces. I wish I could properly thank all of you who have extended such a warm welcome. My family and I are so eager to get to know all of you and more fully begin our joining of this community, but alas, because of the public health efforts that are necessary in this time, it just isn't in the cards yet. It is worth it to protect each other's health...and it is hard.

Since we are not getting to know each other in the "normal" ways, I thought I'd offer a rapid-fire fun fact list as sort of a 'get-to-know' in lieu of the face to face conversations we would otherwise be having. So, some random (emphases on *random*) rapid-fire facts about my family and me:

- Margaret is originally from St. Paul and is one of EIGHT children. She attended Cretin-Derham Hall High School (Yes, she knows Joe Mauer). She was and still is a pretty good soccer player.
- Margaret and I met at her brother's wedding in 2012.
- All of our children are spring babies (Jefferson: April 4th, 2016; Holden: May 1st, 2018; Solveig: April 9th, 2020).
- Solveig's name is pronounced *Sole-vay*.
- I did my year of pastoral internship at a church in Wenatchee, WA. It's a wonderful place. Look it up sometime!
- Jefferson, named after his papa (Jeff Skogmo), loves nature and Paw Patrol. Anyone who is a first responder of any kind holds a special place of reverence in Jefferson's heart. He is a witty, passionate, and soulful child who has an impeccable memory. So, tread lightly.
- Holden is our class clown. He loves to scooter and be outside. He is sweet and goofy and plays by his own rules. He's our free spirit. He is also a charmer. Be on guard.
- Solveig is our angel baby who has gifted us with a little more sleep. For whatever reason, our boys did not sleep through the night until they were both two. At almost four months old, Solveig is a much better sleeper, and if it continues, she will win the prize for our favorite child (I'm kidding...barely). She has her mother's smile and it melts you.
- I am the youngest in my family. I have three older sisters. I was spoiled. I enjoyed it, and still do.
- I don't like cake (I know a lot of people are offended by this...I am sorry. I don't know what else to say. It would seem an irrelevant detail, but churches love cake, and now you won't be surprised when I decline cake the next time it is served at FLC.).
- Margaret has a Bachelors in Psychology from the University of St. Thomas and a Masters in Special Ed. from St. Mary's University. She has taught and/or directed preschool programs for ten years.
- I am allergic to freshwater fish. All freshwater fish. I know...it's the burden I carry.
- Margaret has familial roots from Alabama to Switzerland to India. So, we have some really great food at family events.
- I doubled majored in Religion and Political Science at Augsburg University (so, I am the fun one to talk to at parties). By the way, in college I was a very angsty kid and considered myself agnostic, then atheist, then agnostic again, then spiritual but not religious, all the while I had little interest in church. And, yet, here I am – *Pastor* Joe. So, for those of you who struggle with church sometimes or conceptions of God...I've been there, and sometimes I still am.
- When life gets back to 'normal', please invite me to any and all pickup basketball games. Please.
- We CANNOT WAIT to more fully join this community.

Thank you for indulging some random fun facts about us. We look forward to getting to know some random fun facts about YOU!

Peace,
Pastor Joe

PASTOR'S POST

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,



Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs andthe birds of the air come and make nests in its branches....The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened....The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field....The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down...." (Matthew 13:31-48)

In this strange season we've been living in, one of the first things I did last March, after learning I needed to shelter at home, was to search for yeast. I remember my grandma using the tiniest amount of yeast to bake the best bread and buns in the summer at the lake, where I now live. I didn't have much time for baking homemade bread last year, but I have grandma's recipes, so I decided start during COVID—along with everyone else in the world! All the yeast was sold out in the stores! Yeast comes in a small package, but without yeast, the dough will not mysteriously rise and bake into the bread I remember eating with Grandma and Grandpa. Such a small ingredient does such great things, and I had to wait, and search to find it. And when I did - yum - I shared the goodness with my family!

Yeast. Mustard seed. Plantings. Growth. Such is the kingdom of heaven, according to Jesus. The gift of the Kingdom of Heaven is planted and yeasted in us, and even though we have seasons of waiting and searching, it's worth searching for it and recognizing it's joy: our prayers are healing people we love, our comforting helps friends who grieve, our forgiveness is bringing renewed relationships; our grace is growing respect; our mercy is giving relief; our justice is creating equality; our stewarding creation is providing a sustainable future. Such gifts bear the home-made, loving flavor of Jesus' Kingdom. Where are you finding and sharing the goodness of God's kingdom?

It's pretty amazing what God's yeast/little mustard seeds can do in our lives us – living and growing in his Kingdom bring us through things, to places we never thought we'd be, and introduce us to new people, and new ways of being Jesus' followers. Twenty-four years ago, I was ordained as a pastor in the Lutheran Church. It was a great privilege for me, and a dream come true. I didn't think it would happen – women weren't allowed to be pastors when I was growing up. Then after that changed, I thought my status as a single parent would prohibit me from entering the Seminary, but God had planted a seed, and made it grow. I was accepted at Luther Seminary, called to pastor a lovely rural parish in Wisconsin, then became a board certified Chaplain, working in hospitals and hospice.

I feel very humble and very blessed to be able to consider continuing the ministry that you and I started together at FLC last year. I know my path is safely in God's hands. Ever since I faced dying with cancer many years ago, every day seems like a gift, every birthday an opportunity to reflect on and to know Jesus' love in my life. I've learned - even when it's hard to find the yeast, it's worth seeking!

Blessings in the Kingdom,

Pastor Lauryl (with thanks to Rev. Barry Neese for "God Pause" reflections!)

President's Post

Update from Jackie Buboltz, FLC Vision Council President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you were able to hear Pastor Joe's installation message, he talked about all the reasons he is excited to be called to First Lutheran. Amid the many challenges we face at this, there is much to be excited about and many things to celebrate:

- The Call Committee, guided by the Holy Spirit, brought forth a recommendation for our lead pastor in 3 months when many call processes take a year or longer!
- The Vision Council along with the Restart Team navigated how to hold the annual meeting and lead pastor vote resulting in the most ballots cast at an annual meeting!
- Our committed staff is creatively determining how to continue the operations of the church!
- We had the technology in place to worship online during the stay at home order! Many churches did not and still do not have the technology to do online services.
- Because of generous donations, we continue with our radio broadcast!
- The purchase of the radio transmitter for parking lot communion!
- The Worship Team and Restart team determining how we can safely hold Worship services outdoor!
- Your generosity resulted in a positive year end balance to our budget! Many of you continued to send your offering even though we weren't able to worship in person.
- The calling and installation of a new lead pastor!
- Preparing for a congregational vote to call our associate pastor!

And more is happening!

- The Restart team meeting weekly to determine how we can eventually worship together indoors.
- The Restart team developing guidelines to eventually allow small groups to gather.
- Our Children and Youth Director working on what we can do for our programming this Fall.
- Commitment by our pastors, staff and the Vision Council to determine what we can do with our Preschool programming and space.
- Planning for the installation of our associate pastor.
- The Vision Council preparing for strategic planning and visioning for the next 3-5 years.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when you bring what is within out in the work, miracles happen.

Henry David Thoreau

I am truly inspired and grateful for the resiliency of our congregation, the passion and energy of our pastors, our talented and committed staff, and the collective wisdom of our leadership that moves us forward with what we can do amid the many challenges. Thank you for the prayers, patience and grace!

Yours in Service,
Jackie

Pillars

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



By, Mackenzie Hamm

Peace: Where do you go to find it & how do you receive it?

PEACE, n. *L. pax, pacio, to appease.* 1. In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquility; freedom from disturbance or agitation; applicable to society, to individuals, or to the temper of the mind. (<https://av1611.com/kjbp/kjv-dictionary/peace.html>)

I normally use my pillars page to ask for volunteers or let you know what our current needs are (so if you're looking for ways to volunteer or donate please call me anytime), but as I type this up at midnight to make the newsletter deadline I decided to go a different route.

I am going to be honest and let you know that this Coronavirus time has been a struggle for me. It has affected my parenting, the way I interact with people, and work. I am constantly worrying whether I am doing enough for my kids, family, friends, and everyone here at FLC. It took our Pastor Joe asking me how I was doing to make me internalize; how really am I? Well I sure did not expect to cry, but it happened! That made me take a good look at what I needed, and it was to find peace again!



So, I go to a place that I feel closest to God; **the cemetery**. To some it might seem strange, but as young as I can remember my grandma (below) would take me to cemeteries and we would walk for hours and read names and talk about all the people's lives. I loved knowing no matter how different everyone lived their earthly lives, they are all so blessed to be HOME in the Grace of God. So naturally after my husband and I lost our baby girl, the cemetery really became my second home. I would lie in the grass and look to the Heavens and talk to her and God. Lying there brought me comfort and peace. "*In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8*"

Last week I spent quite a bit of time at the cemetery. I thought about how I needed to recognize the peace that the Lord brings. "*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17*" I acknowledge my mistakes and asked for forgiveness and patience from my kids and family as I navigate how to parent and work during this time. I want to ask you for patience and forgiveness as well, as I try to minister to your needs. It may not be the normal way and sometimes that is just as hard for me as it is for you. I also recognized that things could be way worse, we are lucky that in our time now we have Church that is a safe peaceful place for so many people during trying times.



With Peace, comes a **SMILE**. One thing I love is smiling at people and seeing them smile back. Smiles are contagious. You can imagine my struggle with the mask wearing right now is, I cannot tell if someone is smiling and that has made me sad. I now am diligent at looking at people's eyes to see the creases by their eyes when a smile is made. To you who smiled back at me Sunday at Church, thank you because I noticed! I didn't see wrinkles or crows' feet; I saw a big smile and that brought me PEACE!

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9"

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2Thessalonians 3:16

Mackenzie Hamm, Support Ministry Coordinator



Parish Health

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

Staying Connected

I recently read articles in a newsletter from Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging regarding loneliness, staying connected with others and finding purpose in our lives during this pandemic period. The articles contained good information and suggestions on how we can stay connected with each other and find a purpose in our lives during this time of distancing. Following is some of the information provided in these articles.

Loneliness and social isolation have been associated with increased risk for several chronic conditions, including dementia, stroke, and coronary artery disease. How can we prevent this when we are unable to visit in person? There are many ways to connect without being together.

Telephone



Some of you may remember when the phone was the only way to talk with someone when you were not together in person. I and other members of the staff have connected with many people by phone since March. It has been so rewarding to be able to make someone feel that they are not forgotten, to offer prayer and a listening ear. So, take the initiative and call someone! It will help the person you are calling feel connected and it will give you a feeling of purpose also. Some of the phone calls I have made are the bright spot in my day!

Zoom, Facetime, Skype



These are all forms of video chatting on your computer or cell phone. For my husband and I, this was the only way we saw our kids and grandkids during the first weeks of the pandemic. We are still using this form of communicating weekly for meetings since we both continue to work from home. If you have a computer, iPad, iPhone, or Android you can communicate in this way. It may seem overwhelming to connect this way. There are resources available to help you learn step-by-step on how to use video chat programs. Visit www.dancingskyaaa.org/impact for links to these instructions.

Writing a letter



I have received cards and letters from some members of the congregation. I love getting mail! When I get a card or letter from someone, I know that they were thinking of me and it makes me feel good! So, if there is someone you would like to connect with and do not always want to connect by phone or virtually, write a note or send a card. Tell about your family, your interests, memories, even a favorite recipe or book you are reading.

So, while we are experiencing many changes due to the pandemic, we can still find purpose in our lives. We can still connect with friends, family or maybe even someone you have not talked with in a long time. Being socially distant from others does not mean we have to socially isolate! Take the initiative and make that connection. If you would like to assist with connecting with members of our church leave a message for me, Denise at 847-5656. If you are someone who needs a call from me or one of the staff at First Lutheran, please call the office at 847-5656 and leave a message, we will get back to you. Feeling connected is so important! Let's make sure all our members are feeling connected!

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing". 1 Thessalonians 5:11



Youth Ministry News

By, Maddie Hanson



Youth Newsletter August

Bonfires — We will be holding our annual youth bonfires at FLC this month. Our bonfires will be held in the church parking lot each week. With our current situation during COVID, we do have some guidelines on how we are going to run these events. Please see more information on these guidelines in Maddie's email update. Listed below are the dates and times scheduled for our bonfires. We hope to see you there!

- Wednesday, July 29th @ 7pm – 8th Graders
- Wednesday, August 5th @ 7pm – 7th Graders
- Wednesday, August 12th @ 7pm – 6th Graders
- Wednesday, August 19th @ 8pm – 11th & 12th Graders

10th Grade Confirmation – Our 10th graders are meeting with their mentors over the summer months to prepare for Confirmation this fall. We will be having a meeting with parents, mentors, and 10th graders on Sunday, August 16th @ noon. This meeting will be held over Zoom. Please continue to check your emails for information.



Confirmation Classes – With lots of uncertainty around schools, classes, and gatherings we are unsure about how this Confirmation year will look. We have decided as a church to wait until the schools announce what their plans are for classes this fall to make a decision about our Faith Formation programs. We are currently planning for a regular school year, but are making preparations for online classes in case we cannot hold in-person classes. More information will be announced later this month. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Confirmation Kick-Off Meetings – We will be having our Confirmation kick-off meetings on Wednesday, August 26th @ 6pm and Sunday, August 30th @ noon. Please mark these dates in your calendars as these meetings will be mandatory for all Confirmation youth and parents. We will be discussing some changes to our Confirmation program as well as going over what our year will look like for 2020-2021.



Blessing of the Pets

On Sunday, August 23 we will be blessing our furry, slimy, scaly and otherwise covered friends. Pets can be blessed from home at the 8:30 online worship service or you can bring your pet to the 10:30 worship service.



Children's Ministry

By, Emma Duncan

As we start our new year in Faith Formation, there are a lot of big decisions yet to be made. Please keep checking the FLC website and head to the Children's Ministry page, for details and updates on the upcoming year. All the information should be posted there shortly.



Blessing of the Backpacks:

We will be having a blessing of the backpack service on **AUGUST 30th** at the outdoor **10:30 AM service**. This will be a service that still follows all the guidelines of social distancing and masks, but the kids will get the opportunity to bring their bags up to receive tags and a blessings.



Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Bibles:

We will be giving out the Kindergarten Story Bibles as well as the 3rd Grade Adventure Bibles at the Blessing of the Backpacks Service (Details Above). If you are unable to be at this service, there will be a bible pick-up time at the church on Monday, August 31st from 3-5:30pm.



Rally Sunday and Rally Wednesday:

Whether we are virtual or face to face this September, we will be starting our Faith Formation year on Sunday, September 13th and Wednesday, September 16th. Please check the website and your emails for more information to come.

The Link

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



LWR SCHOOL KITS

Please continue to collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. The WFLC will pack the bags once it is again safe to meet and do so. Supplies can be dropped off in the yellow covered tub outside the back doors of the church.

Each kit needs the following:

- (4) 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- (1) 2 1/2" eraser



Outdoor Worship Services have begun again! They are held Sundays at 10:30 AM on the FLC lawn!

We welcome you to join our outdoor worship. There will be two options of worshipping outdoors. **Option 1** is to worship on the green space outside. **Option 2** is to remain in your vehicle and tune your car radio to 95.9 for a live broadcast of the worship service.

Worshipping in person in the grassy area outside:

- We will be using the grassy area, Bell Bank drive though lanes and Lake Street (the street will be closed for our service) to ensure we can safely socially distance between family groups.
- Please park toward the back and near Wells Fargo if you plan to worship outside so those worshipping in the cars can be closest to the worship area.
- Please bring your own chair or blanket. No chairs will be distributed to minimize the need to clean FLC chairs after the service.
- A volunteer usher will direct you to an area for seating to maintain 6 feet of social distance between family groups. You may be sitting in a different area than usual.
- Bulletins will be available on the FLC website and on the weekly email update, we encourage you to print and bring it with you. A limited number of bulletins will be available for those who need a copy.
- We ask that you refrain from singing during the service - just sit back and enjoy the Worship Team's beautiful singing.
- We appreciate your continued giving of offering and will have large containers as you enter or exit the worship area for you to drop off your offering.
- Please plan ahead for bathroom needs as the church building remains closed.
- You are asked to bring your own food and beverages at this time, there will be no food or beverages provided by FLC.
- For the protection of each other, masks are required when outside of your vehicle. Remember, the mask we wear protects the people we interact with and their mask protects you.
- We ask that you maintain 6 feet of social distancing between household units.
- Communion will be distributed the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. When you arrive on a Communion Sunday, you will be asked how many people are communing and you will be given a pre-wrapped wafer and juice by someone wearing a mask and gloves. Please wait to open the containers and take communion until appropriate time during worship.
- If inclement weather, the outdoor worship will be cancelled. A text message will be sent as well as being announced at the 8:30 worship service.
- Lastly, bring your smiles, love, and patience as we navigate our new normal of worshipping together.

Worshipping in your car using your car radio to tune into the service:

- Tune your car radio to FM 95.9 (please note this is a low range frequency and you will only be able to access it while near the church building at the time of worship).

PASTOR JOE'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Joe was installed as First Lutheran Church Lead Pastor Sunday, July 19th. We are so excited to have him join FLC! Check out the photos below of the exciting day!



PASTOR JIM ARMSTRONG HONORED

Pastor Jim Armstrong was recognized on Sunday, July 19 for the 60th Anniversary of being an ordained pastor. Congratulations Pastor Jim on such an amazing accomplishment.



Parking Lot Communion Service

Sunday, August 16 at 9:45 AM

In the FLC parking lot

We are excited to join together again for a special Service of Holy Communion on Sunday, August 16th.
Some things you need to know when you attend this service:

- You will need to arrive in a vehicle. The service will be heard over your car radio.
- Please enter the parking lot off of Minnesota Avenue.
- Parking Attendants will be guiding attendees to a parking spot and handing out disposable communion cups.
- Please WAIT to take communion until indicated during the service. We hope to take communion together the Pastor says the communion blessing.
- Please be sure to wear a mask when interacting with the parking attendants. If you do not have a mask, we will have a limited number available to share.
- Once you are parked. Tune your radio to 95.9 FM.
- Please stay in your car with your windows up to ensure the safety of those around you.
- Please drop any offering you wish to give into the offering barrels when exiting the church parking lot.
- This is a Service of Holy Communion ONLY. A full worship service will still be available online at 8:30 AM or in person at the outdoor 10:30 AM worship service.
- Please be patient and kind with those volunteering.



Thank You Kurt Anderson

Kurt Anderson created beautiful boxes for offering collection on Sunday mornings. We are so thankful to him for his hard work and great skill! Here is a note from Kurt about the project.

After accepting the opportunity to help with the boxes, I had to look at my resources to accomplish the task. This is what I found:

- I have been gifted the tools for the job from my Dad, my son and from blessings of wealth.
- The wood for the floor came to me as a gift from a Pastor friend through helping hands.
- The wood for the walls gifted from Ruth Olson via Darrel Bauder.
- The wood for the crosses, a repurposed antique dresser drawer gifted from Dave Eiesland.
- The wood for the roofs left over but not discarded for a project long ago.
- A good reminder that our church, like these church shaped boxes, has been created from parts and pieces from many varied places, but all brought together with a common interest.

Thanks for allowing me to help!



FLC FOUNDATION WILL MATCH DONATIONS

All donations made to Feed My Starving Children, Churches United for the Homeless, the Becker County Food Pantry and FLC's Agape Fund will receive matching funds of up to \$10,000 total between now and year end from the FLC Foundation. If you would like to donate to one of these organizations and have them receive the fund match, please make the check out to First Lutheran Church and indicate in the memo which organization you'd like the funds to go. You can also donate via the website by following the link below. Here you can also use the drop down menu to select the group you would like to direct your donation to. Let's join together to make donations and help these organization do God's Work.

AN UPDATE FROM

The Silver Linings Apartments, 3350 3rd Ave N, Moorhead, is a new proposed building project from Churches United. This building will be on the land adjacent to our other permanent supportive housing complex, Bright Sky Apartments (3305 3rd Ave N, Moorhead). This new building will cater to seniors 55 and older in a permanent support housing setting.

Services that will be included for residents:

- On-site case management
- Community Areas
- Full-time nurse
- Small food pantry
- Walking paths along green space
- Other services from outside providers



Seniors over the age of 55 have been one of the fastest growing demographics in our shelters the past few years, growing exponentially. The Silver Linings will be 36 one-bedroom units; with two pods of 8 apartments sharing a community living area.

- Close amenities to this apartment complex will include:
- Sheltered bus stop on the intersection of 3rd Ave N and 34th St N
- Quarter mile walk to Cash Wise Foods
- Half mile walk to Walmart and Maurice's
- Location will be near other residential housing
- Close access to Highway 10 and Interstate 94

For additional information on the Silver Linings Apartments please reach out to Brent at brentb@churches-united.org or you can call at (218) 236-0372 ext. 240.



Pollinators

The FLC Creation Care Committee

With summertime in full swing, gardens growing, flowers blooming, fruit trees showing promise and crops developing, the FLC Creation Care Committee felt that this would be a good time to discuss pollinators. As you likely know, pollinators include bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, flies and a host of other animals that carry pollen from one plant to another. Did you know that these industrious workers help pollinate the vast majority of flowering plants and crops? Their role is critical in the production of most fruits, vegetables and necessary for flower reproduction. According to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the annual value of pollination of crops by native and domesticated bees alone approaches \$23 billion!

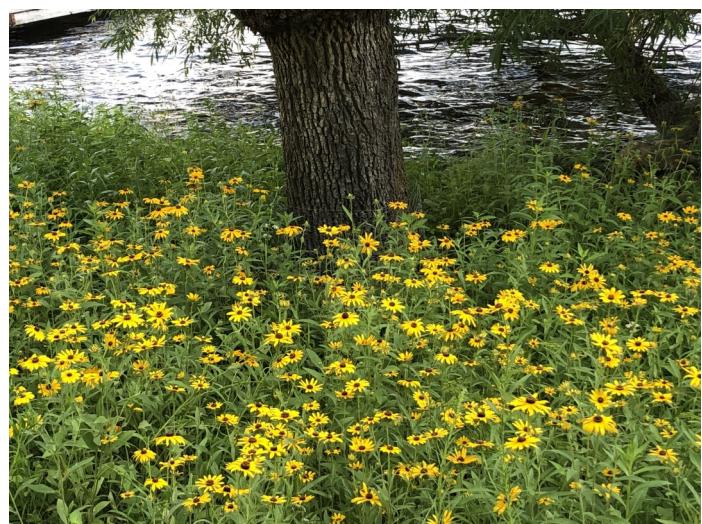
Despite their tremendous importance, pollinators of all kinds are in peril. Plummeting populations are largely occurring as a result of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. Human activities that replace native vegetation such as expanding roadways and paved surfaces, buildings, manicured lawns and monoculture crop-fields account for much of that habitat loss. Improper and frequently widespread use of pesticides is known to negatively impact pollinators.

The good news is that we have the ability to correct many of our activities that contribute to pollinator loss. For instance, have you considered replacing some of that sterile manicured lawn with a pollinator garden full of native plants that bloom throughout the growing season? This could become a beautiful, sustainable and thoroughly enjoyable family related activity. Nesting and nurturing sites on your property can be established by studying the needs of various species (Monarch butterflies and milkweed plants). Please consider avoiding or significantly limiting pesticide use. There are a variety of chemical free alternatives to limit the effects of plant pests.

So, how can one get started on this mission to help our invaluable pollinators? There are an abundance of websites dedicated to pollinators including the US Fisheries and Wildlife Service, the MN BWSR and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. A newly established program by the MN BWSR called "Lawns to Legumes" can help provide funding to individuals as well as communities to establish pollinator habitat. Our local Becker County Soil Water Conservation District has a robust native plant program that not only provides plants, but also can provide assistance for establishing native habitat. The Becker County master gardeners are also excellent resources for plants and planting suggestions. I'm sure that a little homework will uncover a variety of other resources that can help. The FLC Creation Care Committee can also provide native plant and flower lists as well as listings of native plant nurseries in our region.

So, what are we waiting for? Let's step forward and help our precious pollinators. Remember that by taking this action, we will also be taking steps to ensure our own survival and that of a host of fellow inhabitants.

Thank you! FLC Creation Care Committee
August 2020



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](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti)

The Need Continues

Written by Keith Logan

As we all try to figure out the delicate balance between managing our personal safety through this terrible pandemic and keeping our world economy turning, we are facing many difficult decisions. We must be responsible for stopping the spread of this devastating virus, but we also must recognize our need to continue earning money so we can buy food and pay for our living expenses, the need for our kids to continue getting an education, and the need for us to meet our many financial obligations.

It's no different in Haiti, at least in a basic, fundamental way. Those in Haiti are facing this COVID crisis without the benefit of advanced medical technologies, without government funded unemployment benefits for those that lost their jobs, and without the ability to effectively social distance themselves due to extreme population density in the urban areas. Haitian children have been out of school since mid-March, leaving tens-of-thousands of children hungry every day since many of them receive their only daily meal at school. At this point the Haitian government has announced that children will return to school August 10th, although that is subject to change if things do not improve.

During the months of April, May and June, Trinity HOPE distributed uncooked food to the children and their families so they could continue to have at least a small amount of emergency rations. This was well received and very much appreciated. The urgent need for these families continues and our need for your continued support is tremendous. Thank you for your on-going prayers and financial contributions. You are truly making a life-sustaining difference to thousands of Haitian children.

Most importantly during these trying times, we are all reminded that our true Hope is found only in Jesus Christ. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to the Lord."* (Philippians 4:6) May God continue to bless and protect you.

To learn more about the ministry of Trinity HOPE, please visit our website at www.trinityhope.org



What's Happening

at FLC & Surrounding Areas



LET'S SUPPORT FMSC IN THIS TIME OF NEED! FMSC has announced the cancellation of all planned events through September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the best way to ensure the safety of its workers and the safety of its volunteers. This means that the mobile pack planned for September in Detroit Lakes is cancelled. With this news, we ask

that you keep FMSC and its mission in your prayers. The need has not gone away and in fact is even greater. With that being said, let's mobilize our faith community to raise money to help support the FMSC mission. With a donation of \$1,866, we can pack a virtual pallet, which is 7,464 meals and can feed 22 children for a year. Let's make it our mission to help FMSC continue to feed those who count on them. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to FLC and put FMSC in the memo line. Donations can be mailed to First Lutheran Church, 912 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.



PARKING LOT COMMUNION SERVICE—Sunday, August 16 at 9:45 AM in the FLC parking lot.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE—The FLC Call Committee has extended a call to Pastor Lauryl Ivers for the position of Associate Pastor of First Lutheran Church. A special congregational meeting and vote will be held on August 9th. More information on the voting process is coming soon!



BLESSING OF THE PETS—On Sunday, August 23 we will be blessing our furry, slimy, scaly and otherwise covered friends. Pets can be blessed from home at the 8:30 online worship service or you can bring your pet to the 10:30 worship service.

RSVP FOR WORSHIP—We ask that anyone planning to attend the 10:30 outdoor worship service on Sunday mornings RSVP via the link at firstlutheranchurch.com. This will help us ensure we have space for everyone planning to attend.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS—We will be having a blessing of the backpack service on August 30th at the outdoor 10:30 AM worship service. This will be a service that still follows all the guidelines of social distancing and masks, but the kids will get the opportunity to bring their bags up to receive tags and a blessings.

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS—Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary invites you to come to the DL City Park to find your favorite local food trucks! Every Friday afternoon from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

TUESDAYS IN THE PARK—Enjoy live music in the City Park; bring your lawn chair. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled. Information on who will be performing can be found on the DL Chamber website.



August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday Schedule Communion 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	3 5:30p Restart Team Meeting	4 9:00a Office Staff Mtg	5 5:30p Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00p 7th Grade Bonfire	6 11:00a Worship Planning Mtg	7 12:00p Prayer Team	8
9 Sunday Schedule Congregational Mtg & Congregational Vote 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	10 5:30p Restart Team Meeting	11 Primary Election Day 9:00a Office Staff Retreat	12 5:30p Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00p 6th Grade Bonfire	13 11:00a Worship Planning	14 12:00p Prayer Team	15
16 Sunday Schedule Communion 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 9:45a Parking Lot Communion 10:30a Contemporary Worship 12:00p 10th Grade Confirm. Mtg	17 5:30p Restart Team Meeting	18 9:00a Office Staff Mtg	19 5:30p Worship Team Rehearsal 8:00p 11th & 12th Grade Bonfire	20 11:00a Worship Planning 12:00p Executive Council, Lib	21 12:00p Prayer Team	22
23 Sunday Schedule Blessing of the Pets Healing Service 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship	24 5:30p Restart Team Meeting	25 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 5:30p Vision Council, DH	26 5:30p Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00p Confirmation Meeting	27 11:00a Worship Planning	28 12:00p Prayer Team	29
30 Sunday Schedule Blessing of the Backpacks 8:30a Traditional Online Wship 10:30a Contemporary Worship 12:00p Confirmation Meeting	31 5:30p Restart Team Meeting	1 9:00a Office Staff Mtg	2 5:30p Worship Team Rehearsal	3 11:00a Worship Planning	4 12:00p Prayer Team	5



First Lutheran Church acknowledges with
grateful appreciation these memorials which
have been received this past month.

BELL CHOIR FUND

In Memory of: Ole Olson

Given by: Chris & Jenny Heyer

BUILDING & GROUNDS FUND

In Memory of: Phyllis Beckman

Given by: Todd & Denise Gaard

FOUNDATION FUND

In Memory of: Jon Horner

Given by: Dennis & MaryLou Anderson

In Memory of: Ole Olson

Given by: Arlene Olson

In Memory of: Emil Dunham

Given by: Arlene Olson

JUBILATE CHOIR FUND

In Honor of: Dave & Jeannie Eiesland

60th Wedding Anniversary

Given by: Fern Brown

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Ole Olson

Given by: Fern Brown

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

Given by: Ray & Louise Heino

In Memory of: Walt Christensen

Given by: Ardis Hegna

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

Given by: Ray & Louise Heino

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero

Given by: Arlene Olson

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

In Memory of: Jon Horner

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

Given by: Ray & Louise Heino

In Memory of: Emil Dunham

Given by: Ray & Louise Heino

QUILTER'S FUND

In Honor of: Elisabeth Johnston's 92nd Birthday

Given by: Bridget Johnson

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Ole Olson

Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

Given by: Patti Cummins

Given by: Charlotte Hoeglund

Given by: Jim & Diane McCormack

In Memory of: Julie Burhans

Given by: Diane & Jim McCormack

In Memory of: Jon Horner

Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson

Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Orlan Kvistero

Given by: Rod & Carolyn Boyer

Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Honor of: Rod & Carolyn Boyer's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by: Rod & Carolyn Boyer

In Memory of: Walt Christensen

Given by: Cliff & Jan Adkins

Given by: Elyda Handegard

Given by: Mary Nordmark

In Honor of: Ruth & Darrell Bauder's Wedding

Given by: Ruth Olson

UNSPECIFIED FUND

In Honor of: Ole Olson

Given by: Rod & Shirley Searls

In Honor of: Orlan Kvistero

Given by: Henry & Betty Fischer

WFLC FUND

In Honor of: Jeanniane Aasgaard

Given by: Fern Brown

Funerals

December 21 Jim Bergren

February 29 Emil Dunham

July 11 Daryle 'Ole' Olson

July 21 Walt Christensen

July 31 Jon Horner

Weddings

July 23 Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson

July 31 Steve Quam & Sue Nelson



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
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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.

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Treasurer: Chad Carlblom

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Nathan Olson, Nathan Mork,
Carol Lee, & Kari Stattelman

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& Patti Cummins

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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.**