



# The First Perspective

September 2021

First Lutheran Church, Stephen MN

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Greetings to you!

I really struggle with newsletter articles. I am not a great writer and have trouble deciding on a topic. I will just put my best foot forward.

I would like to thank you for your great welcome last Sunday. I forgot that I have so many relatives and people that I know that worship at First Lutheran. I look forward to serving you and your family while we wait for the calling of a new pastor.

I spoke with Bishop Bill Tesch last weekend. We talked briefly about First Lutheran and the calling of a new pastor. As I thought the synod does not recommend the calling of a new pastor for at least a year. The idea is for you as a

congregation to evaluate your needs and who you would like to have as a pastor to lead your congregation. Sorry for the news but I did not want you to be misled.

This time of waiting may be difficult. It may bring change. It will definitely bring new beginnings. Isaiah 40:31 says, "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles..." Let us look to the skies for the eagles to remind us that our strength will be renewed. Pray to the Lord for guidance, now and forever.

Let us look to the future with a happy heart. I am so very happy to be on this journey with you. We praise and thank the Lord!

In Christ,  
*Marilyn*

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# Thank

Dear First Lutheran Church,

# You

You have helped carry out VIP's mission with your financial contribution!

We thank you for your gift of \$55.02 received 08/03/2021. Over 600 children, women and men were helped in 2020 and we are on track to serve as many, or more, in 2021. We provide victim advocacy, shelter, housing, parenting time programs, child advocacy and 24/7 crisis line because of supporters like you.

Furthermore, your cash donation expands in value as it becomes matching dollars for grant funding. Your gift works hard to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Sincerely,  
Staci Reay & Amy Beckius-Johnson  
Co-Directors  
Violence Intervention Project

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for the generous donation towards the back-to-school project. The money was used to buy additional needed backpacks.

We work with the Salvation Army to provide backpacks and basic school supplies to kids in need in Marshall County for this back-to-school project. We anticipate providing supplies to over 70 kids this year.

Thank you for the donation and your help ensuring these kids get the supplies they need to be ready for a successful school year!

Sincerely,  
Stacey Urbaniak, Marshall County Services Case Aid

Aug. 9, 2021

I just received the First Lutheran's Aug. newsletter. I appreciate getting it, thank you for sending it to me.

Enclosed are two checks, which are both for the "Door Fund". One in Memory of Phyllis Sundahl, who was a friend of my mother's (Melba Dammann). The other check is in honor of Pastor Mike, who has given so many years to First Lutheran and the City of Stephen.

Kindest regards,  
Shirley Dammann Chamberlain



## Member News

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Bryce Nelson, Jenny Johnson, Ed Heggen, Roy Ohman, Sandie Rud, Jim Brinkman, Wally Vagle, Kay Kroulik, Brooklyn Poe, Jim Jarshaw, Pat Kroulik, Mira Opp, James Parker, Shane Reuille, and for those deployed; Benjamin Hendricks, Luke Thompson, and for all those who are in need but are not listed here.

### **THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE**

- Ben Hendricks, son of Brian & Jean Hendricks, Naval Base San Diego
- Todd Jensen, son of David & Penny Jensen
- John Johnson, son of Roger & Jane Smidt
- William Kotts, brother of Garry Kotts
- Luke Thompson, son-in-law of Garry & Sharon Kotts
- Kelsey Schendel, niece of Pr. Mike
- Please remember all our service men & women in prayer.

### **DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**

We are always looking for member news to share and hope to hear from you if you have some exciting news you would like to share with other members. Maybe it is a new child-grandchild-great grandchild, wedding, baptism, or birth in your family that you would like others to know about. We would also like to hear from former members including those who grew up at FLC and have transferred their membership to other churches.

### **EMAILS & CELL PHONE NUMBERS NEEDED**

We are adding/updating email addresses and cell phone numbers to the church's database. Please send your contact information to [firstl@wiktel.com](mailto:firstl@wiktel.com). Many e-mails and phone numbers have changed or need to be added since this was last done.

## Church News



# HARVEST FESTIVAL

## Big Changes for 2021 Harvest Festival

We missed the Harvest Festival in 2020 and we have a great plan for the 2021 Harvest Festival. Please mark Sunday, September 19 on your calendar and we moved the meal to 4:30 to 6:30 pm. An evening meal will allow us to spread out those who want to enjoy the meal at the church. Of course, we will offer to-go meals for those more comfortable eating at home. We miss the fellowship of enjoying a meal together, but we also want to be safe. We will be serving ham, baked potatoes, baked beans, fresh fruit, coleslaw, buns, and bars. Please check the church for worker and food donation sign-up sheets. Many hands will help make the festival a success.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

9/01—Church Council  
 9/13-- Martha/Ruth Circle  
 9/14—Quilting  
 9/19—Harvest Festival  
 9/28--Quilting

### **MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE**

Martha/Ruth Circle **will** meet in September for Bible Study. We will be meeting **Monday, September 13, 2021**, at 7:00 pm at Church. Our hostess is Ann Woinarowicz. The Bible Study will be presented by Jane Smidt based on scripture-related lessons from the former Andy Griffith television show. Social distancing observed.

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

You may have noticed that the Sunday Bulletin is sponsored occasionally in honor or memory of family members. Past sponsorships have included honoring birthdays, deaths, weddings, births, and more. These sponsorships are \$20. Contact the office if you would like to become a sponsor.

### **FIRST LUTHERAN NEW BIBLE PROGRAM**

#### **12 Minutes a Day.**

That's the time it takes to read the ENTIRE Bible in one year.

It's a small daily habit that has ripple effects throughout the day, week, month, and year.

Carving out time for intentional Bible study brings focus, peace, and perspective to our days.

**12 Minutes of Bible study can change the entire tone of the day.**

It's a time to *PAUSE*.

It's a time to *REMEMBER* what is really important.

It's a time to *BUILD* positive momentum for the day.

First Lutheran has invested in a program that breaks down the Bible into weekly reading plans - different chapters or verses each day. This plan follows the Bible in chronological order, so you won't be reading it from start to finish; but moving around as events happened.

Each month of plans will be sent out in the monthly newsletter and there will also be sheets located in the brochure rack just inside the East door for those that may not receive the newsletter or would like an extra set for a friend. Join us as we read the Bible together as a congregation/ community.

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**YOUTH PRINTER INK AND TONER RECYCLE PROGRAM**

The program for printer ink and toner has been updated and changed. There are several of the printer inks and toners that are no longer accepted. **Brands of toner accepted include: Brother, HP, Cannon and Lexmark. The ink jet brands accepted include: Canon, Epson, Hasler Neo Post, Lexmark, and HP.** We will no longer be recycling cell phones until further notice. You can drop off the used cartridges at First Lutheran Church. Funds go to the youth group.

**YOUTH CELLPHONE RECYCLE PROGRAM**

We will again be recycling certain cell phones. **Smartphones, cell phones, iPads, tablets, Kindles, iPods, Apple Watches and MacBook**, regardless of age or condition will be accepted. Please drop off your phones at the church, there is a cupboard in the front entry you can leave them in. Proceeds will go to the FLC Youth. If you have any questions, please call: First Lutheran Church or Michelle Weberg at 478-4543.

**LOOSE CHANGE**

The Loose Change canister will be available by the East Door for the loose change offering each month. September's Loose Change offering has been designated to Northland Rescue Mission. If you drop your loose change offering in the Secretary office door slot, please mark for loose change. Loose Change will also be collected on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sunday of each month.

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Please remember we will need to be changing the paraments and filling the candles like usual as before the pandemic. Communion is now back to "normal". We will continue to serve communion the first and third Sundays of the month, pre-covid style. Altar committee members will set up communion on the altar; we are not using the table any longer. Thank you.

## **DOOR FUND**

A Door Fund has been set up to replace the arched doors and the side door in the front entrance of the Church. The doors have been ordered and will tentatively be installed before winter. You may continue to make donations or memorials to this fund.

## **NEW FUND**

A new fund has been started for a lighted/electronic sign, to replace the current church sign in gratitude for Pr. Mike's 36 years of service to FLC. Donations and memorials can be made to this fund.

## **FREENOTES HARMONY PARK**

Three instruments that were ordered have arrived. We will need help installing them. They will be placed on the south side of the church and will be available for the community to use. If you are interested in helping with the install, please contact Betsy Jensen via text or phone at 218-689-5375.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Boundless**

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering  
July 24-28, 2022  
Minneapolis, MN

Attention all youth going into 9th grade and having finished 12th grade by 2022, the national youth gathering is gearing up and we need you.

We, the Lutheran churches of Lancaster, Hallock, Lake Bronson, Kennedy, Karlstad and Stephen will be working together as one group of youth.

We will rotate meetings and events at each church as we make plans for fund raisers. We can accomplish so much more together than individually.

Information will be coming in a form of letter so we can get an idea how many students will take advantage of this life-giving event. The website for the Youth Gathering is [www.elca.org/YouthGathering](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering).

Here are the plans for our first fund raiser. We are putting a calendar together. We would like you to sponsor a day. The day could be selected because it is your birthday or your parent's anniversary. The day could be sponsored because you have a favorite teacher. You can decide. You will need to contact the pastor of your church, to purchase the day or as many days as you would like, for the amount of the day. For example, if your birthday is on March 1st, the day would cost you \$1.00. If you purchased the 25th, it would be \$25.00. If the 25th were filled you could purchase any combination of dates to make 25 (5th and the 20th or the 10th, 5th, 3rd and 2nd) or the 25th of another month. We realize the gathering will have happened by the middle of summer, but we believe this is a fun fundraiser, we can celebrate all year.

You can purchase your dates as soon as you read this article. We will make every effort to fill the calendar by November 1st. Spread the word because the dates can be purchased by anyone interested. The Calendars with the completed dates will be for sale in December.

## **SCHOOL KITS**

It's that time of the year. The school supplies are in stores now.

The School Kit list is on the table in the fellowship hall. Please bring your new(unused) items to the tote.

### **SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER**

- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### **INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT**

**FOUR** 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; **no loose-leaf paper**

**\*ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

**ONE** pencil sharpener

**\*ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

**FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

**FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

**ONE** box of 16 crayons

**ONE** 2 ½" eraser

**ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)**

**\*We could use a few scissors and rulers but have a lot left from last year.**

In our changing times, items can be bought online at Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree, etc. If you want to give a monetary donation, Ellen Anton will do the shopping for you. Questions can be sent to [ellenanton@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenanton@hotmail.com) or 478-2759.

## **PERSONAL CARE KITS**

The Personal Care Kit list is on the table in the fellowship hall. Please bring your new (unused) items to the tote.

### **SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER**

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

**ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

**TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

**ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*

**ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging

**ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope, no plastic bags or wrap.

**ATTENTION**

### THRIVENT MEMBERS

Are you throwing away \$500 a year?

Thrivent members have the opportunity, to use this money to help local or national causes.

Questions? Contact Ellen Anton or Staci Winge



Please check the Lay Readers Sign Up sheet and add your name if you are willing to serve in this capacity. Thank you to all the Lay Reader who have contributed their reading talents during the last three months including:

<b>Nona Carl</b>	<b>Jane Smidt</b>	<b>Patsy Heggen</b>
<b>Kris Ann Pietruszewski</b>	<b>Melanie McGlynn</b>	<b>Autumn Thompson</b>

If you haven't been a Lay Reader in the past, find out what is involved by talking to Pat in the office. It is a great service opportunity that doesn't take much time.

**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY****First Lutheran Church  
Parental/Guardian Consent Form**

This parental consent form is to both inform you and to request permission for your children's video/photo/image and personally identifiable information to be published on the congregation's newsletter, bulletin, Facebook page, website, or other social media outlets and publications.

As you are aware, there are potential dangers associated with the posting of personally identifiable information on a web site since global access to the Internet does not allow us to control who may access such information. These dangers have always existed; however, we as a congregation do want to celebrate your children and their work.

The law requires that we ask for your permission to use information about your child(ren). Pursuant to law, we will not release any personally identifiable information without prior written consent from you as parent or guardian.

Personal identifiable information includes student names, video, photo or image, residential addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers. If you, as the parent or guardian, wish to rescind this agreement, you may do so at any time in writing by sending a letter to First Lutheran Church, PO Box 72, Stephen, MN 56757 and such rescission will take effect upon receipt.

**Check one of the following choices:**

- I/We GRANT permission for this/these child(ren) to be video-taped/photographed and for their image and all other personal identifiers listed above to be published on the congregation's website, newsletter, bulletin, Facebook page, or other social media outlets and publications.
- I/We DO NOT GRANT permission for video/photos/images that include this/these child(ren) to be published on the congregation's website, newsletter, bulletin, Facebook page, or other social media outlets and publications.

Print name of Youth/Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Youth/Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***For more information/questions, please contact Connie Troska at [ctroska@wiktel.com](mailto:ctroska@wiktel.com) or 218-991-2576***



## Northwest Minnesota Synod News

August 26, 2021

Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come! As I write this from my home in Detroit Lakes, it is raining here and across much of our region. I am giving thanks for this respite from the drought, even as I continue to pray for farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods have been so severely impacted. Thank you for your prayers and for your good work serving your neighbors in your local communities of our Northwestern Minnesota Synod!

Speaking of “respite,” we enjoyed a brief one from the pandemic this summer when we were able to remove our masks and return to gathering without restrictions. However, I have recently begun wearing a mask again when I am among you indoors due to the increasing spread of the Delta variant of the virus. Believe me, I am as disheartened to be writing this message as you are to be receiving it!

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend the wearing of masks indoors by both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Masks have been proven to greatly limit the spread of this virus. The new variant is twice as contagious, and studies suggest that even vaccinated people who are asymptomatic for disease may still spread the virus to unvaccinated people who could then become ill with COVID-19. Accordingly, I am recommending that worshippers in our congregations return to wearing masks indoors in order to protect our neighbors from this disease.

As always, we are guided by faith, facts and love. We have faith that God has called people into vocations of public health, medicine and pharmaceutical research, and through them God is protecting us. I have heard some say that they don't need to be vaccinated or wear masks because they trust God. To quote Martin Luther, “This is not faith in God; this is testing him.” (See Luke 4:9-13 or [this pastoral guidance from Martin Luther!](#)) Yes, sometimes God intervenes with miracles, but miracles are rare. In between the miracles, God is still at work. Christians trust that God is protecting us through our God-given skills and vocations, and through gifts like vaccines that are derived from God's good creation.

I believe that soon we'll be free of this pandemic. Experts tell us that will happen when the vaccination rate gets above 70%. It currently stands at around 50% or lower for most of our counties. The good news is that with the spread of the Delta variant, vaccination rates are also rising. If you are hesitating for religious reasons, then please hear me clearly: as your Synod's called Pastor, I am telling you that there are no religious reasons to refuse the vaccine and lots of religious reasons to receive it.

Besides being guided by our faith, we are also guided by facts. In this matter, the relevant fact is the rapidly rising case numbers in all of our Synod.

Finally, we are guided by love. You and I may not fear getting the virus, but we all should be concerned about the possibility that we could unintentionally spread the virus to vulnerable neighbors who could become sick or even die. This is how we follow Jesus. We use our God-given freedom, not for ourselves, but for our neighbor – like Jesus did for us when He freely chose death on a cross for you and me.

Thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel! I look forward to seeing you in my travels or over Zoom sometime soon. Mask or no mask, the Holy Spirit is still gathering us to be her faithful church!

In Christ our Brother,



Pastor Bill Tesch

Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

For a link to this letter on the website, [click here](#).

To watch Bishop Bill's new video on masking, [click here](#).

### SERVANT LISTS

USHERS & ACOLYTES		
Date	Acolytes	Ushers
09/05	Shay Setterholm & Ashton Setterholm	Gale Frei, Fanny Schaefer, Larry & Karen Nybladh
09/12	Colin McGregor & Carly Pagnac	Brian & Betsy Jensen Family
09/19	Ty Winge & Nick Winge	Korey & Eiley Sundby, Josh & Alissa Sundby
09/26	Abby McMahon & Jace McMahon	Michael & Stephanie Pagnac, Carl & Connie Troska

COFFEE SERVERS	
Leader: Ken & Pat Heggen	
09/05	Pat & Kenny Heggen, Jim & Laurie Reuille, Whitney Weisenberger & Matt Kroulik
09/12	Mike & Stephanie Pagnac Jon & Amanda Anderson
09/19	Roger & Jane Smidt Jess & Paul Rogus
09/26	Chris & Angie Mills John Jensen & Betty Pikop

### ACOLYTES/USHERS:

Please note the dates that you are scheduled to acolyte/usher for Sunday Worship. If you are not able to serve that Sunday, please find a substitute and notify the office, (4783895) by Thursday of the change so that the bulletin can be printed with the correct names. Thank You.

### Usher Duties – updated 2015

If possible, arrive 45 minutes before the worship service begins - Fold the service bulletins – tri-fold. From time to time there may be an insert for the bulletin, please insert this as you fold the bulletins...or... you may hand it out separately.

On communion Sundays, make sure the registration sheets are set up on the little round table, along with some pens/pencils. At a COMMUNION service, if you notice a worshiper has difficulty with mobility, offer them the option for the Pastor to give them communion in the pew. Assure them that this is NO bother...we do it all the time... When you come forward to usher out for communion, please remind the pastor of the location of the worshiper who would like communion ...as to where they are sitting in their pew.

If church pews need to be reserved, Baptisms, Confirmations etc. Place the “Reserve” signs on the designated pews. On BAPTISM Sundays, just before the service starts, the gold Baptismal pitcher will need to be filled with hot water, brought forward and poured into the Baptismal fount.

Greet worshipers and distribute the bulletins on Sundays and other worship times.

Check to see if the acolytes are present

Ring the church bell (7 times): at 8:45 a.m. and at 8:55 am – use the clock in the fellowship hall for the official time

Count all the people in attendance, all adults, children, acolytes, organist, ushers, and Pastor. Record the attendance number on the sheet found in the guest book stand by the east sanctuary door.

Take the offering when indicated in the service bulletin, after the collection bring the offering plates forward to Pastor. The plates are in the guest book stand.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter – there is Holy Communion. The bread and wine trays are in the kitchen (return dishes, dish towel covering, stack the trays, cover, and drape the designated linen cloths over the sacraments, bring the trays forward to the altar at the same time as the offering is brought forward. After the pre-communion liturgy, usher the congregates forward to partake in the sacrament.

After the close of the service, proceed up the side aisles and usher the worshipers out.

Pick up old bulletins, trash, and belongings left in the pews after the dismissal

Place 4 or so bulletins in each of the information racks: 1 in bell tower entry, 1 by east door and 2 in west entry... unused bulletins or gently used bulletins can be used for this purpose.

Take the money sack from the guest book stand, put the money that is in the offering plates on the altar into the money sack, return the offering plates to the guest book stand, place the money bag in the top file drawer on the right-hand side of the desk in the secretary's office. Extinguish the big candle, and if the sanctuary is empty of people, shut off the lights and sound system - you are now finished and free to leave. THANK YOU for helping to make our worship experience meaningful for the worshippers. You are an important part of the worship team.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01 Myron & Diane Danielson  
 09/06 Kenneth & Patsy Heggen  
 09/17 Bruce & Aase Hamnes  
 09/18 Dwaine & Sandie Rud  
 09/30 David & Debbie Benson



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02 Brooklyn Ness	09/13 Jon Petersen	09/20 Kelly Clausen
09/05 Ellen Anton	09/14 Cindy Field	09/26 James Parker
09/05 Shianne Kostrezewski		09/27 Mike Benson
09/05 Connor Rogus	09/15 Carly Pagnac	09/27 Emma Rustad
09/07 Kinley Parker	09/15 Decker Thompson	09/27 Michelle Weberg
09/08 David Benson	09/16 Stub Bazey	09/28 Christian Jensen
09/10 Brady Pagnac	09/17 Patsy Heggen	09/27 Cliff Nyland
09/11 Amanda Anderson	09/17 Tim Paulson	09/29 Michelle Sharpen
09/13 Gannon Nelson	09/19 Isaac Black	

### AUGUST MEMORIALS

Sandy Novak	
Ralph & Audrey Swendseid	Door Fund
Paul Olsonawski	
Steve & Melanie McGlynn	FreeNote Harmony Park
In Honor of Pr. Mike Schendel	
Shirley Dammann Chamberlain	Door Fund
Phyllis Sundahl	
Shirley Dammann Chamberlain	Door Fund
Kenny Poole	
Al & Ellen Anton	FreeNote Harmony Park
Donna (Hoepfer) Boudreau	
John & Shawna Peterson	Door Fund
Kathy Friederichs	
Robert & Dianne Dammann	Door Fund

## **ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**

The church is looking for individuals or groups to lead the hymns during the worship services. This is for any anyone or group willing to take a Sunday to join the congregation and lead with a microphone. Please call the church office for details.

## **BACKPACK BLESSING**

All school children are encouraged to bring their school back packs to church on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> for a special blessing. SAM Marilyn Grandstrand will be doing a special blessing on all the back packs that our children carry to school.

## **A Little Humor for your day----**

Being a Christian isn't a position, it's a process.

God invites us to drop our burden on Him. And unlike the dry cleaning, we don't have to pick it up again.

God loves to get knee-mail.

Forgiveness pardons the offender and frees the offended.

## **First Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 28, 2021**

**Member Present:** Deanna Swendseid, Connie Troska, Al Anton, Kelsey Anderson, Melanie McGlynn, Gannon Nelson, Krissy McMahan, Jessica Rogus, Betsy Jensen, and Shawna Peterson.

Also in attendance, Ellen Anton and Patsy Heggen.

President Deanna called the meeting to order.

Devotions read by Melanie.

### **Secretary's report:**

Correction to the minutes from the June 30, 2021, meeting. Pastor Mike Schendel's last Sunday service at First Lutheran will be July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Connie to accept the June 30, 2021, minutes as corrected, second by Melanie. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Monthly offerings for June totaled \$7,011.00. All the bills have been paid. Motion by Krissy to accept the Treasurer's report as printed, second by Gannon. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Membership changes:**

None.

**Committee reports**

**Deacons:** The Deacons have pulpit supply for July 25 to August 15.

**Trustees:** The fire escape is scheduled to be painted sometime in August. A coded lock will be installed on the door to the choir loft, where the equipment for broadcasting services is housed. The sign outside the church has been scraped and painted. It will be leveled at a later date.

**Parish Education:** Kelsey has started looking for teachers for Wednesday School. Please contact her if you are interested in helping with this program.

**Trust Fund:** The Trust Fund committee met in July and awarded scholarships.

**Stewardship:** Harvest Festival is being planned for September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 PM.

**Old Business:**

Three instruments have been ordered for the Freenotes Harmony Music Park.

A new fund has been started for a lighted/electronic sign, to replace the current church sign. The new sign is in gratitude for Pastor Mike's 36 years of service to First Lutheran. Donations and memorials can be designated to this fund.

**New Business:**

Motion by Al, second by Melanie to have the First Lutheran Church contract with Synodical Authorized Minister (SAM) Marilyn Grandstrand to be our interim minister. This contract will run from August 16, 2021 through August 15, 2022 (unless we are able to call an ordained minister before then). All in favor, motion carried.

**Tim Peterson, pulpit supply minister, has requested his salary be donated to a local back to school project.**

***Kelsey made a motion, second by Betsy to have Connie purchase a computer for the secretary's office. All in favor, motion carried.***

***Motion by Betsy, second by Kelsey to let Kari Jo (Paulson) O'Keefe teach piano lessons at the church. All in favor, motion carried.***

***Motion made by Connie, second by Gannon to charge Pastor Mike \$100.00 to rent the parsonage for the month of August. All in favor, motion carried.***

***Loose Change for August will go to Marshall County Social Service for their 'Back to School Back Pack' program.***

Kelsey made a motion to adjourn, second by Jess. All in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Peterson  
Church Council Secretary

# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			7:00 PM—Church Council			
	6	7	8			
9:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion in-person & live on Facebook		First Day of School				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 AM—Worship Service w/ backpack blessing in-person & live on Facebook	7:00 PM—Martha/Ruth Circle at Church	9:30 AM--Quilting				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 AM -- Worship Service w/ Holy Communion in-person & live on Facebook Loose Change Sunday* 4:30-6:30 PM--Harvest Festival						
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 AM—Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook		9:30 AM--Quilting				
* Loose change goes to Northland Rescue Mission						

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. Box 72  
STEPHEN MN 56757

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## September 2021

At the lake?  
Don't forget to mail in your pledge for the  
weekly Worship services you missed.

**Ministers to our Parish:**

Patsy Heggen– Parish Secretary  
218-478-3895 (church)  
All the Members of First Lutheran Church

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