



# The First Perspective

May 2021

First Lutheran Church, Stephen MN

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## From the Pastor



I'd like to share with you a story from my past which seemingly has nothing to do with faith, and yet, it has everything to do with our faith. It was the spring of the year when a third grade, boy's fancy turns to baseball. I had come to know quite a few new classmates during my first year at the elementary school on the north side of town. Many of the interests were the same, but they did play some games which I hadn't played often. One, was baseball. We didn't have enough boys in our neighborhood to field a couple of teams for a game. As a result, my playing skills were painfully poor. Several times a week, my classmates would take off after school to an open area behind by aunt and uncle's house to "get up" a game of baseball. For many, many weeks, I would tag along only to sit on the sidelines and watch. I was excluded –

sometimes because I didn't want to show how badly I played and sometimes because my classmates felt the game that day was especially important and required only the best players. So, more often than not, there I sat.

It was common for boys of all grades to join in these games. This made it even more difficult for a young kid, let alone a kid who couldn't play ball well, to be included. Until one day... when an older boy, whose name was Steve, came to play. Rather than simply walking past me in order to get on with the game, Steve stopped and talked with me. When he found out I was watching because I didn't play well, he spent time with me between his times at bat to try to teach me some of the basic skills of the game. I remember riding my bike home that afternoon and feeling like I was floating on a cloud! It was terrific! Someone who, I thought, didn't know I existed took time *for me!!!*

That day would have been enough to carry me for a long time. However, Steve showed up again and again when I was watching those games. He continued to spend time with me. He continued to

teach me. He continued to build up my confidence! It was finally, by his insistence, I was included in the games! WOW!

This doesn't sound like a typical faith story. Still, it had a profound impact on how I saw faith at work in a person's everyday life! To be honest, I didn't make the connection right away between what Steve was doing and the fact this was a demonstration of his faith. Steve never said he was doing this because he was a child of God. But, in time, this became crystal clear to me! I saw him at different activities at church. I saw him at worship. I saw him befriending others – both popular and not so popular. It was through these observations I came to realize Steve was living out his faith in very tangible and, might I add, life-changing ways! I don't believe Steve was ever singled out or recognized as one who really sought to live out his faith. But that didn't seem to affect what he did. And what he did was perhaps one of the most effective evangelism efforts I have experienced personally. This person's caring demonstrated for me, a third grader, that God's love wasn't just something to talk about or to believe in my head, but it is something which needs to be lived and shared from the heart every day – with those who live on the fringes as well as our friends and family!

That's evangelism!! We need to recognize evangelism happens in the very common moments of life as well as those more predictable times. Evangelism is:

- + not just *sending* your family to worship; but worshipping with them so they can see your faith draws you every week to be renewed and empowered through worship.
- + calling a person just to say you were thinking of them and praying for them.
- + making a conscious effort to befriend someone who would otherwise be left out.
- + inviting a friend to worship or to a church event.
- + sharing a bit of your faith story with someone who asks you how you can get through, your difficult days.
- + taking time to write a note to some of the people who have made a difference in your Christian faith and growth (this lets them know their witness has made a difference).
- + taking time to have coffee with someone you haven't been in touch with for a while.
- + taking the risk to care for and love others simply because you know God loves you!

This list could continue on and on. I would invite you to add ways YOU can “do” evangelism in your everyday life! Evangelism isn't something to be reserved for pastors or church staff. It's not just for adults either! It's a task... a responsibility... even a need for young and old alike – anyone who claims the name of Jesus Christ!

Christ, in claiming you, has changed your life! He has also entrusted to you this life changing message! The challenge before each of us is this – how may we use the gifts God has given us to share this message of life, hope, and forgiveness?

Blessings to you as you live evangelism!

*Pastor Mike*



Again, I look forward to your FBook broadcasts! It is always an inspiration, and I am grateful to Pastor Mike and the team of worship leaders at each service.

Having grown up in the church, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran is very special to me.

Thank you and sincerely,  
Arleen Raffanti

Thank you to the Wednesday school children that made the window decorations for Easter. They were beautiful and much appreciated.

Thank you for your recent donation to the Warren Area Food Shelf. We provide food essentials each month to 40-50 families in the surrounding area. Your donations help us to purchase the food items to continue this needed service to those we serve.

Bless you for your kindness!  
Warren Food Shelf Board

Dear First Lutheran,

We have loved being able to tune into FLC services on Facebook for the past year. Before the pandemic we hadn't really settled on a church family in Rochester and didn't feel grounded to a church here yet. It was comforting to have fellowship even from miles away. We hope the services online are able to continue. Please use the enclosed donation for the door fund or any other financial needs for the online services or upkeep of the facility.

With love,  
Brian & Moriah Bickel

Thanks for adding the Carlson's to the Easter plants for the church. I have so enjoyed the Facebook streaming-

Donna Carlson Wilson

**First Lutheran Church extends a grateful thank you to the following for the flowers that made our Easter Garden beautify our sanctuary.**

In Honor of Bernice Lindell given by Carole & Wes King  
 In Memory of George & Evelyn Heggen given by Carole & Wes King  
 In Memory of Jeff Noel, Andi Olsonawski & Mae Brieland given by Peg Noel, Matt Noel & Madi  
 In Honor of Pat Kroulik and In Memory of Lewis & Marge Stromberg and Ted Kroulik  
 given by Mark & Beth Kroulik  
 In Memory of Troy Bazey give by Kathy & Charles Labine  
 In Memory of Dee & Maynard Schendel and Ken Simon given by Keith & Jacie Schendel  
 In Honor of Reverend Mike & Karen Schendel given by Keith & Jacie Schendel  
 In Memory of Amund & Annie Reigstad and Arnold & Theresa Hamnes given by Bruce & Aase Hamnes  
 In Memory of Roger Benitt given by Trevor & Tamara Benitt Family  
 In Memory of Bill & Kipp Carl given by Nona Carl  
 In Memory of Wayne & Opal Tommervik and Donald & Marian Bates given by Tim & Darlene Bates  
 In Honor of Willard & Diane Kotts given by Garry & Sharon Kotts  
 In Memory of Charlene Kotts and Glen & Clarice Brinkman given by Garry & Sharon Kotts  
 In Memory of LaVern Zimmerman given by John, Shawna, Elsie & Marnie Peterson and  
 Carly Shay & Isaac Black  
 In Memory of Pete & Lois Peterson given by John, Shawna, Elsie, Marnie Peterson & Carly Shay & Isaac Black  
 In Memory of Ted & Rosie Black given by Isaac & Carly Shay Black, John, Shawna, Elsie & Marnie Peterson  
 In Memory of Bob & Virginia Anton and Muriel Vagle given by Al & Ellen Anton  
 In Memory of our parents; Casey & Irene Erickson and Ray & Bernice Kazmierczak and Dear Friend: Dorothy  
 Kirsch given by Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak  
 In Memory of Gordon & Anna Lou Gordhamer given by Tim & Jody Paulson  
 In Honor of Kay Kroulik, Pat Kroulik, Logan Rud-USAF, Tod & Adrian Jensen-Air National Guard  
 Given by Penny Jensen  
 In Memory of Ellen & Christian Jensen and Sylvia Jensen Park given by Penny & David Jensen  
 In Memory of Blair, Laura & Paul Klamar given by Sarah, Rylan & Ellie  
 In Memory of Ole & Gladys Johnson given by Leonard & Ingrid Bazey  
 In Memory of Ed & Joyce Wickland given by Leonard & Ingrid Bazey  
 In Memory of Norval & Beverly Benson given by David & Debra Benson Family  
 In Memory of Francine Kuznia and Bob & Inyce Hendricks given by Brian & Jean Hendricks  
 In Memory of Daniel Paul Hendricks given by Brian & Jean Hendricks  
 In Memory of Lorna Jensen given by John & Betty  
 In Memory of Carl & Ivy Haugen and Philip Anderson given by the Mark Anderson Family  
 In Honor of Lillian, Hazel, Olive, and Gustaf given by Michael & Cheri Douglas  
 In Memory of The Nyland and Parent Families given by Cliff & Jean  
 In Memory of John & Judy Gervasio given by Geoff & Deanna Swendseid  
 In Memory of Alice Rogus given by Charlotte, Clara, & Connor Rogus  
 In Memory of Shirley Sundby given by Alvin & Becky Nybladh Family  
 In Memory of Alton Nybladh given by Alvin & Becky Nybladh Family  
 In Honor of Grandchildren: Chiles, Remey, Rhett, & Nyla given by Pastor Mike & Karen Schendel  
 In Memory of Maynard & Delores Schendel given by Pastor Mike & Karen Schendel  
 In Memory of Erhart & Erna Stegman given by Pastor Mike & Karen Schendel  
 In Honor of Karen Schendel given by Pr. Mike Schendel  
 In Memory of Richard & Lucille Field given by Bruce & Cindy Field  
 In Memory of Robert & Patricia Burgoyne given by Bruce & Cindy Field  
 In Memory of my parents: Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Olson given by Arleen Raffanti

In Memory of Alfred & Lorna Jensen given by Brian, Betsy, Conner, Holly & Carrie  
 In Memory of Jane Jensen given by Brian, Betsy, Conner, Holly & Carrie  
 In Memory of John & Bonnie Risius given by Brian, Betsy, Conner, Holly & Carrie  
 In Memory of Carol Johnson given by Luther Johnson  
 In Memory of Louie, Hazel & Lori Bukowski given by Lee & Jan Bukowski  
 In Memory of Kenny & Vivian Winge given by Lee & Jan Bukowski  
 In Memory of Loved Ones given by Ralph & Audrey Swendseid  
 In Memory of Tom McMahon given by Justin, Krissy, Abby, Jace, Kory, & Liam McMahon  
 In Memory of Albert & Agda Carlson given by the Carlson Family  
 Easter Lily Given by Emily Curry



## Member News

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Brian Hendricks, LeRoy Hougard, Marcus Heras, Bryce Nelson, Jenny Johnson, Ed Heggen, Roy Ohman, Kay Kroulik, Sandie Rud, Ron Donarski, Jim Brinkman, Wally Vagle, Mitchell Benson, Brooklyn Poe, Emily Curry, Jim Jarshaw, Dana Anton, Pat Kroulik, Traci Chwialkowski, Barb Heggen Andre, Mason Newhouse, Marlys Kohlhase, Gretchen (Bartels) Johnson, Barb Kuznia, Julian Bertils, Chris Danzl, James Parker, Renae Riopelle, Zachary Fincher, Todd Nelson, Vernon Dagoberg, Harlan Rosvold, Myra Opp, Carrie Jensen, Virginia Field, and for the family & friends of Wayne (Bucky) Halfmann, Vi Halfmann, and Alice Knutson, and for all those who are in need but are not listed here.

### THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE

Jon Hendricks, son of Brian & Jean Hendricks, Travis Air Force Base  
 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

**FACEBOOK LIVE AND IN-PERSON SERVICES**

First Lutheran Church is beginning **IN-PERSON** services and will be streaming LIVE via Facebook on the following Sunday's; May 2, 2021, May 9, 2021, May 16, 2021, May 23, 2021, and May 30, 2021. Services will be **IN-PERSON** and live on Facebook beginning at 9:00 AM. Go to Facebook and search for First Lutheran Church, Stephen. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/pg/First-Lutheran-Church-Stephen-MN-396266930506958/> Watch for updates as to times and added services.

First Lutheran Church will continue to offer Facebook Live virtual and **in-person** worship services for the month of May. Masks are required and social distancing will be implemented when seating. Further information on in-person services will be shared if/when we add more dates.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

5/02—Confirmation Sunday  
5/05— Church Council  
5/09—Mother's Day  
5/12—Martha/Ruth Circle  
5/23—Senior Recognition Sunday  
5/29—SAC graduation

## 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.

## MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE

Martha/Ruth Circle **will** meet in May for Bible Study. We will be meeting **Wednesday, May 12, 2021** at 7:00 pm at Church. Our hostess is Kris Ann Pietruszewski. The Bible Study will be presented by Jane Smidt based on scripture-related lessons from the former Andy Griffith television show. Social distancing observed.

## TAMARAC WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Mike will **NOT** conduct a Worship Service /w Holy Communion at the Tamarac this month due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## 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.

## 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.

## **PATHWAYS BIBLE CAMP**

**BIBLE CAMP IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!**

Pathways Bible Camp offers programs for students in Kindergarten through Post Grade 12. Camp Emmaus is located just outside of Menahga, MN and offers a unique environment where God encounters people and renews them to live lives of love. First Lutheran is committed to the Pathways experience. Please contact the church office for more information regarding scholarships.

First Lutheran will pay half of the tuition for each participant who attends a Pathways Camp. Bible Camp information will be mailed within the next two weeks to First Lutheran families. See the link below for more information.

[Pathways \(pathwaysbiblecamps.org\)](http://pathwaysbiblecamps.org)

## **LOOSE CHANGE**

The Loose Change canister will be available by the East Door for the loose change offering each month. May's Loose Change offering goes to the FLC Youth. If you drop your loose change offering in the Secretary office door slot, please mark for loose change.

## **SUMMER MOWING**

The sign-up calendar is now on the white board in the back of the sanctuary. Please stop by and choose your week or weeks to keep our church grounds tidy.

## **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. These doors have been repaired several times and now with the peeling taking place, need to be replaced. This is a major project as these doors need to be custom made. Please consider donations or memorials to this fund.

## ALTAR COMMITTEE

Please remember we still need to be changing the paraments and filling the candles like usual. You don't need to worry about setting up communion, but just make sure your other normal duties are done each month. Thank you.

## LOST & FOUND

There have been several children's hooded sweatshirts found on the church property. They are inside the front entry hanging on the hooks. If your child is missing a hooded sweatshirt, please check the front entry of the church. The front door is locked during the day but the East door off the parking lot is open.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FLC's Board of Education has scheduled Vacation Bible School for June 14th-16th, 2021 from 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Park River Bible Camp will be conducting Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran Church for kids who were in Preschool thru Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade this year. Families can contact Kelsey A. via text at (218) 686-2788 or our First Lutheran Bible School Facebook page to register. Non-members are asked to pay the registration fee but if that is an issue, please contact Kelsey. Everyone welcome!

## FREENOTES HARMONY PARK

Based in Durango, Colorado, Freenotes Harmony Park makes outdoor musical instruments that deliver superior sound quality. Grammy award-winning designer, Richard Cooke, created Freenotes to ensure musical success for all players. For over 15 years, Freenotes instruments have provided gratifying musical experiences in public and private spaces around the world, because each instrument is designed for perpetually perfect pitch. A staple in playgrounds for encouraging creative tactile play, Freenotes instruments are now highly sought for a wide variety of outdoor settings – from the relaxed to the most sophisticated. As engaging pieces of interactive art, they encourage a full sensory experience. Constructed for both flawless tune and durability, Freenotes instruments have earned a respected heritage for their musicality and their longevity.

**First Lutheran Church is interested in purchasing some of these outdoor instruments and installing them on the south side of the church for the community and surrounding communities to use. The Council will be voting on the project at an upcoming meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a council member or Betsy Jensen.**

<https://freenotesharmoniypark.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FHP-Benefits-of-Playing-Music-5-2-17.pdf>



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**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:

**Nona Carl**

**Jane Smidt**

**Patsy Heggen**

**Kris Ann Pietruszewski**

**Mike Douglas**

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

## The Bencke Family in Japan

Dear friends, family, and partners around the world,

After a few glorious sunny days, we are back to cold, damp, dreary rain. Such is the month of March, yes? Ups and downs seem par for the course.

Attached are my ponderings as we enter Holy Week. May you be blessed as we remember and lament the suffering of Jesus; and wait in joyful hope for the Sunday morning miracle we know as Easter!

-Jackie

Jacqueline Bencke  
 Director of Sacred Music  
 Kyushu Lutheran College  
 Kumamoto-shi Kita-ku  
 Kurokami 3-12-16  
 860-8520 Japan

## Language and Metaphors

The Japanese language, being derived in part from Chinese and in part from communities and tribes living on the islands before there was interaction with the mainland, is incredibly complex. In fact, even saying “Japanese language” intrinsically implies that this unique language is a fusion of the languages of Chinese, Ainu, Korean, Mongolian, and languages of places in southeastern Asia. The writing system is a combination of Chinese characters combined with Japanese characters to create a hybrid writing system to reflect the language patterns.

The language is built on centuries of external influences as well as internal shifts as different government systems have prevailed. One thing that has remained “fairly constant”, though, is the tendency to be intentionally indirect, even vague. Subjects are often dropped in a conversation. Instead of using names to address others, the relationship is used, such as calling someone “older sister” instead of using the name. In schools, students call older classmates *senpai* instead of using a name, whereas the older students are able to, address younger students by name.

Interestingly, looking back at Jewish tradition, the name of God, “YAHWEH” had no consonants, so it was spoken with only breath, in part to signify the unworthiness of humanity to even say God’s name aloud, and in part to metaphorically represent God as “breath” or “spirit.” Jesus spoke in parables and was even referred to in various metaphors and analogies. Lamb of God, bread of life, grain of wheat, and wonderful counselor, are just a few of these names. I have found that these names scattered throughout the Bible are very helpful when trying to describe or reference the one biblical God of creation. Japanese students seem to appreciate the indirectness and the many variations of description to help them understand the vastness of God’s character and attributes.



I've used two such metaphors in my teaching or studies. One is of a Japanese art form, and one is a metaphor from Japanese theologian Inoue. *Kintsugi* is an art form developed in Japan during a period of time when Christianity was banned in the country. A piece of pottery is broken, and instead of disposing of it, it is sealed back together using gold, resulting in a piece of pottery with very distinct scars. It's a beautiful metaphor, I think, for how our human brokenness and sinfulness is healed by the broken body of Jesus on the cross. We are no longer "useless" to God, but are transformed into a new creation, a vessel to hold the living water.

The second metaphor is that of broken glass, as depicted by a Japanese Catholic priest, Inoue Yoji. Jesus is the glass window and has a special function which is to be the mediator between God and humankind. The window has a special function in a room, different than a chair or a desk or a picture on a wall. Unlike those things, a window can bring the light of the sun into the room. Similarly, although Jesus was human, He was different than other humans, being able to bring the gentle gaze of the Father into this world. Beautiful, yes? But it doesn't end there. If that glass isn't broken, the wind – the Holy Spirit – cannot embrace the whole world. Thus, our Savior had to be broken on the cross to bring the warmth and love of the Father into the world, and the Holy Spirit to emanate that warmth throughout the entire world.

As you gaze through your windows this Holy Week, I encourage you to remember the hope that we have in our common love for the Lord, Jesus Christ, and our creator God.

### **Some of the prayers of our hearts...**

Thank you, Lord, **for the privilege of being able to serve you with the gifts you have provided. Our worship, our service, and our sacrifice, seems small compared to the sacrifice you made two thousand years ago, but we ask that you receive it as a humble offering.**

Lord, we beckon you **to come to the side of the weary, the lost, the sick, and the persecuted. We especially life up to you our need for repentance as we each reckon with racial injustice as individuals and within the sociates we live in. Lord, create in us a clean heart, and may we start by chipping away at our indifference.**

Lord, we rejoice **in the hope we have in the Easter resurrection. May our joy fill our homes, and may it radiate to those with whom we visit or interact with on Zoom or Facetime.**



## Northwest Minnesota Synod News



Bishop Bill wrote [this Pastoral Letter](#) yesterday, especially for the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial.

20 April 2021

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Just now the verdict came in for the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was accused of passing a fake \$20 bill. The jury found the defendant guilty on all charges.

We are grateful for jurors, the lawyers, the judge, and those who worked to see that our criminal justice system would deliver what it promises - justice.

Please join me in prayer for Mr. Floyd's family and for people of color across our nation who daily suffer the ongoing and deadly realities of racial injustice. We also pray for law enforcement - that they would be protected in their good and just work and that their work would indeed be just and honorable and free from racial prejudice and the unjust use of force. We pray for those in authority that they will guide law enforcement and our entire society toward greater justice for all citizens. We also lift up in prayer the people of Minneapolis and St. Paul who live with the fear that the rage generated by the killing of Mr. Floyd and the recent unwarranted killing of Daunte Wright will once again lead to violence in their cities. And we pray that we ourselves would awaken to the ways that our silence about and our denial of the racial injustice in our own communities and in our own hearts perpetuates the hate and the injustice experienced by black and brown people everywhere. And yes, we do pray for Derek Chauvin and his family - that the just punishment for his crimes might begin the path toward wholeness and healing.

Our Commission on Racial Equity and Justice has been working for over a year and is only beginning to understand the real depths of racism among us. I am grateful for their good, hard, honest work that I trust will eventually lead all of us to become agents of healing and justice in our communities across Northwestern Minnesota. Jesus himself demonstrated the kind of love and courage that sees past perceived difference and celebrates each person as a beloved child of his Father in heaven. May we be Jesus' followers in this and every way.

In Christ Jesus our Brother,  
Rev. Bill Tesch  
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELC

**SERVANT LISTS**

<b>USHERS &amp; ACOLYTES</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
05/02	Bryanna Nelson Ava Weisenberger	David & Debbie Benson
05/09	Olivia Winge Madison Woinarowicz	Steve & Melanie McGlynn
05/16	Jackson Kekke Darby Benitt	Mark & Laura McGregor
05/23	Brynn Benitt Lillian Douglas	Brian & Jean Hendricks
05/30	Shay Setterholm Ashton Setterholm	Mike & Sarah Berg

**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, (478-3895) of the change so that the bulletin can be printed with the correct names. We will NOT need coffee servers in April. Thank You.**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

05/01 Justin & Krissy McMahon      05/08 Brian & Jean Hendricks      05/14 Trevor & Tamara Benitt

**MAY BIRTHDAY**

05/01 Holly Parker	05/11 Audrey Swendseid
05/02 Esme` Torgerson	05/12 Felicia Znajda
05/03 Ann Woinarowicz	05/13 Larry Grabowska
05/04 Alexis Parker	05/15 Kenneth Heggen
05/04 Katherine Labine	05/20 Diane Danielson
05/05 Venita Rogus	05/21 Todd Jensen
05/06 Dwaine Rud	05/23 Ford Kuznia
05/07 Jean Nyland	05/23 Ron Weiland
05/08 Jane Smidt	05/26 Nona Carl
05/10 Charles Moen Jr.	05/26 Philip Jensen
05/11 Lynette Fay	05/26 Charlee Rustad
05/11 Garry Kotts	05/27 Bernice Lindell
	05/27 Ava Weisenberger

## APRIL MEMORIALS

Mabel Sundby	Mark & Kim Anderson	Memorial Fund
	Mike & Monna Rae Hjeldness	FLC Youth
In Honor of Pr. Mike's 70th Birthday	Shirley Chamberlain	Door Fund
Gloria Wash	Nancy Gajeski	Door Fund
Lorna Jensen	Nancy Gajeski	Door Fund
	Mark & Kim Anderson	Memorial Fund
	Richard & Norma Hvidsten	Memorial Fund
	Family & Friends	St. Petri Cemetery
	Mike & Monna Rae Hjeldness	St. Petri Cemetery
	Mike & Monna Rae Hjeldness	FLC Youth
Peter Sinclair	Nancy Gajeski	Door Fund
	Mike & Monna Rae Hjeldness	FLC Youth
Bonnie Risius	Nancy Gajeski	Door Fund
	Todd & Shirley Henrickson	Freenotes Harmony Park
	Jen & Jason Keeping	Freenotes Harmony Park
	Jerry & Marilyn Kuznia	Freenotes Harmony Park
JoAnn Jensen Krabbenhoft	Mike & Monna Rae Hjeldness	FLC Youth

## First Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 7, 2021

**Members Present:** Deanna Swendseid, Connie Troska, Kelsey Anderson, Gannon Nelson, Jessica Rogus, Melanie McGlynn, Al Anton

Also Present: Pastor Mike, Ellen Anton, Pat Heggen

Deanna called the meeting to order. Kelsey gave devotions.

**Secretary's Report:** We made a change to the Easter service times set in last month's meeting from 9 am and 11 am to 7 am and 9 am. No other changes to report. Kelsey made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Connie seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** All bills have been paid. Cash on hand stands at \$19,437.22. The door fund and the music fund are continually growing, with the door fund up to \$22,910.77 and the music project up to \$1635. Melanie made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Jessica seconded. Motion passed.

**Membership Changes:** None to report.

**Committee Reports:**

**Deacons:** Pastor Mike will be leaving for vacation on April 8<sup>th</sup> and will miss the upcoming service this Sunday.

**Trust Fund:** Nothing to report.

**Trustees:** Options for the glass were discussed and a choice was made to go with the frosted glass. Installing seamless gutters on the church was brought up along with the need to clean the brick on certain areas of the exterior. The posts for the outside sign are wearing down from string-trimming over the years. Pat mentioned covering them with composite deck material. All items were tabled at this time.

**Parish Education:** Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senior Recognition Day will be held Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Stewardship Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

Betsy received an email regarding the Freenotes Harmony Park project. The grant committee tabled the request for a grant because they believe the Stephen Arts Center would be the best location for the park. They recommended we discuss it further and gather more opinions to figure out what location is best. The committee will meet again on May 1<sup>st</sup> and requests that we make a decision prior to said meeting. Deanna will contact members of the Stephen Parks and Rec board along with members of St. Stephen's Catholic Church and the Stephen Arts Council to find out if they would be interested in joining or sponsoring the project. From there she will reach out to Betsy to discuss options and reach a conclusion before the Arts Council meets again in early May. The issue is tabled for now.

Connie discovered some issues with the Vanco application. She attempted to donate but there are problems with the payment section of the app. She will contact the company to address the issue.

**New Business:**

We received a recommendation for a new copy machine from Marco. Depending on the amount of color prints per month, there is a potential of up to \$40.66 of savings per month over our current agreement. We do not make a lot of color copies, so over the course of a year would likely be substantial. Connie made a motion to replace the current copier with an updated color copier. Kelsey seconded. Motion carried.

Confirmation will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with 5 confirmands.

Senior Recognition Day will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Connie will be changing the web design site to wix.com because she has found that wordpress.com is not very user friendly and does not offer as many options as wix.com, such as linking it to our Vanco account.

Gannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelsey seconded. Motion passed.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Adam Kuznia, Church Council Secretary

# MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
May is Mental Health Awareness Month	*Loose change					Happy May Day!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion/Confirmation in-person & live on Facebook			3:10-7:00 PM-- Confirmation 7:00 PM— Church Council			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 AM—Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook 			3:10-7:00 PM-- Confirmation 7:00 PM— Martha/Ruth Circle. Hostess Kris Ann Pietruszewski at church.			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion in-person & live on Facebook			3:10-7:00 PM-- Confirmation			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 AM—Worship Service/Senior Recognition in-person & live on Facebook			3:10-7:00 PM-- Confirmation			SAC High School Graduation
30	31					
9:00 AM—Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook					* Loose change goes to FLC Youth	

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## May 2021

At the lake?

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

**Ministers to our Parish:**

The Reverend Michael L. Schendel  
218-478-3895 (church)  
218-478-4472 (cell)

Patsy Heggen– Parish Secretary  
218-478-3895 (church)

All the Members of First Lutheran Church

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