

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

We are in the season of Easter, a time to celebrate and remember Christ's resurrection from the dead, and the promise we share in eternal life—in a world and creation renewed by God's abundant love and grace. It is during this season that we also begin to notice Spring reflecting the new life that is promised to us as followers of the Risen Lord. We see flowers in bloom, the green grass growing towards the sky, and wildlife returning from a long winter slumber or journey South. We also remember that death had to happen for this new life to occur—that nature, just like life, goes through its cycles. That nature reminds us that “to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3). It is in this time that I am reflecting on all that has happened during my first seven months as your Pastor.

I continue to give thanks to God for the ministry we share together at First Lutheran and in the Kenyon community. It has been a joy to get to know folks, show up to support our families and young people in their lives, join together with the local ELCA churches to partner in ministry, and to participate in community events. I'm looking forward to all that is happening in the month to come at First. On May 4, we will celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with a special outing to the roller rink—thank you for your prayers and support of our children and families as they grow in their faith. Open Prayer continues on Tuesday, May 6 at noon, our Confirmation students are scheduled to visit the Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St. Paul on May 10, we will celebrate mothers and the women of our congregation on May 11, and we will celebrate our graduating seniors on May 18. Upcoming community events include school band and choir concerts, a Baccalaureate service at GOL on May 14, KAIC, and various high school sporting events. I invite you to show up and support members of our Kenyon community in these ways. We will have a special coffee hour presentation on May 25 from Kathy Chatelaine (A2B for Global Ministry) on her recent visit to Colombia. We also resume our Men's Ministry Bible study on May 4, and delegates from our congregation will take part in our Synod Assembly on May 30-31 to elect a Bishop! All of these opportunities to engage remind me how vital our congregation is to the Kenyon community. I invite us all to continue to lean into this call to be engaged and to continue to wonder where and how else God might be calling us to show up?

In other news, I would like to share with you all that my wife and I are expecting a baby! The due date is early October. I have informed the Council and will be coordinating parental leave for later this year to help care for my family. Carrie, Asha, and I are excited to welcome a little one to our family, and we appreciate your prayers!

As we carry on in this season of Easter, may we rejoice in the new life we have been given in Christ's name, and may we remember that we are never alone. That God is with us to comfort us, encourage us, and lead us towards a future where we may co-create a more just, equitable, and loving world for everyone.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Pastor D.J.



## more May...

Friends in Christ,

What a joy it was to be along for the ride of Lent and Holy Week here in the KAIC! It's been such a whirlwind of activity, of celebration, of remembrance, and of holy joy and waiting. Thank you to everyone who came to my Easter Vigil project at Wanamingo Lutheran Church! If you'd still like to check it out, you can find it on their YouTube channel @WanamingoTrinityLutheran.

One of my favorite things about the Church's liturgical seasons is how we are given time to dwell. In this Easter season, I'm meditating on one of my favorite Easter hymns, which the ELW places in the Hope/Assurance section, hymn 619, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives:"

*"He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.  
He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there."*

We have journeyed through the death of winter into the life of Spring. Bulbs poking through the dirt, trees blossoming, no snow in the forecast, and the potatoes planted in the Dennison Community Garden. It's time to soak in the sunshine and fill our lungs with breezes, to fall asleep to crickets and wake to birdsong, and—if you're like me—stock up on your favorite allergy medications.

Enjoy this time, friends. See you in the sunshine! -Vicar Yvonne



HAPPY MAY DAY!

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in You."

PSALM 33:22



✂ See Mother's Day Rolls Below



### CONGRATULATIONS

#### 2025 SENIORS:

ROSS ALDORFER  
HAYDEN BAKA  
FRANCIS CUSEY  
JAMISON HOFFMAN  
DEVON KREISLER  
THOMAS PAULSON



### Mother's Day Caramel Roll Orders

*Support our Youth  
Summer Ministries*

**Purchase Homemade Take-and-Bake  
Caramel Rolls** (prepared & frozen)

**6 rolls - \$12    12 rolls - \$20**

**ORDER BY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sign Up Sheets at Church**

*Checks Payable to First Lutheran Youth*

**Pick up Rolls on Sunday May 11  
(before 11 am)**

Questions: Bryana Lothert  
[flcyouth45@gmail.com](mailto:flcyouth45@gmail.com)



SOUTHEASTERN  
MINNESOTA  
SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY



# First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – April 16, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Vice President Eric Hoversten @ 6:03pm

**Devotions:** Brad Nesseth- John 13:31

**Present:** Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Eric Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Amy Lee, Bryana Lothert, Luke Cordes. Guest: Glenn Ronning

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda Carmen/Brad/pass

## Consent Agenda Items:

**Secretary's Report:** Reviewed as printed in the March Church Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Giving is down approximately \$9,000 so far this year, compared to recent years. We look forward to reduced heating expenses over the next month. Under benevolence, unless otherwise noted, we pay the pledged missionary support first each year. The ELCA general benevolence payments will begin after that. We have \$1465 left to pay on the missionary sponsorship. Tammy is planning to present regular financial updates, quarterly prior to worship, beginning in May.

**Pastor's Report:** Staying connected with homebound folks through visits and phone calls. Hearing appreciation for online worship as well as other contact with folks in our congregation through visits, phone calls, cards, etc. **Kenyon**

**Community Connections:** The garage sale was a big success, that you to Susan, Chrisine, and all who helped.

Summer stretch registration will be open soon. The service project will include working with Kenyon Parks & Rec to help prepare a trail near the pool. The March madness watch party was on March 20<sup>th</sup>- Oliver brought some

baseball teammates to hang out. I attended the waffle feed fundraiser on 4/12. **Confirmation:** Thank you to the confirmation students for their leadership on Wednesday nights during Lent. Meeting will resume on April 30<sup>th</sup> and a Synagogue visit is planned for May 10<sup>th</sup>. This is open to all members, talk to Pastor D.J. if you are interested. **Synod**

**Events:** Participated in First Call Gathering on 4/8. Attended ordination of Yang Tut on 4/13. We still need 2 more delegates plus 1 youth/young adult (under 30) to register for the Synod Assembly. This year will include a Bishop election. Please connect with D.J. to get registered. **Other:** Adult forum on 3/30 about blended worship provided insights and the worship committee will continue work on this. Thank you to Annette, Ross, Luke, Elsie, Linda, and Eric for their leadership on Palm Sunday. Men's ministry bible study began on Palm Sunday, with the next meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour. Special thanks to Tom Erslund for helping lead music on Wednesday nights during Lent. First Communion on Thursday 4/17 for Abigail & Olivia Lurfald, Hunter & Boe Aronson, and Lily Cordes.

Recent confirmands will help serve the communion. **Time of Requests:** June 11-17: family trip to Philadelphia & NYC. July 24-28: invited to present at the World of Bob Dylan Conference in Tulsa.

Mileage (\$62.31) + other expenses (\$49.98). Total: \$ 112.29.

**President's Report:** I attended all of March's Lent services and suppers, I was super surprised I was able to get off work in time and get everyone to go so that was nice. I attended the Get Organized Garage sale and could not believe the turnout, breakfast was fantastic. I came back to help clean up. I called Bingo during coffee hour for our last intergenerational Sundays- seemed like people really enjoyed it.

Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and expenses: Tammy/Carmen/pass

## Ongoing Items:

1. Organ Repair: Thankful for all the many different ways of giving towards this project, every bit counts. Take a minute to celebrate reaching the goal of the cost of the repairs! \$69,807.49 has been fundraised so far- this is an amazing accomplishment. We may have construction expenses in addition to the organ repair.
2. Potential Trip to Columbia: Kathy Chatelaine will present on her recent visit to Colombia on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Will likely join together with other synod congregations.
3. Constitution Review: Plan to review and update the constitution over the course of the next few months. Tammy, Erica, & Amy to review updates and possible changes. Will bring that information back to the council at the next meeting.
4. Michelson's Funeral Home: Asked for written details regarding their proposal. No update received at this time.

## New Items:

1. Beau Chant Concert 2025: Jan Strand has asked if her Choir could hold a concert at First on Saturday December 13 at 2pm- at this time they only want the sanctuary. Pastor D.J. will reach out to Tanya Short to see if she will be present to represent FLC at the concert. Motion to approve this community outreach event: Tammy/Amy/Pass.

2. KHS Monument: Concerns have been raised regarding youth climbing on the monument, throwing the rocks into the parking lot, chipping the bricks from rock throwing. Erica will call the KPD and ask for more frequent patrol in the area. Tammy will reach out to the monument committee to provide them an update.

**Youth Rep. Report:** Spring is getting busy at KWHS. Sports have all started: baseball, softball, track, golf, trap shooting, and fishing club. Luke is a golfer. The band and choir recently participated in Solo/Ensemble Contest. KW received 13 superior ratings (the best one school can get), and Elsie, along with another flutist, received Best in Site! The spring HS band & choir concert will be on 5/7. The jazz chamber concert will be outside in the music garden at 6pm on 5/19. KW has 2 students who made it to state in speech. The Ed Foundation will host is carnival on 5/9, which will be the last one to be held in the Wanamingo school. Prom is 5/3. Luke is looking forward to (albeit short) Spring break coming up this week.

**Committee Reports:**

FLCW- Served Palm Sunday Brunch on 4/13. Thank you to the many volunteers to make this a success/ Many FLCW members helped with the garage sale- thank you! Upcoming event: Cannon River Conference WELCA on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Vang Lutheran Church. Registration forms available from Candy or in the Fellowship Hall. Upcoming Love Day Dates: 4/24, 5/8, 5/22.

Worship/Evangelism- Recapped the blended service discussion from 3/30 with most of the feedback relating to music. Positive feedback to allow Pastor DJ to change it up and not have it scheduled. Pastor DJ and Tammy will send out survey. Will transition to bread for communion. Pastor DJ will contact Kaia to update written procedure. Discussed Mother's Day and Senior recognition Sunday. Briefly discussed summer services but will wait to see what the inside of church looks like with organ repair.

Property and Management- Committee met on April 15th. The following topics were discussed: Ed wing steps coating project now complete. Comments on looks and function favorable. Two of 3 furnace boilers in our two church buildings are getting up there in years. The question is - do we continue to operate until their failure or take a more pro-active approach and look to change one out before the next heating season? The council asked Brad to gather quotes for a couple different options for review at a future meeting. We pulled apart basement drinking fountain attempting to make it useable. Clearly in need of replacement if decided it's still needed. Organ Repair - Have reached out to Brian Sullivan of Obermeyer. He will schedule a visit to our church soon after Easter, provide insight as to the process, address any questions, and discuss a starting date. Dehumidifier in Ed Wing no longer functional. Exterior shelf located outside the kitchen door has been removed. Plan is to replace same. Motion to approve the purchase of a water fountain with bottle filler and a dehumidifier up to \$2500. Tammy/Carmen/pass

Stewardship- Mailed end of the year giving statements and invitations to Holy Week Worship with the offering envelopes that had not been picked up yet this year. Delivered 8 more "Birthday Bags" to All Seasons Food Shelf.

Youth and Education- 22 care packages were mailed to young adults. Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday was a success. Important Dates: First Communion Maundy Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Spring Ditch Clean up April 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am, lunch provided afterwards. May 4<sup>th</sup> LAST DAY of Sunday School party at Belle Creek roller rink 11 am-2pm. Mother's Day Caramel Roll Fundraiser May 11<sup>th</sup>. Looking ahead: Vacation Bible school with Good Earth Village Staff, to be held at Depot Park on July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Pool Party, & Outdoor Movie- Rose Fest. Exploring gardening ideas to go with outside worship this summer.

KAIC- Soup and bake sale fundraiser was held on 4/6 and raised \$4525. Intern for next year is still TBD. Next meeting will be Tuesday 4/22.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Endowment committee met. Tharan Leopold will present on Sunday 9/14 about the topic of legacy giving.

**Next Meeting:** May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm

**Devotions:** Carmen

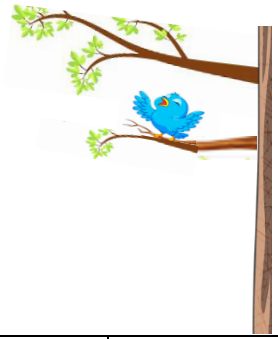
**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn Carmen/Brad/pass Time: 7:44 pm

**Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary



# May



SEASONS:  
AFTER EASTER

				1 <i>Pastor at Cont. Ed Retreat</i> 7 AA	2	3
4 <i>Easter 3</i>  9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 <i>Last Day of Sunday School Party</i> 10:15 Men's Ministry	5  5 Worship Evangelism	6  12-1 Open Prayer	7  7 <i>KWHS Concert</i>	8  1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	9	10  8 am Synagogue Visit
11 <i>Easter 4 Mother's Day</i>  9 Worship 10 Coffee	12	13	14  5:30 – 7 Confirmation 6:30 Ed-You 7:30-8:30 Baccalaureate @ Gol	15  7 AA	16	17
18 <i>Easter 5</i>  9 Worship <i>Sr Recognition</i> 10 Coffee	19	20	21  6 pm Council	22  1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	23	24
25 <i>Easter 6</i>  9 Worship 10 Coffee  <i>Columbia Presentation by Kathy Chatelaine</i>	26  <b>Memorial Day</b>	27  7 KAIC	28	29  7 AA	30  SYNOD ASSEMBLY	31



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*MAY*  
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