



April

2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of the Risen One! April is one of those months of great preparation, planting of fields, brown furrows to green rows and to the many road construction projects starting up. The women were on the path to the tomb to finish the preparation of burying Jesus. They were in the midst of preparing their friend's body, preparing their thoughts, preparing their emotions for saying goodbye one more time and probably thinking of all the work they were going to be doing to be finished with this long road of broken possibilities of the road of life.

We like, Mary and Martha are so many times on this road with them. A road filled with potholes, crumbling surfaces, and the faded paint lines of our lives. Thank God this is not the end of the story or the end of the road. Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we saw signs along the way on our Holy Week journey that showed us the way to Christ. In our Easter Sunday worship, we celebrated that the work of our salvation is done through the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

The tomb was empty! Jesus is alive! The angel put the women to work: "Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead!" Come see! Go tell! Talk about road work ahead! The women took off running. As they ran down the road they met Jesus on the way—the crucified one himself, real and alive, living, breathing, in the flesh—and they fell down and worshiped him. The risen Lord, too, had work for them to do: "Go and tell my brothers!" Come see!—Go tell!

Jesus told the women at the empty tomb, there is road work ahead. Our job is to keep going, knowing we are not on this road of life by ourselves. Jesus Christ didn't stay in the tomb. Jesus is with us through all the different transitions we will travel through in our life.

For the next 40 days we will be on the road again with Jesus as he meets with his followers. Over and over again he will show them that he is alive—in the flesh! He will continue to be with us in our time of transition and is meeting with many of you on our road during the interim time. Jesus said to his followers, "Get to work!" He taught them about the kingdom of God. He gave them work to do: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." He proved to them that he was alive.

Get to work, he says, and remember that your work is not done in vain. Your work has meaning and purpose because I am alive! Your work of transition is an opportunity to see your faith journey in a new light, perhaps new directions and with new energy.

Blessings, Pr. Kris D. H. Ferkin

Seven young people will complete First Communion Class this week and receive First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024: **Harvey Bauer – Page Buchal – Scarlett Eggert – Hayden Hanson – Elise Haugen – Annika Haugen – Henry Kruger.**

From Intern Brittany . . .

Thank you to everyone who participated in my internship project. Seeing the project come together and add to our Good Friday worship experience was a joy. This project has meant a lot to me. Expressing our faith through creativity is how we live into gifts given to us by our creator. The gift of being creative comes directly from God, and when we can use that gift to worship God, there is a deepness to that expression that we, the created, live into being co-creators. Art as an expression of our faith connects us with a long history that goes back to the songwriters, the craftsmen, and women who decorated the tabernacle and the temple, the painters of Icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the stained-glass makers, the wood carvers, the banner makers and so many more. In this project, we joined the long line of people who worshipped God through the creation of art. I hope this project can bring more collaboration as we are ultimately one church united by Christ. Thank you once again for this experience.

I have a video on the K-W Area Church Collaboration Facebook page for those who did not see the images. I will also have the stations at the Soup Cook-Off Event on April 7th at Gol. I will also bring the images around as I come to each church in the next few weeks:

- April 7 – Grace
- April 14 – Vang
- April 21 – Holden and Dale
- April 28 – Trinity
- May 5 – Gol
- May 12 – First

~ ~ ~ E V E N T S ~ ~ ~

April 7th after Worship
FAITH+LEAD Video Series Begins
How to Take Your Next Faithful Steps

April 14th-Town Hall Meeting
 After Worship with Barb Streed
 Presentation of Ministry Site Profile



SUNDAY, MAY 5 - 2 – 4 pm
 First Lutheran Church Basement
Celebrate with Colleen Estrem
Who is turning 90 Years Young!
 Please join her and her family
 in celebrating this birthday.



COME ENJOY THE MUSIC

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
 24036 County 7 Blvd.
 Welch, MN 55089
 April 6, 2024
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

COME...be our guest!

Inspired to learn, listen, and enjoy
 how music plays a vital role in the:

Hispanic Culture



Native American Culture



African American Culture





Strengthening Hope

Cannon River Conference
 Women's Spring Event

Saturday May 11, 2024
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 500 West 3rd Street, Northfield, MN

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, PhD,

Keynote speaker at 2023
 WELCA Triennial
 Author of "Love Without Limits" and "Outlaw Christian"



Registration/Coffee 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
 Business meeting and Speaker 9:00 - 11:45 a.m.
 Noon Lunch
 Registration Fee \$15 (includes lunch)

In Kind gifts: women's period products will be collected for Rice County
 Community Action Center Food Shelf

Registration Forms Available at First Lutheran

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – March 20, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Chris Cordes

Present: Chris Cordes, Brad Nesseth, Carmen Nesseth, Candy Herrlich, Tanya Short, Lindsay Short, Elsie Braaten, Eric Hoversten, Pastor Kris Ferkin, Amy Lee

Devotions: Carmen Nesseth- Ephesians 2:10 We are God's handiwork and created to do good things. Working together we can accomplish so much more than working alone.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda Carmen/Tanya/pass.

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: As printed in the Church Newsletter.

Pastor's Report: 4 Sunday/4 Wednesday worship including Ash Wednesday; 2 funerals- Cole, Hilstad. 18 visitations including counseling, bereavement, funeral consult, pastoral care and office visits; 4 children's messages & 4 confirmation classes including one at Vang; 12 meetings including council, staff secretary, text study, education committee, Kenyon area internship committee, music committee, Cannon River Pastor meeting. Total mileage: 298 Barb Streed will provide pastoral support on Sunday 4/14.

Treasurer's Report: Giving: We were Blessed with giving in February. Note that 30% of the current giving came from one unit who gives a single gift annually. Expenses: No significant unplanned expenses in February. Attendance: Jan-Feb of 2024 is quite below the same months as compared to 2023. We are seeing an increase in March, so hopefully that trend continues. Motion to approve the consent agenda Tanya/Carmen/pass. A request was made to explore adding a giving, expenses, and attendance report back to the bulletins. Chris will discuss with Tammy and bring back to the council next month.

Youth Rep. Report: Winter sports have ended, 8 KW wrestlers advanced to the state tournament, 6 placed and Will VanEpps is a state champion wrestler! Spring sports, including trap shooting, are starting up. The speech team continues to have Meets and last week 4 from KW made it to the finals. The high school play went well last weekend, the Chamber choir and jazz band have started up, and the high school band and choir performed at large group contest recently and both groups received Superior ratings- the highest rating a judge can give!

President's Report: Barb Groth is looking to compile a list of any church records that anyone may have on their computer that would be important to back-up for safe record keeping reasons. If you think you may have something, or have questions, please contact Barb @ bmatul@mchsi.com or Chris Cordes. Discussed new church participation activities and outreach ideas. A men's or adult bible study, later start to church, new music on the last Sunday of the month, Wednesday supper/worship gatherings were all mentioned. Proposed the idea of having a detailed treasurers report once per quarter, and a condensed report at the other monthly meetings.

Continuing Business:

1. **Transition Team update:** The transition team met with Barb Streed from the synod on March 12th. She provided good feedback on our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). We are working to incorporate her edits and feedback. We will have a church town hall meeting on Sunday April 14th with Barb in attendance. We will present the MSP to the congregation (along with survey result summary). It is important to note that Barb told us the town hall meeting is to present what we are submitting. It is not an invitation to wordsmith the MSP. Unless there is a glaring issue, it will be submitted as presented. Barb will give an overview of next steps and then meet that day with the call committee to begin that process. Unfortunately, as of last week there are no Pastor candidates available for the entire synod. So, we will start/keep praying for the right person to align with our journey.
2. **Our Structure book:** The books have arrived. Council members will read chapter 1-2 and discuss at next meeting. The books will be available for others to borrow as others complete them.

Committee Reports:

FLCW-served John Shelstad's funeral on March 13; will serve brunch following Palm Sunday service on March 24th with Youth help; Love Day Ladies have begun to plan a mission event with date to be determined; Cannon River Spring event at St John's Lutheran in Northfield will be on May 11th. Titled "Strengthening Hope" with

guest speaker Dr Jacqueline Bussie PhD. **Registration sheets available in the church office, posted around church, or by contacting Candy Herrlich.**

Worship/Evangelism -3/5/24: worship service planning for March, April, May as well as Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. Styles of worship discussion and planning. Organ, speaker & hearing assistance, and usher updates. Summer Evangelism outreach-children's activity at Kenyon farmer's market once per month and assist Ed/You as needed for any campfire activities. Discussed Wednesday night services after Lent- Pastor will continue confirmation services through April and the committee recommends no Wednesday services during May. **Looking for other members to be part of this committee. If you are interested, please stop on by.** Next meeting 4/7/24

Property and Management- 3/18/24: Cost/Job estimates received from Fette Electronics to install speakers and required accessories in the front of the church, necessary wiring upgrades, and optional hearing assistance technology for members in need. Estimates for speakers and recommended components are about \$4,500. A dated outlet under the altar was replaced now featuring a long-required ground wire. On last inspection of church lift (elevator), Premier Lift recommended replacement of main 4 'load' batteries. Authorized same during next scheduled visit. New stair 'nosing' has been ordered to replace those vinyl pieces that have failed on stairways in the ed wing. New picture framing needed to display annual confirmation class pictures installed in the ed wing. Still awaiting contact from Obermeyer Organ to visit & evaluate potential church organ needs. The council discussed the quote from Fette Electronics for speakers and hearing assistance technology. A motion was made to pursue the property and management's recommendation to install the speakers, including the hearing assistance technology and minus the wireless microphones, using money for the undesignated account at the estimated cost of \$7500. Eric/Carmen/passed

Stewardship- Supported Ed/Youth committee in the Sunday Intergenerational activity where birthday bags were packed for the local food shelf (cake mix, cake/cupcake pans, frosting, candles, balloons, birthday plates/napkins, sprinkles). Delivered 17 complete birthday bags, along with 20 pounds of jars of food and canned goods to the food shelf. Welcome card was sent to one guest family for visiting our Sunday morning worship. Served several coffee times with proceeds going to Lutheran Social Services and Good Earth Village Bible Camp. Working on a membership letter that will go out to members. We are asking for updates on contact information for our church files.

Youth and Education-3/6/24: 17 birthday bags packed at packing event and delivered to the food shelf. Intergenerational bingo event held on 3/17. Escape room planned for 3/20. 7th-12th grade volunteers needed for youth to assist with serving Palm Sunday brunch. **Ditch clean up open to all members of FLC- April 21st with alternative date of April 28th.** Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. Next meeting 4/3 at 6:30pm.

KAIC- Fundraiser soup cook-off and cake auction will be held April 7th at Gol beginning at 11:30am, auction at 12:30pm.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- no reports

New Business:

1. Pr Kris will lead a 4-week video series= *How to take your next faithful steps* by Faith Lead beginning April 7th following worship
2. We received a letter from the Kenyon public library requesting to use the church lawn on Wednesday mornings this summer for children's story time. This will be the 3rd summer that they have done so. Motion to approve Candy/Eric/passed

Next Meeting: April 17, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Tanya

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Tanya/Amy Time: 9:00 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, Secretary

APRIL

2024

Faith + Lead
Next Steps
Video Series:
APR. 7
APR. 21
APR. 28

	1	2	3 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 EdYou	4 7 AA	5	6 11-1 Spring Luncheon / Music Prog. @ Spring Garden, Welch, MN
7 Easter 2 9 Worship 10 Coffee – Nxt Step Video Series 10 Sun-School 10 Worsh/Evang Mtg 11:30 – 1 KAIC Soup Fundraiser @ Gol	8 1:30 Literary Guild	9	10 5 Endowment 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation	11 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	12	13
14 Easter 3 9 Worship Pastor Barb Streed Assistant to the Bishop 10 Coffee 10 Sun-School	15 11 Town Hall Mtg w/Pastor Barb	16 7 KAIC	17 JUSTMove @ Vang Church – 6 pm Meal 7 pm Music/Poetry/ Stories for youth & adult 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7 Council	18 5:30 Sons of Norway 7 AA	19	20
21 Easter 4 9 Worship 10 Coffee Nxt Step Video Series 10 Ditch Clean-up & Pizza Lunch Bring to share--Salad or Dessert	22	23	24 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation	25 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	26	27
28 Easter 5 9 Worship Tom Ersland-Music Sun-Sch Sings 10 Coffee Nxt Step Video Series 10 Sun-School	29	30				

... may ...

CELEBRATE 90 YRS YOUNG WITH COLLEEN ESTREM – SUN MAY 5
WELCA-CANNON RIVER CONFERENCE: SAT. MAY 11 @ St. John's Northfield
BACCALAUREATE: WED MAY 15 – 7:30 @ Vang
PENTECOST/NEW MEMBER SUNDAY – SUN MAY 19

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APRIL

NEWSLETTER



**“APRIL hath
put a spirit of youth
in everything.”**

William Shakespeare