



The other day I was driving down the road to a beautiful blue and puffy cloudy day. One of those days the painters call a perfect painting day, for painting clouds as they hang there in the sky like giant marshmallows.

You see scenes like this in landscape paintings of what is referred to as pastoral setting: tranquil, idyllic, as if there was a window into what heaven might possibly be like. Our lives here on earth are just a glimpse of what heaven is going to be like. This month we are celebrating Independence Day. A reminder of the idyllic principals our founders of this nation of ours put forth as a possible slice of heaven. I was also reminded of another picture of what the slice of heaven might be like.

From Isaiah 65:17-19

*“See, I will create, new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.
I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.”*

Our theme this year for Lent was the many road signs we see along the way of our journey in life. The open road the freedom of being able to go when we want to places we want to go, unless of course there is construction or a sign to help guide us in the right direction. Those guiding principals our founders put forth and the promises God has made to us, are what keep me going down the road in the midst of things I don't understand at times...when those around me don't seem to take into consideration my needs, feelings and yearning for things to be different then what they are.

This summer we will travel with Jesus to many and various places and hear him guiding us on the road of life. Hear his version of what a slice of heaven is going to be like. Hear his guiding principals for our lives. Lastly, we hear once again how God fulfills the promises made to us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

I was visiting with someone the other day and they were sharing with me why they thought the church was still a relevant place in the world because it teaches us how to forgive one another, to care for one another. It shows us how we can bring hope to a hurting world that doesn't make sense. They said the church is not the Sierra club or the Lions or the hundreds of other clubs, which are wonderful organization, but the church is the place where we hear how the impact of eternal promise, why this makes a difference not only in this world but after this world. Jesus is very purposeful in this with the words he uses, why he does the things he does, how he helps heal the broken hearts of those who had been on the road of hard knocks, those trodden down, lives pitted with pot holes and broken promises. I was thinking of all the different roads I have traveled over the years; to all of the places those roads have taken me. Being with you on the road of transition has been a delight as I have seen the grace, blessing, forgivingness, healing, tender mercy and a little slice of heaven given to and through each other. Thank you.

Happy Independence Day,

Pr. Kris D. H. Ferkin



**VBS
at
HOLDEN**



For Kenyon Food Shelf thru July & August

Collecting food items, paper goods, personal hygiene and cash donations. Donation boxes are located at Church Entrances: narthex, handicap & office.

Help us fill those boxes to overflowing!

Information Contact – Carmen Nesseth - 507-330-5509

**FARMER'S MARKET
NEW JULY DATE**

Wednesday July 3rd
(instead of July 4th)
and, Thursday July 18th



Wednesday Outdoor
Worship, Food & Fellowship
July 10 at 6 pm
July 24 at 6 pm



ALL FLC FAMILIES WELCOME

Pool fees to be paid by FLYouth for those who do not have a Season Pass

Information Contact:
Bryana Lothert 507-210-0814

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 19, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Chris Cordes **Devotions:** Amy Lee

Present: Chris Cordes, Pr. Kris Ferkin, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Tammy Fletcher, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Eric Hoversten, Amy Lee, Tanya Short.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions Erica/Tanya/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed as printed in the May Church Newsletter. Corrected spelling of Erica's name.

Treasurer's Report: Bills exceeded donations by \$1500 in May. We currently have a (\$6900) budget variance for 2024. We continue to give thanks for regular giving and the larger, single donations that come.

Pastor's Report: 4 Sundays; 1 funeral, 1 burial. 17 visitations including counseling/bereavement, pre-marital counseling, pastoral care and office visits. 4 children's messages, 1 adult forums- How to take your next faithful steps. 12 meetings including council, Kenyon area internship committee, staff secretary, text study, Cannon River Pastor meeting, Lutheran Campus Center Board, Synod Assembly, and Festival of Homiletics. Total mileage: 495. Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday; casual Sunday with the help of Tom Erslund playing his guitar; We mourn the loss of Jim Marcuson; I met with the Marcuson family and also had a burial with the Johnson family.

Motion to approve the consent agenda Tanya/Carmen/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. Outreach and Activity Ideas: Stewardship committee is hosting a food drive in July; Wednesday evening grilling and worship will continue; council and committee members continue to brainstorm other outreach activity ideas such as Rose fest car show breakfast & outdoor movie; ice cream Sunday; adult field trip outing.
2. Call Committee: continue to interview candidates; revised some interview questions.
3. Website: Council will continue to research and review other websites; council members will complete a survey and return it prior to next council meeting.

New Items:

1. Rally Sunday: Planning for September 8th
2. Care fund request: 3 local families have recently been impacted by fire. Motion was made to make a donation from the cares fund to each of those families. Tammy/

Youth Rep. Report: not present. Some youth from First Lutheran are participating in the community theater. The performances will be June 28th, 29th, & 30th. National Youth Gathering is in July- Elsie Braaten and Luke Cordes, along with Pr Kris Ferken, will attend from First Lutheran. Several band students are receiving summer instrument lessons using First's education wing classrooms. Many youth are playing summer sports, including Will VanEpps playing for the Dundas Dukes.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- We provided workers and bars for Jimmy Marcuson's funeral on May 31st. We provided workers for Marcy Gaasedelen's funeral on June 5th. FLC women provided and served coffee hour for Sunday June 9th, celebrating Pastor Ferkin's 25th anniversary of his Ordination. Looking for ideas for a possible summer event. Upcoming Love Days @ 1:00 pm: June 27; July 11 & 25

Worship/Evangelism- Worship committee met to discuss positive changes in worship style since last fall with positive engagement from members attending in person; online views continue positively and should be included in our attendance numbers; we are grateful that many remember us with their summer offering; Need social media reminders/clarification of times for summer services on Wednesdays-1st and 3rd Wednesdays. We invite members to share with the pastor a

bread story related to their faith. We are open to new ideas for outreach and inviting the community to worship with us. Would the congregation be interested in having a musical leader? Would need to start by exploring any interest in the role.

Property and Management- committee did not meet however the following took place in regards to our church property: R.W. Draeger completed a tune-up of church organ as scheduled. We're still awaiting a visit from Obermeyer Organ to provide us their evaluation on long term organ needs. The upgrade to our church sound system has now been completed by Fette Electronics. This included new wall mount speakers, control panel and sequencer, and hearing assistance system including 4 personal receivers. Talk to ushers in the back of the church if you'd like to give this new technology a try! The old school parking lot was sprayed for weed control. With the higher-than-normal rains in the area, a number of rooms in the lower Ed Wing have experienced water problems this season. The first July Farmer's Market will be Wednesday July 3rd, due to the holiday. Council discussed the organ and agree that we should explore repairs, beginning with a second opinion by Obermeyer when they are available.

Stewardship- Stewardship will be assisting with VBS on Tuesday, June 25, snack and meal at Holden Park. July is Stewardship FOOD Drive for the Kenyon Food Shelf. Food items, paper goods and cash donations are welcome. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and at the Handicap entrance at church.

Youth and Education- VBS is June 24th-27th 9-3 pm at Holden Park. We have 6 kids participating from First. Huge thank you to our volunteers that will be helping out in person or donating food. Sunday July 21st we will be having a pool party at the Kenyon pool for all FLC families! Hot dogs, chips, watermelon and beverages at 5 pm Depot Park, then swimming until 7pm. FLC youth will cover the cost per person to get into the pool, if they do not have a pool pass. **planning still in the works**: FREE outdoor family movie night, open to the public Wednesday August 14th at 7:45 pm (following golf cart parade that kicks off rose fest weekend). Possibly have popcorn, beverages, and sweet treats for purchase. Funds will go to FLC. September 8th Rally Sunday. Looking for volunteer Sunday school teachers during the 24/25 Sunday school year. EDYou committee will have an informal meeting during the pool party in July, and back at it Wednesday August 7th at 6:30 pm.

KAIC- Brittany's last Sunday at First will be Sunday 6/23. Plan to honor her at coffee following worship. Council would like to see intern distribution of duties for each congregation be reevaluated next year. Will ask KAIC committee members to take this back to their next meeting. The intern committee is seeking housing for next year's intern.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Personnel met with our custodian for a review; Endowment approved a distribution for 2 youth for National Youth Gathering expenses.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2024 7:00 p.m. (note date change due to NYG conflict for Pr Kris)

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Amy/Tammy/pass Time: 8:36pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lee, Secretary

July

2024

	1	2	3 4-7 Farmer's Market <i>Moved fm Thurs</i>	4 7 AA	5	6
7 <i>aftr Pent Lec.14</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee	8	9 <i>Tim Bowman</i>	10 6 Wed Worship & Fellowship 7 pm COUNCIL	11 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	12	13
14 <i>aftr Pent Lec.15</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee	15	16	17	18 4-7 Farmer's Market 7 AA	19	20
	<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>ELCA National Youth Gathering – New Orleans-CREATED TO BE</p> </div>					
21 <i>aftr Pent Lec.16</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee 5-7 pm /Depot Park & Pool Party For All FLC families	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 7 pm KAIC	24 6 Wed Worship & Fellowship	25 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	26	27
28 <i>aftr Pent Lec.17</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee	29	30	31	<i>Pastor Kris Vacation: July 26 – Aug 9</i>		



LOOKING AHEAD

Wed, Aug 14 Free Family Movie Night – *details to follow*
Sun, Sept 8 Rally Sunday – *volunteer teachers needed*

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 FOREST STREET, KENYON, MN 55946
PHONE: 507-789-5261
E-MAIL: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com
WEBSITE: flckenyon.org

JULY

NEWSLETTER

*** **



Just believe.

Uplift others.

Love yourself.

You got this.