

2026 — AUGUST NEWSLETTER — FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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• *Reprint of Pastor's July Council Report* •

The Summer season is flying by quickly! Thank you for the many ways in which each one of you shows up to partner in ministry for the sake of our church, the Kenyon community, and the world around us. It has been a joy to witness our young people in particular dig into their faith through the Summer Stretch and VBS programs. Thank you to all who helped share God's love with these kids. I've also witnessed God's love being made real in so many other ways, from the ways you have shown up to care for each other to how we continue to hear and reflect together on some stories in the Bible that we don't hear too often. I'm especially thankful for having the opportunity to go and be present for my close friend on his wedding day in Singapore—thank you for your prayers and thank you to all who helped fill in when I was away. I attended church while there, and was moved to experience just how expansive God's love and grace is, that it draws us together in Christ's name with people who literally live on the other side of the world! But, we need not all go that far to experience the same Grace and Love.

Here are a handful of ways I've experienced these things in the past month here at First:

- Resumed home visits upon my return. Received gratitude for cards sent and visits made by other church members.
- Completed another great year of Summer Stretch! An average of 25 youth participated, with a little over half of that number from First. Thank you to volunteers, parents, and all who supported and prayed for our young people during these weeks of service, learning, Bible Study, and fun.
- Held Grief Support group at Angie's. Anyone is welcome to join—we all carry grief with us whether we have experienced the death of a loved one or not.
- Pivoted from Sunday morning outdoor worship to indoors—thanks to Tom Ersland for his help in leading music that morning! • No funerals over the past month! • Continued Revelation Bible Study as well as Men's Ministry group on Sunday mornings.
- Attended a virtual ISAIAH meeting with other clergy and faith leaders to discuss faithful action to help ensure our Constitutional right to a free and fair election. Working with colleagues in Goodhue County to show support for our county officials as they do this work in the months to come.
- Met with my first call group and focused our time on leadership development.
- Received preliminary information about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis: June 28-July 2, with the Table and Myle June 26-28. Priority Registration is October 21-November 11 and is \$450/person plus hotel expenses.

Like I preached on Sunday, I believe that we have been called together for this very time and place. Thank you for your energy and willingness in discerning how and where the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst to help us reflect Christ's love. I pray for our congregation, that we may continue to grow in faith and relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.

Peace, Pastor D.J.



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes – July 21, 2026

Welcome and Call to Order: Eric Hoversten @ 6:05 pm

Devotions: Carmen

Present: Pastor DJ, Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Carmen Nesseth and Sherry Sathrum

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda Carmen/ Susan/ pass

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: June giving on track. Year to date looks good also. July giving down. Anticipate that giving will not meet expenses for July. Attendance in June averaged 61.8 which is the same as last year. Expenses- nothing significant reported. Benevolence- close to full benevolence amount. Received donation to keep eternal candle lit. In the future, will provide the congregation with an update/reminder of the care fund.

Pastor's Report: REPRINTED ON NEWSLETTER PAGE 1.

Reimbursement (May 20-July 21): Expenses (\$60.21) + Mileage (\$448.05) = \$508.26

President's Report: Hot and/or stormy... It seems that the weather has gotten the best of our efforts to launch a Wednesday evening meal and worship activity; and our outdoor Sunday worship. We will continue to work toward first and third Wednesdays and pray that the weather moderates so we can gather for this mid-week fellowship ministry. Summer Stretch wrapped up last week with a very successful run of fun, mission work, worship, and connection for middle and highschoolers from around our community and others. What a great way to work together and engage our youth while they engage in the world around them. VBS also happened the week 13 - 16th. Thanks to all who volunteered to help this collaborative effort across the community; again focused on engaging and enriching our youth. As a community, we look forward to Rose Fest in August with so many things to do over the weekend 22 - 23 August; but starting on Wednesday Aug 19 with the City Cruise lineup in our parking lot, followed by the community outdoor movie at dusk-ish. Sat a.m. we will serve coffee and rolls for the early arrivers to the car show. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer to help; look for further announcements. Our congregation is still in need of a Vice President. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to express your faith through joining the work to shape the ministry of our congregation. This really is a great working team and a joy to be part of.

Ongoing items:

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process. No new updates.
2. Continued need for Vice President. Eric will fulfill obligations for summer. Will put request to prayer chain.

New items:

1. Sunday Bulletin: Discussion on hymns being printed in bulletin, per congregation member request. After discussion, decided to continue as is.

Youth Report: Not in attendance.

Committee Reports:

FLCW: We met June 7. We discussed the Cannon Valley Conference transitioning to a Leadership model and dissolving their Board of Direction. It may be possible to combine with other churches in the Kenyon area when it is time to host. Next year's Cannon Valley Conference will be at First Lutheran in Red Wing. Sept 18th 2027 from 8-2 is our SE MN Synodical Women's Conference in Rochester, MN Mt. Olive Lutheran. Our Farmer's Market event on June 18th is complete. We thank Sandy Doehling for providing haircuts, the bakers and other donors, and especially the volunteers who helped set up and clean up. VBS Meal was a success. The pizza, hot ham and cheese, and cold turkey sliders were devoured by hungry kids and adult volunteers. The counselors made an effort to thank us for the delicious meal. Many of us took Holly's pizza slider recipe home. A Quilting Celebration interest letter was sent to area churches asking for planning committee members to help celebrate the art of quilting with a brunch fellowship in Spring of 2027. Bookshelves were donated for

the puzzle room. It is progressing. Donation information will follow when it is ready. Next Meeting is Aug. 30 after service. Send agenda items to FLCW569@gmail.com.

Worship/ Evangelism: Met June 30. Discussion of summer services: Rocks are going well. Planned for outdoor service on July 12. Weather is not cooperating with Wednesday services. Mary Danieloson-Gates has finished updating the Children's Activity bags Tammy will request money from endowment to cover cost. Next meeting was scheduled for July 20th and was canceled due to no new agenda items.

Property and Management: Did not meet.

Stewardship: Sending "Thank you's" to members for sharing their time, talents and treasures with First Lutheran. Promoting Lutheran Disaster Response donations for those families who have been displaced by floodwaters, fire and provide safe and welcoming cooling spaces for those who experience life threatening conditions to extreme heat. Serving Sunday Coffee Aug. 9.

Youth and Ed: The EdYou committee did not meet this month. I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped with providing food and serving during VBS week. It was a great, busy, energetic week with 40 total kids attending from Kenyon Area churches. EdYou Committee will meet again August 12th. Upcoming events:

- Sunday August 2nd 4pm- 6pm FLC Pool Party & Grill out at Kenyon Depot park/pool.
- Wednesday August 19th Outdoor Movie (Rosefest). VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
- Wednesday August 26th- Giving garden pizzas, blessing of the backpacks.
- Sunday September 13th Worship and 1st day of Sunday School followed by outdoor breakfast.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees and KAIC: Endowment approved 12 scholarship requests and Worship Committee request for activity bags and welcome kits.

Next meeting: Monday, August 17th @ 6:00 pm

Devotions: Sherry

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Carmen /Sherry /pass Time: 7:18 pm
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Sathrum, Secretary



Stewardship Committee is encouraging members to donate to **Lutheran Disaster Response** — the ELCA's ministry to accompany disaster survivors. They are already at work with congregations, synods & local partners in affected communities. First Lutheran will be accepting donations through August 16th.

Prayerfully consider GIVING TODAY

Make check out to:
 "First Lutheran Church"
On the memo line write:
 "Lutheran Disaster Response"

Thank you for your donation!

KENYON ROSEFEST

AUGUST 19-23 2026

For more information: <https://cityofkenyon.gov>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

6pm | Grand Marshal Announcement | First Lutheran Church
 6:45pm | Town Cruise-golf carts, ATV/UTV, etc. | First Lutheran Church parking lot
 8pm | Outdoor Movie | First Lutheran lawn

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

7am-2pm | Kenyon Historical Society Garage Sale | Gunderson House
 5pm | Field of Flags placement begins |
 (for info call Mac 507-330-3050 or Paul Senjem 507-254-8302)
 4pm-5:30pm | Bike Rodeo | KW Community ED w/KPD at KPD parking lot
 6pm | Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull | Langford Avenue behind CFS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

All Day | City Wide Garage Sales | Map on City of Kenyon website
 7am-2pm | Kenyon Historical Society Garage Sale | Gunderson House
 10am-4pm | Public Library Book Sale | City Council Chamber
 12pm | KW Athletic Booster Club Golf Tourney | Kenyon Country Club
 1pm-3pm | Gunderson House Tours
 5-7pm | Hog Roast | VFW
 6pm | Rose Fest Ambassador program | under the Muni tent
 7:30-11pm | VFW Music | Indoors at VFW - all ages-no charge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

All Day | City Wide Garage Sales | Map on City of Kenyon website
 7am-10am | KVFD Pancake Breakfast | Muni
 7am-10am | Bloody Mary Bar | Muni
 7am-until gone | Rolls and coffee | First Lutheran
 8am-2pm | Old Car and Truck Show | Forest Street by VFW
 9am-3pm | Vendor & Craft Market | Forest Street by bank
 9am-12pm | Public Library Book Sale | City Council Chamber
 9am | KW Athletic Booster Club 5K Fundraiser | KW High School
 9am | Tractor Pull | Hamilton- Maring Auction Lot, Hwy 56 North of Kenyon
 10am | Kids Pedal Tractor Pull | St Michaels Catholic Church parking lot
 10am | Road Rally | Line up at CFS Elevator - \$20.00 entry per vehicle
 10am-1pm | Ladies Auxillary Lunch | VFW
 10am-5pm | Viking All School Reunion | KW High School

FAMILY FUN DAY AT DEPOT PARK

10am-2pm | Caricature artists at Depot Park-\$10 charge
 11am-1pm | Free Face painting
 11:30am - Free Magic Show-Depot Park Building
 1pm -7pm - Laser Tag
 2pm- Rose Fest Regatta-Kenyon Pool All ages, No pre-registration required.

11am-1pm | Church Luncheon | United Methodist Church
 12pm | Euchre Tournament | See the Muni Facebook page for more info
 1pm-3pm | Gunderson House Tours
 3pm | Bean Bag Tournament | Muni
 5-7pm | Family Bingo | VFW
 8:30pm-12am | Street Dance w/Mountain Ash & Chad Johnson Band | Muni
 All ages-\$10.00 cover

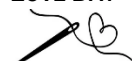
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

1pm | Grand Parade | See City of Kenyon website for parade route
 Following parade | Field of Flags Closing Ceremony | Veterans Park

AUGUST

2026

LITURGICAL SEASON: *After Pentecost* COLOR: *Green*

LITURGICAL SEASON: <i>After Pentecost</i> COLOR: <i>Green</i>							1
2 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 <i>Revelation Bible Study</i> 4-6 Pool Party	3	4	5	6 4-7 Farmers Market	7 6:30 AA	8	
9 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	10 5 Worship Committee	11	12 5:30 Outdoor Supper & Worship	13 1 LOVE DAY 	15 6:30 AA	16	
16 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 <i>Revelation Bible Study</i>	17 6 Council	18	19 6:30 TOWN CRUISE LINE UP IN PARKING LOT Outdoor Movie @ 8 pm 	20 ROSE FEST DAYS		22 SERVING MORNING COFFEE & ROLLS	
23 9 Worship 10 Coffee	24	25 7 KAIC	26 5:30 Outdoor Supper, Worship & Backpack Blessing	27 1 LOVE DAY 	28 6:30 AA	29	
30 9 Worship 10 Coffee	31						

September 13 – Rally Sunday – 1st Day of Sunday School & Outdoor Breakfast

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August

Newsletter



“Dragonflies are reminders that we are light
and we can reflect light in powerful ways
if we choose to do so.” — Robyn Nola