

# August



Siblings in Christ,

Last weekend, I was in Tulsa, Oklahoma to participate in the 2025 World of Bob Dylan Conference. This biannual conference started in 2019, and it is hosted by the University of Tulsa. Folks from across the country and some countries around the world join in to share in a few days of conversation, storytelling, and music. I first learned about this conference after I did some research at the Bob Dylan Archive, also in Tulsa, in 2018 for my undergraduate honors thesis. The conference involves a schedule filled with panelists and presenters talking about Bob Dylan from a wide variety of perspectives and disciplines. This year, we got to hear from Anna Canoni, one of Woody Guthrie's granddaughters, as she spoke about her grandpa's life, music, and legacy in folk music. She told many stories during her hour-long presentation, but the one that continues to stick with me is her telling of how a young Dylan cared for her grandpa Woody as he was fighting Huntington's Disease.

Anna spoke of how this young man, Dylan, showed up at her grandmother's house one day to ask about how to get ahold of Woody. Dylan had journeyed all the way from Minnesota to meet his hero and to learn from him. After Anna's mother, Nora (then a teenager enveloped in the latest episode of American Bandstand) closed the door in Bob's face a couple of times, her brother Arlo came to the door and welcomed Dylan in after he saw him carrying a guitar. Dylan learned that Woody was at a hospital a couple hours away, so he went to visit him there. And he kept on visiting him, sitting at his bedside, playing him music, and even going so far as to ask Marjorie (Woody's wife) if there was anything he could bring to Woody upon his visits. Dylan showed up and was present for Woody and the Guthrie family in a time where Marjorie had to work multiple jobs to keep the family afloat. He extended a ministry of presence that I—a lifelong Dylan fan—had never known he had done until now.

It's this image of being present that speaks to me, that speaks to us where we are at as a congregation in this time and place. I think of all the ways we show up for each other as well as others who aren't in our congregation—to bring meals, to call and check in, to just listen to how another person is doing. This ministry of presence is something we all can do in our own way—no matter how old or young you are. All it takes is sitting or standing or being with another person, seeing them as a beloved child of God, and helping them feel heard, especially in a world where there is so much noise. This ministry of presence speaks volumes and sits with folks, especially in times of illness, loss, and struggle. I am reminded of Jesus sitting with Mary and Martha as they grieved for Lazarus, and then Mary and Martha sitting with Jesus on the night he was betrayed: even though it felt like the world was collapsing around them, Jesus, Mary, Martha, and the disciples had each other. They had their company. They had the promise and reassurance that God would be sitting right there with them no matter what happened, no matter what might come.

So, as we continue into the month ahead, I invite us to wonder how we might continue to be present for each other—here at First, in the Kenyon community, and in the wider world around us.

In Peace,  
Pastor D.J.

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

**Welcome and Call to Order:** President Erica Aronson @ 6:00 pm

**Devotions:** presented by Erica

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

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with additions. Amy/Eric/pass

### **Consent Agenda Items:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Giving for current expense in the first half of 2025 is down over \$9,000 over the same time last year and down \$13,000 in the same time period as in 2023. First Lutheran Pledged \$7,000 in general benevolence and we have paid \$1775 as of the end of June (\$5225 remains). June 2025, although had 5 Sundays, was the lowest giving month in over 1.5 years. \$10,000 was transferred from savings to help cover current expenses. The phone and internet bill increased by approximately \$80 per month, Tammy is going to call to inquire why. Attendance numbers were down in June but did not include Wednesday evening services which have been well attended.

**Pastor's Report:** Home visits are ongoing. Hearing concerns expressed about rising cost of living, cost of medical care, and decreased access to medical services. People appreciate visits, prayers, and letters sent by folks in the congregation. **Kenyon Community Connections:** KAIC meeting on 6/24 (see KIAC committee report). Met with local clergy to discuss hosting roundtables to gather information on needs in the community and then to discuss how to collectively address these needs through advocacy and other methods. Todd Lippert, Rural Organizer for ISAIAH MN would like to come for coffee hour on August 17 to learn about our needs in Kenyon and share about his work. Open prayer on July 1 happened in the fellowship hall due to air conditioning failures. **Confirmation/High School:** Summer stretch wrapped up on July 16. 9 youth from First participated. Highlights included packing 21 boxes at Feed My Starving Children, handing out produce to folks in St Peter, sorting boxes that will go to Lambi Hospital in Tanzania, making cards for kids who are fighting illness and disease, yardwork, a scavenger hunt at the MOA, and a Lynx game! Planned some fall/winter events with Bryana and EdYou. Sending out fall plans to 7th-9th graders. Confirmation Sunday in October 26. **Synod Events:** First Call Cohort gathering on Friday, June 27. **Life Passages:** Dick Thissen Memorial Service on July 22 at 2 pm. Bowdy Haasnoot baptism on July 20. **Other:** Men's ministry bible study continues to meet. Wednesday night summer services are ongoing. Had to cancel the June 25 one due to severe weather. Blended service elements are ongoing. Thanks to all who are participating in the activity for reflection. I am in Tulsa Wednesday July 23-Sunday July 27 for the Bob Dylan conference.

June 19- July 16 Mileage (\$356.30) + other expenses (\$0). Total: \$ 356.30. This is larger than most months related to summer stretch travels. The summer stretch registration fees will help cover this.

**President's Report:** Since last meeting it has been quiet for me on the church front. I have volunteered for communion a few Sundays and I was only able to attend this past Wednesday's outdoor service due to a business trip the time before. I can tell from my kids experience they are loving the Summer Stretch program; they look forward to the email about the plans each week and have lots to talk about afterwards. As always please let me know if there is anything I can help you out with or you need to discuss.

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

### **Ongoing Items:**

1. **Organ Repair:** No updates. Obermeyer continues the work at their repair shop. No update on an estimated completion date. Costs for final construction, after the organ is reinstalled, have not yet been determined.
2. **Potential Trip to Colombia:** No update
3. **Constitution Review:** Council completed discussion regarding possible updates and changes to the constitution. Most changes were made to line up with our current practices. Agreement was reached on all points. Amy will compile all the changes and send to council members for review. There may be more required changes after the updated ELCA churchwide model constitution is available sometime in August. Final changes will be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting in January.
4. **Farmer's Market Shed Request:** There will be more information available after the next city council meeting. There is agreement that FLC council will be allowed to vote on the final shed's appearance. Kenyon Park & Rec may ask students in a KW shop class to build a shed.
5. **Cooling & Heating Systems:** Unfortunately, 2 of the AC units are leaking and end of life. Replacement will be needed soon. In addition, discussions continue about the need for boiler replacement. Costs have already risen significantly due to product price increases and tariffs. There is currently money in the general repair fund to

cover this work. There was discussion about the possibility that costs could continue to rise even further. A motion was made to replace 2 mini split AC units and 1 boiler in the education wing now. Tammy/Amy/Pass.

6. Education Wing Water Abatement: American Waterworks came and evaluated. Recommended a 3-step approach. Step 1 estimate is \$8100, which may be more if there is asbestos in the floor tiles. There has been no water since the temporary drain tile was installed this spring. A motion was made to allow the P&M committee to spend up to \$3000 on repairs, including grading and installing permanent drain tile. Eric/Erica/Pass

#### **New Items:**

1. Pickleball Court: There has been a request from a few FLC members to use a portion of the cement parking lot for a temporary pickleball court. The removable net would be provided by the players and likely stored in the yard shed. Lines would be painted on the parking lot. Discussion occurred and a motion was made to allow the SE corner of the parking lot to be used for a pickleball court. Eric/Bryana/pass

**Youth Rep. Report:** Last day of summer stretch was 7/16. 9 youth from FLC participated and everyone reports having a fantastic time. They ended the stretch attending a MN Lynx game who won against the Phoenix Mercury. Summer basketball, Legion baseball, and KW fishing club continue to participate in many summer tournaments. There will be a bingo fundraiser to benefit the Legion baseball program at the VFW on Saturday 8/16 from 5-7pm during Rose Fest.

#### **Committee Reports:**

FLCW- Will help serve Tuesday July 22 VBS treats and lunch. A flyer with information and registration forms are available in the fellowship hall for SEMN Women's organization convention to be held 9/27/25 8 am at Grace Lutheran in Waseca, MN. A flyer with information and registration forms are available in the fellowship hall for the 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial convention in Des Moines, Iowa on July 16-19 2026. Upcoming Love Day Dates: July 24, Aug 14, Aug 28.

Worship/Evangelism- Did not meet, no report.

Property and Management-The committee did not meet however the following activities took place: Continue to work with Heartman Insurance Agency in hopes of securing competitive bids for late year renewal of church property & liability policies. Reliable Heating and Cooling performed maintenance on mini-splits. Replacing lost freon gas should enable most units to perform for the summer. 2 units in main church may be in need of replacement. A bid was secured from Reliable. Reliable also provided a bid to replace heating boiler in the ed wing. Unit was acting up this past heating season. If done, boiler pump would be replaced and piping cleaned and reconfigured to make boiler more efficient. We've experienced occasional water problems in the lower ed wing following heavy rains. Council suggested and P&M secured a bid from American Waterworks to address the problem. Dehumidifier was replaced in the lower ed wing.

Stewardship- Thank you to those who donated items to the June Stewardship Challenge: 1 Month/100 pounds. We received a good assortment of needed items for the All-Seasons Food Shelf. We donated 126.8 pounds to the Food Shelf. Committee did not meet in July. Our focus for the rest of the summer will be General Benevolence. Also promote the Love offering for the SWO Convention in Waseca on September 27.

Youth and Education- VBS next week July 21-24. Thank you to Eric and Susan for hosting the counselors from GEV. FLC pool party/grill out at depot park Sunday August 3rd 4-6 pm. Outdoor movie Wednesday August 13th 8pm (rose fest). Rally Sunday, September 7. In need of breakfast donations. (Pancake mix, syrup, sausage, fresh fruit) if weather permits this will be an outdoor breakfast again!

KAIC- Met on 6/24. Voted to pay dues through the end of this year's internship cycle (June/July/August). Talked about restructuring/future planning. Next meeting is September 23.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Personnel committee provided Pr. D.J. a 6-month review and discussed his upcoming parental leave plans. Erica will begin searching now for pulpit supply for October's absence. Endowment Committee met July 9 and approved one request for funds. Next meeting for Endowment Committee will October 8.

**Next Meeting:** August 20, Time: 6 pm.

**Devotions:** Carmen

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn Eric/Carmen/pass Time: 8:05 pm

**Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

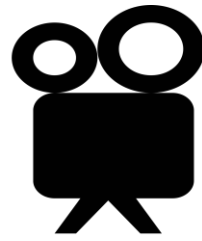


**POOL Party**  
FIRST LUTHERAN FAMILIES

**Sunday, August 3th**  
**4-6 PM**

KENYON POOL/depot park  
Hotdogs, chips, watermelon, & beverage  
served at 5 pm  
swimming until 6pm

Help with bars & cookies Requested  
Sign Up in church basement  
or E-Mail: [seshoversten@gmail.com](mailto:seshoversten@gmail.com)



Wednesday, Aug 13 - 8 pm

## Rose Fest Outdoor Movie

Helpers Needed –

*Selling Popcorn, Drinks & Cotton Candy*

Hours: 7 to 9 pm depending on task.

E-Mail: [seshoversten@gmail.com](mailto:seshoversten@gmail.com)

## ORGAN COMMITTEE

### ROSE FEST FUNDRAISER

### "ROLLS & COFFEE"



Helpers Needed to Prep & Serve:

SHIFTS: Thurs Nite 8/14 Prepare, 7-9 pm

Sat Morn 8/16 Sell, 6 am 'til rolls are gone

Sign Up in Narthex or Email [seshoversten@gmail.com](mailto:seshoversten@gmail.com)



## STEWARDSHIP & FLCW Partnering Now-to-Sept 26 Seeking –

Donation Items  
for SEMN SWO LOVE OFFERING:  
*Paper Towels, kleenex, toilet paper,  
mop, laundry soap, sponge, multi-  
purpose cleaners, cleaning products,  
antibacterial wipes, hair brush/ties,  
textured hair products, shampoo,  
conditioner, hygiene products.*  
Collection boxes are in the narthex,  
and entry way doors of the Ed Wing.

We rise up by lifting others




**RISE AND SHINE**  
breakfast DONATIONS NEEDED

Rally Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 10 am

ITEMS NEEDED:  
PANCAKE MIX, SAUSAGE LINKS, SYRUP, FRESH FRUIT

# AUGUST

# 2025



SEASON: AFTER PENTECOST

					1	2
<b>3</b> <i>a/P Lec-18</i> <b>9 Worship</b> <b>10 Coffee</b> <b>10:15 Men's Ministry</b> <b>4-6 Family Grill Out/Pool Party @ depot park</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>12-1 pm Open Prayer</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>4-7 Farmers Market</b> <b>7 AA</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>12 pm Ralph Hagberg Memorial Service</b>
August 13-17 Kenyon Rose Fest						
<b>10</b> <i>a/P Lec-19</i> <b>9 Worship</b> <b>10 Coffee</b>	<b>11</b> <b>5 pm Worship-Evangelism</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Bryant Units-Installed (all day)</i>	<b>13</b> <b>6 pm Outdoor Worship</b> <b>8 pm Outdoor Movie @ First</b>	<b>14</b> <b>1 LOVE DAY</b> <b>7 AA</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>7-11 am Rose Fest Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser</b>
<b>17</b> <i>a/P Lec-20</i> <b>9 Worship</b> <b>10 Coffee</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Pastor Gone</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6 pm Council</b>	<b>21</b> <b>4-7 Farmers Market</b> <b>7 AA</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>a/P Lec-21</i> <b>9 Worship</b> <b>10 Coffee</b> <b>10:15 Men's Ministry</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>1 LOVE DAY</b> <b>7 AA</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>2 pm Ken Wold Memorial Service</b>
<b>31</b> <i>a/P Lec-22</i> <b>9 Worship</b> <b>10 Coffee</b>	 					

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

# *August*

## Newsletter



Is it just me,  
or did June & July  
last like 5 minutes  
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