

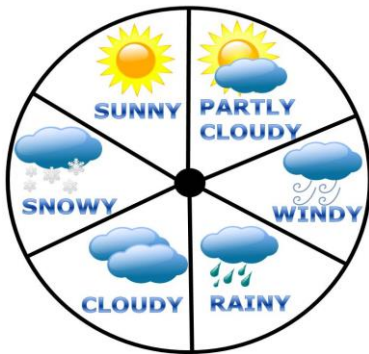
Siblings in Christ,

We're over halfway through 2025 and right in the thick of our hot, humid Minnesota Summer days. This is the time of year where I have fleeting thoughts of winter snowfalls and a desire to strap up a pair of cross country skis to hit the trails. But then I also remember how much I enjoy sitting outside in shorts and a t-shirt on a July night, listening to the sounds of Nature, people enjoying each other's company, and the crack of the baseball bat at Target Field (although this year, it's been harder to enjoy with the way the Twins are playing...) It almost seems impossible that Winter will come again, especially on days when the thermometer hits 100. Winter will come, as it always does, and we will dive into that end of the extreme less than six months from now.



Talking about the weather is something we're accustomed to doing here in Minnesota. It's a way of expressing solidarity for experiencing most of what Mother Nature has to offer, it's a way to learn more about a person (which season is your favorite and why?), and it's a way to be polite and avoid more difficult or awkward topics, especially when meeting someone for the first time. I wonder if we talk about the weather so much, too, because it offers us a constant. A repeating pattern. Something we know will always happen amidst the chaos and uncertainty that can envelop our lives. Something that reminds us that all things must pass, especially the hard days and even the best days in our lives.

HOW'S THE WEATHER TODAY?



The Weather also offers an invitation to be present—to be attuned to one's surroundings and environment. Just think how ridiculous it would look for a person to wear a parka when it's 80 degrees and sunny! We follow the weather to prepare for each day, to understand what we need to do to keep our bodies healthy, safe, and functioning. And I believe this invitation to be present is given to us from God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Who knows if God actually controls the weather, but God does show up with us as we experience it all—the perfect Summer evening, the anxiety that comes with dark clouds and strong winds, and even the days where it feels like we're swimming in air.

So, this Summer, I invite you to be present for at least a few minutes each day. Breathe. Take in your surroundings—what do you notice? What do you hear or smell or see? How does your body feel? Where is God in all of it? Perhaps in this time spent being present, you will be inspired to pray, to become more attuned to the lives and world around you, to wonder what God is up to in our lives, in our shared journey together right here in Kenyon.

Know that you are always welcome to show up and be present here at church. As usual, there is much happening in the month to come. Please look closely at the calendar for ways to engage in our community in addition to worship. And reach out to me if you'd like some more ideas on how to practice being present in your everyday life.

In Peace,
Pastor D. J.



First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 18, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Erica Aronson @ 6:03pm

Devotions: Amy: Isaiah 41:10 Finding Strength in God During Discouragement

Present: Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Amy Lee, Luke Cordes

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions. Carmen/Brad/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Treasurer's Report: Larger worship supply expense is a combination of licensures we need for livestream and church use, these are annual fees. Overall, our expenses exceeded our income but we did not yet need to dip into the reserve. June may be different. Year to date giving is under plan \$6,442.

Pastor's Report: Made a few home visits and continue to keep homebound folks in my prayers. **Kenyon Community Connections:** KAIC meeting on 5/24 (see KIAC committee report). Band student lessons have started, with schedules coordinated with Claire Larson and Annette. Attended the farmer's market on 6/5. Thanks to Sherry for hosting the Worship/Evangelism table and thanks to Heidi, Susan, and Sandy for their efforts in the organ fund table. Open prayer on 6/3. Attended the Memorial Day Sunday Service at Gol Cemetery. **Confirmation:** Summer stretch began on 6/11: 7 youth from first are participating! Looking ahead to Fall/Winter Youth Ministry Activities. **Synod Events:** Synod Assembly: Thanks to Erica for representing our congregation! Assistant to the bishop Kathy Chatelaine gave presentation during coffee hour on May 25 re: Colombia. **Life Passages:** Don Peterson Memorial Service on May 22. This was done along with Honor Guard. **Other:** Men's ministry bible study continues to meet; Wednesday night summer services began on June 4. Thanks to Chris for grilling, Erica for extra firewood, and Harris for the set-up help; Blended service elements will be tested during the Summer, beginning with a shared activity Sunday 6/22- thanks to Ed Fletcher for his handiwork. My vacation was nice and I was able to reconnect with my German host brother, Lukas, and his wife Katarina. All are invited to join in the ELCA Leadership Circle Fireside Chat, Featuring Global Mission, titled "Good Stewards of Grace." This is a webinar on Thursday July 10, 12pm, and one of the featured speakers will be Rev. Stephen Deal, one of the missionaries we sponsor. Contact me for registration. May 23-June 18 Mileage (\$100.50 + other expenses (\$0). Total: \$ 100.50.

President's Report: Attended the Synod Assembly on May 30-31; Bishop Regina Hassanally was re-elected on the 1st ballot. Handed out diplomas at KW graduation on 6/1. I was able to hand diplomas to 3 of our FLC youth.

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

Ongoing Items:

1. Organ Repair: The work has started and the rest of the organ pipes will be removed the week of 6/23.
2. Potential Trip to Colombia: Colombia presentation was shared by Kathy Chatelaine, assistant to the bishop, on 5/25. We are waiting on word of other groups we could travel with and also the status of future travel conditions.

New Items:

1. Farmer's Market Shed Request: Kenyon Parks & Rec has reached out to ask that FLC allow the city to place a garden shed, that the city will purchase, on our property. The shed will store items used at the Farmer's market. The request also included a thank you for the use of the parking lot. Erica will follow up to assure FLC council will be able to approve the look of the shed (a picture), the shed would be placed at the far Northeast corner of the property on the gravel lot, and reiterate that the church will hold no liability over the shed or any contents subject to damage or theft.

Youth Rep. Report: School is out and summer activities have started. The softball and baseball teams both lost in their first round of play-offs, but the summer legion baseball team travels to Ely for their annual tournament this weekend. Girls and Boys basketball also traveled to their annual summer tournament in

Wisconsin Dells this week. State Trap was held in Alexandria last week, and the fishing team has participated in a few tournaments already. Some KW students made it to state for track, including Mali Quam for 300 hurdles. Luke Cordes plans to complete his Eagle Scout project this week, he has been doing work for the City of Kenyon and Kenyon Police, ask him about it! Summer stretch has kicked off. Last week we worked for the Hope Center in Faribault and then went to the water park (it was cold, their heater was broken!). This week we created cards for kids, then hiked Nerstrand woods and got ice cream at the Blast in Northfield. Next week we will work at Global Health Ministries and then go to the Art Institute, then in two weeks Feed my Starving Children and go to the Mall of America theme park.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Will merge food prep groups to one group to support church events. FLCW will continue with lefse making in November with Susan leading the project. We voted to support Susan to determine the number of knives needed and to purchase Universal sheaths. Tabled fund raising until fall. Updated upcoming events. The SEMN synod convention will be 9/27 and the Triennial Gathering will be in Des Moines, IA July 16-19 2026. Information and sign-up forms can be found for both events in the fellowship hall.

Worship/Evangelism- Did not meet, no report.

Property and Management- Committee met on June 3rd with all members present. Pews were removed and grand piano relocated readying area up front for the organ restoration to begin. Since then, the facade covering the organ workings too has been removed and the project is underway. Other items worked on this month * 'Old' school parking lot sprayed for weeds. * Drain tile runs set up to catch water off church roof in order to evaluate whether it might alleviate occasional water issues in lower ed wing. American Waterworks is scheduled to come evaluate on 6-19. *Contractor visit to further evaluate possible boiler updates set for 6-25. The drinking fountain remains on backorder. * With assistance from Harris Haugen, have requested additional insurance proposals/quotes from independent insurance agency prior to late year policy renewal.

Stewardship- Several Stewardship members donated items/time for the Pop-up Shop at the Farmers Market. So far in June, 27 pounds have been donated for the June Stewardship Challenge. 1 Month/100 pounds. Thank you to all who have donated. Some items the Food shelf said they could use are canned chicken, Spam, coffee, Jelly, tomato soup, pudding, apple sauce, Depends (medium and XL size). Received a letter from Habitat for Humanity. Will explore how we can help.

Youth and Education- Past events: Planted the giving garden- thank you Heidi Haugen for putting this together! Upcoming events: Good Earth Village VBS camp July 21-24 at Depot Park in Kenyon. Sunday August 3rd- FLC grill out/pool party- more info to come. Rose Fest- Outdoor movie August 13th 8 pm (we will need more volunteers for this event). We are working on the 25/26 Sunday school calendar; we will be extending Sunday School further into May. As always, we need volunteers to help teach.

KAIC- Met and completed Vicar Yvonne's final evaluations and farewell. Future financial contributions from each congregation were not discussed.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Personnel committee working to set a time to provide Pr. D.J. a 6-month review. Endowment will meet next on July 9th.

Next Meeting: July 16th Time: 6pm

Devotions: Erica

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Carmen/Candy/pass Time: 7:04 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

JULY

2025



SEASON: After Pentecost (a/P)		1 12-1 Open Prayer	2	3 7 AA 4-7 Farmers Market	4 Have a Safe 4th	5
6 a/P Lec-14 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	7	8	9 5 Endowment 6 Outdoor Worship - BYOC 6:30 EdYou	10 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	11	12
13 a/P Lec-15 9 Worship 10 Coffee	14	15	16 6 Council	17 7 AA 4-7 Farmers Market	18	19
20 a/P Lec-16 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	21	22 7 KAIC	23	24 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	25	26
		Vacation Bible School			Pastor Gone	
27 a/P Lec17 9 Worship 10 Coffee	28	29	30 6 Outdoor Worship - BYOC	31 7 AA		

COMING IN AUGUST: Sunday August 3 - Grill Out/Pool Party
 Wednesday August 13 - 8 PM Rose Fest Outdoor Movie – Help Needed
 Kenyon Rose Fest August 13 - 17

If you crossed a Patriot with a curly-haired dog, what would you get?
 A YANKEE POODLE!

If ant hills are High in July, the coming winter will be hard.
 AMERICAN FOLKLORE

July is hot enough to make us miss winter.
 UNKNOWN

I LOVE JULY !

JULY IS...



JULY IS

hollyhocks and hammocks,
fireworks and vacations,
hot and steamy weather,
cool and refreshing swims,
beach picnics, and vegetables
all out of the Garden.

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JULY IS

fireworks
& flip flops,
hot dog eating contests
& stars and stripes,
grilling out
& fireflies.

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JULY IS

July is not just a month;
it's a melody of
sunshine and laughter,
a song sung by the
summer breeze.

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WHAT IS JULY TO YOU?
MAKE YOUR OWN LIST
THEN ENJOY !
