



Faithfulness

REPRINT OF PASTOR'S JUNE REPORT TO COUNCIL

Summer is here and life is busy in our congregation and in the wider Kenyon-area community! This past month saw us bid Godspeed to our graduating seniors, begin another fun year of Summer Stretch, and welcome another season of the Farmer's Market. I give thanks to God for the ways we are present for each other and in the community, as we remain rooted in our identity as followers of the Risen Christ and open to the ways we might be called to share in God's love. We have begun a Summer Sermon series that reflects this calling: Faithfulness like a Rock. We are exploring through stories in Scripture and different translations how people have tried their best to live faithfully, as we do, and how God's Grace ultimately holds us all and the whole world. I am excited for how the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst as well as how she might show up to surprise us this Summer and beyond. I am grateful for your faithfulness as a congregation and your willingness to dig into our life in faith together. Here are some other updates from the past month:

- Made many home visits. Heard appreciation for online worship as well as visits made and cards sent by others in the congregation.
- Wrapped up another year of Confirmation with a fun night with pizza and pickleball. I am coordinating with Pastor Dwaine and other area churches on more joint Confirmation programming for next year to help sustain the energy we are building during Summer Stretch.
- Held Grief Support group in Northfield. Anyone is welcome to join—we all carry grief with us whether we have experienced the death of a loved one or not.
- Life passages: Frank Peterson Celebration of Life, Leroy Ashland Graveside service, Pete Ellingson Celebration of Life. Thank you to staff and FLCW work group for your hospitality.
- Continued Revelation Bible Study as well as Men's Ministry group on Sunday mornings.
- Led the Opening Prayer for the Rolling Thunder Memorial Day Prayer Service held at Gol.
- Planned Wednesday Night Outdoor Services. First one was cancelled due to hot, muggy weather. Thanks to Erica Aronson for volunteering to lead the one on June 24 when I am away.
- Set up Blessing Box and Little Free Library with the Summer Stretch group. Thank you to Bryana, the EdYou Committee, volunteers who helped prep the holes and stands, and Josh Lurfald for your help! Donations to the blessing box will be accepted inside at church or can be placed right in the box.

Thank you for showing up to be the church in times like these. I have witnessed so much life and Spirit-movement in our congregation since the turn of the calendar year especially, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit has planned for us over the rest of the Summer and in the months to come. As always, know that my door is open—I am here to help lead our discernment process together as we continue to follow Christ in 2026 and beyond.

Peace,
Pastor D.J.



First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 16, 2026

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

Devotions: Tammy

Present: Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Brad Nesseth, and Sherry Sathrum

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions to discuss Farmer's Market request by Brad. Brad/Tammy/ pass

Pastor's Report: *Moved to Newsletter Front Page*

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Giving trend improved in May. May want to look at long-term planning as trends in giving are changing. Expenses are going well. Quarterly insurance payments are appreciated. Paid licensing/ podcast/ copyright have been paid. Benevolence has met its commitment. Average attendance for May is 61.8 compared to last year's 61.5. Year to date attendance average is 63.5 with last year's 64.3.

President's Report: Summer is off to a frenzied start. Thanks to the many from our Congregation who participated in the Memorial Day weekend activities throughout our community. These activities that cut across the whole of our community are part of the rich traditions we hold on to. For some an essential part of grieving and healing from tragic loss; and for others a means to recognize the sacrifice others have made to preserve the freedom we hold dear. Congratulations to all of our students who have completed another year of school, including our college scholars; especially those who have completed and graduated from this phase of learning. And gratitude to the many teachers who make it so. The familiar sound of our pickle-ballers has returned to the parking apron. Huge thanks to Brad and the Property team for painting out a second court for the group to use. The group is excited to teach anyone new who wants to learn - don't be shy. Summer brings many new programs and ministries to our congregation. It is exciting to see them launch. We started June with the grand opening event for the Kenyon Farmers' Market - which was well attended by both vendors and the community. First provided the concession for the evening and we were able to raise over \$700.00. FLCW put out the remaining clothing items from the Spring Garage Sale and they raised over \$250. We also debuted our new banner making sure those who saw our work knew who and how to connect with us. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet, greet, and interact with so many from our community; and connect with each other in service. So much thanks to Brianna and Susan for their part in pulling it all together, the great volunteers who turned out to do the work, and any who stopped by to support us or converse. We may do this again if the city needs a fill-in through summer so stay tuned for a second chance to join the fun. Summer worship got off to a rough start due to the poor weather on June 10... so hot and humid. Yuck! We'll re-engage the schedule and hope for better weather on our next summer worship night. The integration between Sunday-Wednesday in our summer sermon series will really connect worship throughout the week. We are always in need of new hands to help serve the light meal we provide as part of this experience. Let Worship, Pastor, or anyone from Council know if you want more details on how to help. Summer Stretch got off to an amazing start! Much thanks to Pastor and his work with other area churches. The first Stretch event had 25 participants, a nice increase from last year. During the first event, the participants assembled and installed the Little Free Library and the free pantry on the north-east lawn of the church. It will be fun to see these get filled with gifts and put to use. So many in our community depend on the schools for food security - and this gets harder when they are not in session. Here is a place where folks in need can go to get a snack or small bite to hold them over. Look for donation boxes around the church, or put items in the pantry direct. This is another great way for our congregation to address food security issues in our community. Back to Stretch; the Pastors have an exciting line up of similar service and even some fun lined up through the summer. If you missed the first week, I am certain that you can join the next. And if you made the first; consider inviting a friend. And one more point on Stretch - thanks to the Lerfald family and the others who joined in for doing the site prep and setting the mounting posts for the library and pantry. First will have a vendor booth at the June 18 Farmers' Market for anyone to donate crafted or baked items. Sandy Doehling is going to offer free haircuts again this year in the Ed Unit basement. There is a sign-up for help/donations; but you can also just drop in. And, don't forget to come to the Market to shop... I know there are always lots of treasures; and a few yummy goodies. Vacation Bible School in July will be fast upon us. We are again joining with area churches and partnering with Good Earth Village. First will host VBS on site this year in light of past weather and space issues encountered at the Depot in past years. Sign up, Bring a friend. FLCW is supporting the lunch and snack for one day again this year - sign-ups are out. And we are looking for a host family for the 2 - 4 Councilors that Good Earth brings to town to run the week. See Brianna if you are willing to open your home to 1 or more college age students from around the world. We are still in need of a Congregation Vice President. Church Council has such an intimidating sound to it; but I assure you that is not the case. Council is an excellent way to serve the congregation and community. And far more "easy going" than you imagine. One of the enduring obligations of a congregation is to

sustain its governance - wow; talk about intimidating... If you find yourself interested in joining in to help guide and shape our ministry to each other and the community, please let me know and I am happy to share more on its rewards.

Ongoing items:

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process. No new updates.
2. Sanctuary Screens: Last weekend went well with Peyton helping and thanks to Mary Danielson gates for providing the printed words. Shae Electric was paid.
3. Continued need for Vice President. Eric will fulfill obligations for summer.

New items:

1. Pickle ball participants requested additional ditch clean up to be sponsored by First Lutheran. Discussion followed. No motion to approve pickle ball entity to sponsor ditch clean-up/no action.
2. Disbursement of Farmer's Market profit (\$705.00) from serving meal. Will place in Budget Reserve. Motion by Sherry/ Brad/ passed.
3. Farmer's Market: Brad received a request from Farmer's Market to utilize First Lutheran's electricity for Basileo's pizza truck. After discussion, it was determined to ask the city for electricity access due to First Lutheran's limited capacity.

Youth Report: Not in attendance.

Committee Reports:

FLCW: Met June 7. New Business: KAIC Soup reimbursement. Susan requested reimbursement of about \$58.00 for groceries. Motion made and approved: Jill/Sherry. Cannon River Conference: Susan and Carmen attended and donated \$60.00 (Love Day and local charities). Motion to reimburse made and approved: Farmer's Market on 6/18: Requesting donations. Susan will have sign up list for helpers. Cannon River Conference luncheon: voted to dissolve board with decision to disburse luncheon to local churches. Luncheon will be hosted in Red Wing next year. Quilt celebration in March and asking for a leader. Puzzle swap room: Discussed to have a more intentional space with a puzzle set up. First Lutheran is hosting Vacation Bible School and is responsible for meal on 7/14. Susan will post sign-up sheet for food donation and workers. Still looking for host family for volunteers. Open discussion regarding FLCW responsibilities. Sherry reminded group that when the committees were dissolved, it was discussed that each "event" would have a leader with helpers as she felt the burden is falling on Susan for all events and activities. No resolution.

Worship/ Evangelism: Did not meet. Notes from May meeting provided.

Property and Management: Happenings in and around our building: Premier Lift conducted state mandated biannual inspection. No deficiencies were noted nor repairs necessary. Minor maintenance and adjustments completed on 2 mini-splits. Over all should be in pretty good shape to serve our summer cooling needs. Rock surrounding the church, joints in all sidewalks and monument area treated with herbicide to control grass and weeds. Still waiting on minor changes to be made to ed wing eavestroughs for a more permanent solution to water problems experienced.

Stewardship: Stewardship committee met on June 14. We talked about supporting the congregation in current activities: The farmers market is looking for volunteers and donations; Congregation members could donate one item each to the blessing box or to the little library; writing thank you notes for those who volunteer by making food, giving or donating their time; Possible Sunday morning coffee hosting or helping with a Wednesday worship meal; vacation Bible school is looking for help with meals on the evening of Tuesday, July 14; And the FCW is looking for leaders to help with organizing the quilting extravaganza during March 2027; next meeting: Sunday, July 12.

Youth and Ed: Not present. No report.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees and KAIC: did not meet.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 21 @ 6:00 pm

Devotions: Brad and Carmen

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Tammy /Sherry /pass. Time: 7:13 pm
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Sathrum, secretary

Pollinator Week

Zoom in on the small transaction that keeps landscapes alive: a butterfly on a yellow flower, sipping nectar. While it feeds, pollen dusts its body and hitches a ride to the next bloom—one of the quiet ways flowering plants reproduce. Pollinators are not only bees. Butterflies, birds, bats, beetles, and many others help move pollen, supporting wild plants and many of the fruits and vegetables we eat.

That's the idea behind Pollinator Week, a yearly reminder to notice these species and protect the habitats they need. In the United States, scientists are tracking butterfly trends because insects are declining in many places, and butterflies are among the best-studied groups. The fixes are practical: plant nectar-rich, preferably native flowers; include host plants for caterpillars; and cut back on pesticides. Start with one sunny patch. Then look again. If a butterfly chooses your flowers, you've built a tiny runway for life. [POSTED JUNE 24]



July is...

...where sunshine meets freedom”

“... a blind date with summer”

HAL BORLAND

“...a picnic
and a red canoe
and a sunburned neck
and a softball game.

“...a time to enjoy the
little things like
starlight, fireflies,
and popsicles.”



Small things to love about July...



Warm summer
night under a
clear sky



Bikini & the
beach



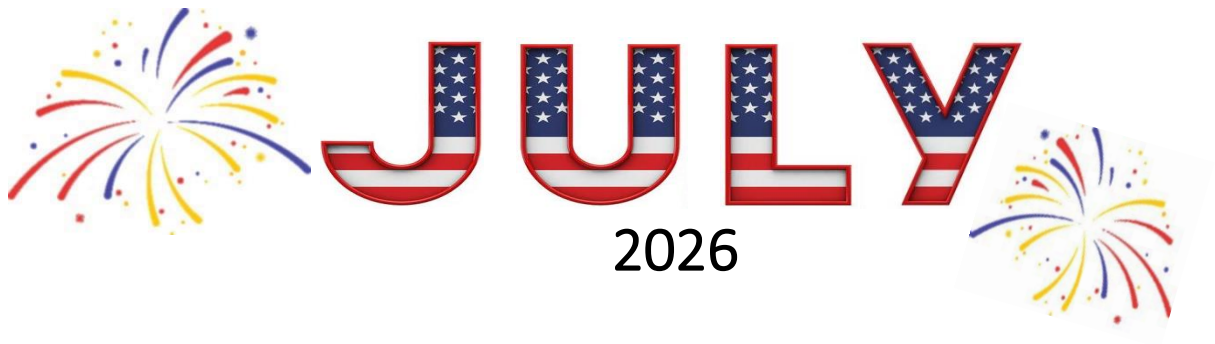
Long daytime to
enjoy outdoors

Freedom, liberty
& Independence



Energy to do
what you love

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JULY

2026

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

			1 SUMMER STRETCH	2 4-7 Farmers Market	3	4
5 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	6	7 2 Grief Support @ Angie's	8 SUMMER STRETCH 5:30 Outdoor Supper & Worship	9 1 LOVE DAY 	10	11
12 9 OUTDOOR WORSHIP *Stewardship Mtg	13	14	15 SUMMER STRETCH	16 4-7 Farmers Market	17	18
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9 AM TO 3 PM DAILY					
19 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	20	21 6 Council	22	23 1 LOVE DAY 	24	25
26 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	27	28	29	30	31	

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July

Newsletter

