



March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the light of the Risen One,

Spring greetings to all of you. For those of us in climates now emerging from the cold of winter, it's time to reconnect with neighbors who have been in hibernation, to reconnect the grill, and reconnect the garden hose. It's a time to rediscover your kid's rollerblades, baseball gloves, bike helmets, basketballs, frisbees and dust off the picnic benches along with everything else that went missing last November. The other day I saw the raking going on. Ah, spring is in the air.

With each change of season outside, sometimes there are changes inside. First Lutheran is moving into one of those changes of its own this spring. The Easter season will arrive with the warming weather and the love of God through the Risen one, Jesus the Son. In this season of reflection of what was, to see what is, and move forward to what is to come, as a community gathered around God's Word and Sacraments answering God's call here in this place.

Perhaps the theme this year is reconnecting, recharging, rediscovering, reanimating, realigning, rediscovering and ultimately living as post-Easter people in the resurrection. The congregation will continue to explore what God is calling the congregations to do and be, as groups, and as individuals. The congregation will continue to reflect on the many experiences –the good and the challenging- the congregation has had, as various groups, teams, committees, taskforces, ministries, individually and personally here. You are invited to partake the many activities of reflection and discernment in the months to come as the congregation enters into the transition phase the Call Process. In April, we are going to be offering the Faith-Lead Video series, How to Take Your Next Faithful Steps, on Sunday after church. This series is offered by Luther Seminary.

As you journey together, you will come to realize God's presence has been with you and continues to be with you, and guide you, as the congregation moves forward on your journey. You will reflect on how these experiences with one another, the encounters with God have been preparing you for things you would have never imagined. The path from there to here, and there again, may not all make sense in the moment you are living through it; because you may be emotionally tired, physically not where we would like to be or used to be. You might be spiritually dry and yearning for more but, wherever your reflection on the path may be at the moment you have a God who continues to give a fresh start each day, week, month and year. Through the continued pouring out of love, grace and mercy. You have a God who is faithful and promises to give you what you need when you ask, and provide for you in your time of need.

I will be continually praying for you as you dedicate yourselves to answering the call of reflection, reanimating, realigning, reconnecting and lastly recommitting ourselves to answering God's call to sharing the life changing love and grace of Jesus Christ to the world.

In Light of the Resurrection, Pr. Kris D. H. Ferkin

Brittany Mailleue - Kenyon Area Internship Cluster Intern 2023-2024

Can you believe it's already March? As we get closer to Good Friday on March 29th, I am excited to keep working on your art projects with you all. After further conversation with the pastors involved in the Good Friday service, I am excited to inform you that these pieces will be used in our worship service. For those unable to attend, I will photograph and produce a brief service I will share with you all through the K-W Area Church Collaboration or email. This is just a reminder that the end date for when the piece needs to be completed and given to me is March 25th. If you want to get involved, email me at intern.kaic@gmail.com. If you prefer to use the phone, call or text me at (570) 601-7131, and I will point you in the direction of who is taking on the project for your church and when they are meeting. Peace, Brittany.

Happenings in March ~~ Please See Calendar! Look For... Soup Suppers & Lenten Worship, Daylight Savings Time Begins, Bell Choir, Intergenerational Bingo, FLCW & Youth Palm Sun Brunch, Youth Escape Room Challenge, First Communion Class/Meal, Maundy Thursday Worship, Good Friday Community Worship at Holden, Intern Brittany's Stations of the Cross Project....(wow) AND THEN IT'S EASTER!

LOOKING AHEAD ~ APRIL & MAY

April Sundays – after worship

Watch For: Faith-Lead Video Series: *How to Take Your Next Faithful Steps*

Sun Apr 7 – 11:30 to 1:00

KAIC Soup Fundraiser @ Gol
Auction at 12:30

Sun Apr 21 – 10 am

Ditch Clean Up for ALL members.
Followed by Pizza Lunch –
Bring: salad or dessert to share.
Alternate Date: Mar 28

Sun May 5

10 am – Last Day of Sunday School.
11-2 pm - Year-End Party at Belle Creek Roller Rink.
All are Welcome. Walking Tacos.

Sun May 12 – Mother's Day

Senior Recognition Sunday
Youth Caramel Roll Fundraiser

Sun May 19 – Day of Pentecost --- share Geraniums & Wear Red

2024 EASTER PLANT SLIP ☐ ☐ ☐ If you would like a plant in Church for Easter in Honor or Memory of a loved one, please purchase your own and deliver to the church. A Plant List will be made. Please fill out a SLIP – leave in the offering plate (or) bring to church office, (or) e-mail firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com **BY SUNDAY, MARCH 24 (Palm Sunday)**

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF (*circle one*): _____

GIVEN BY: _____

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – February 21, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Chris Cordes

Present: Chris Cordes, Erika Aronson, Brad Nesseth, Carmen Nesseth, Tanya Short, Lindsay Short, Elsie Braaten, Tammy Fletcher, Bryana Lothert, Eric Hoversten, Pastor Kris Ferkin, Amy Lee.

Devotions: Brad Nesseth- Genesis 1: 31- We are called to move and also to rest for short periods. God's creation is in motion.

Approve Agenda: Changes to move the youth co-reps report to follow Pastor's report. Motion to approve the agenda with changes: Tanya/Carmen/pass.

Secretary's Report: As printed in the Church Newsletter. Motion to approve the Secretary's report: Erika/Tanya/pass.

Treasurer's Report: January expenses exceeded income by close to \$4000. Worship attendance was down considerably compared to January 2023. Missionary sponsorship commitment in the 2024 budget is \$3500 (down from \$10,500 in 2023). A motion was made by Carmen to continue to support all 3 previously sponsored missionary units, dividing the funds equally 3 ways. Second by Tammy, motion passed. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report: Carmen/Amy/pass

Pastor's Report: 4 Sunday/4 Wednesday worship; 15 visitations including counseling, bereavement, pre-marital, pastoral care and office visits; 4 children's messages & 4 confirmation classes; 11 meetings including council, staff secretary, text study, education committee, Kenyon area internship committee, interim meeting in Kasson, and the Cannon Rivers Pastors conference. Total mileage: 318.

Youth Rep. Report: The KW actors will perform "The Adams Family" on March 9th and 10th. Elsie Braaten will post informational flyers at the church. There is a discount for tickets purchased in advance. The KW speech team and knowledge bowl team have been active and attending regional events. The KW boys basketball and girls basketball teams are wrapping up their regular seasons this week; the KW wrestling team participated in sections last weekend and were eliminated but wrestling continues as individual sections begin Friday 2/23. Two youth from First Lutheran will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. A planning meeting of combined area youth was held at Vang Lutheran on Sunday 2/18. Watch for future fundraising to come.

Continuing and New Business:

1. Transition Team update: The transition team's work is complete and the ministry site profile (MSP) is ready to be presented to Barb Streed, assistant to the bishop. The transition team is scheduled to meet with Barb on Tuesday March 12th. The MSP will be sent to the congregation and a town Hall meeting will be scheduled following her review, recommendations, and potential updates. The call committee will activate immediately following that future town hall meeting.
2. Farmer's Markets: First Lutheran was approached on behalf of the Kenyon Parks & Rec committee who is asking to again use the parking lot for 2024's Farmer's markets. The markets will be held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the Month beginning June 6th and ending October 3rd. Motion to allow the Farmer's Market to be held in First Lutheran's parking lot: Tammy/Carmen/pass
3. Changes to meeting agenda, Council procedures, Our Structure book: Pres Chris is reading Our Structure, a book by Rev Brian Hughes about Congregational Leadership. He is interested in exploring potential changes to our meeting structures and agenda writing. He encourages committee members to read the book. Tammy will order 6 copies of the book to belong to First Lutheran and be shared.
4. Usher List: Continue to work to create a list of ushers. There is a sign up in the back of the church and Tammy has an old list of interested members. Chris and Tammy will connect with Don Herrlich to work to finalize the list
5. Membership List: The stewardship committee is going to work on an updated membership list. Watch for a letter to come from them in March.
6. Speakers in front of the church: Fette Electronics is scheduled to come on 2/28 to advise on possible installation of speakers in the altar area of the church to aid those conducting services. Hearing assistance for those in need within the congregation will also be considered.

7. Computer Data Back-up: The tech team is interested in exploring a secure back-up of all First Lutheran business data that may currently be present on multiple different devices. Chris will connect with the tech team to develop a plan to request data.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Reviewed and discussed changes in the structure of FLCW to combine previous committees into the Mission Action Committee to balance responsibilities. Discussed communion set up, valentine cards, KW choir waffle feed, Lenten suppers, possible summer event, and kitchen cleaning. **FLCW will prepare Palm Sunday Brunch on 3/24.**

Worship/Evangelism - Some Evangelism calls have been made. Discussed possibility of a care team which would provide “ears to the ground” about pastoral care needed. Would need to recruit members. Discussed sign up book- Pastor Kris has agreed to facilitate passing of the book. Confirmands are helping with Wednesday evening Lent services and Pastor Kris is also requesting a cantor. Palm Sunday and Easter needs: plan for kids to march in and out with palms on Palm Sunday, 9 readers needed for Passion Reading on Maundy Thursday (3/28) which will also include first communion for 5th graders. First communion class will be on Saturday 3/23 and the Seder meal on 3/24. Next meeting 3/5 at 5:30 pm.

Property and Management - * Thanked committee members for continued snow and ice removal of walks and parking lot. * Kenyon Farmers Market group has again requested use of our church parking lot on 1st & 3rd Thursdays beginning in June running thru October 3rd. * Looking for framing material to install on Ed Wing wall to continue to display annual pictures of our confirmands. * Looking for materials to replace failing stairwell nosing. * Awaiting visit from Fette Electronics to advise on possible installation of speakers in altar area of church to aid those conducting services. Hearing assistance for those in need within the congregation will also be considered. * Currently have recommendation and cost estimate to refurbish church organ. Have now reached out to a second organ repair company for thoughts and possible estimates as well. * Discussed church kitchen flooring - is it in need of replacement (?) * With storage shed now in place on east side of Ed Wing, look forward to installing rock & edging this spring.

Stewardship - We met to discuss goals and activities for this year. We want to share God’s Love through Stewardship and help the congregation associate Stewardship with God’s mission rather than just paying the bills. Our February activity was “Souper Bowl of Caring” raising funds for ELCA World Hunger. Thank you to all those that contributed to tackle hunger! \$501.00 was donated. In March we will be composing a letter for our membership update.

Youth and Education - Sunday School students will sing every 4th Sunday; **Intergenerational Activity** in the Fellowship Hall- **February 25th** at 10am. Birthday Bag Packing Party. Donations from the congregation are requested and bags will be delivered to the Kenyon Food Shelf. Lenten soup suppers continue on Wednesdays during Lent, please sign up to help on the sheet in the fellowship hall; **March 17th-Intergenerational Bingo**; March 20th- Escape room for 7-12th graders; March 24th- Palm Sunday brunch provided by FLCW needing 7-12th grade volunteers. Activity planning for April-August also begun. Next meeting 3/6 at 6:30 pm.

KAIC- no report

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees - no report

Next Meeting: March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Carmen

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Amy/Erika/Pass Time: 8:40pm

Closing with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lee, Secretary

March 2024

The Lion &
The Lamb



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3 Lent 3 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun.School	4 6:30 Bell Choir Practice	5 5:30 Worsh/ Evangelism	6 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Lenten Worsh ³ 6:30 EdYou	7 7 AA	8	9 DST TIME  Spring Ahead!
10 Lent 4 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun.School	11 1:30 Literary Guild	12 6:30 Bell Choir Practice	13 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Lenten Worsh ⁴	14 1 Love Day 7 AA	15	16
17 Lent 5 9 Worship – <i>Bell Choir Plays</i> 10 Coffee 10:15 <i>Intergenerational BINGO</i>	18	19 7 KAIC	20 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Lenten Worsh ⁵ 7:00 Council Mtg <i>7-12 Gr. Youth Escape Room Challenge</i>	21 5:30 Sons of Norway 7 AA	22  Newsletter Deadline	23
24 Palm Sunday 9 Worship - <i>Sun Sch Sings</i> 10 FLCW Brunch <i>*need youth volunteers</i> <i>Youth Palm Activity</i>	25	26	27 NO WED WORSHIP NO CONFIRMATION <i>5:30 First Commu- ion Class & Meal</i>	28 Maundy Thurs 1 Love Day 6:15 Worship 7 AA	29 Good Friday 7 Community Worship ----- <i>Stations of the Cross Intern Project</i>	30

31 EASTER 9 Worship (No Sunday School) 
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Hooray! 17 Birthday Bags made
for Food Shelf on Feb. 25

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M A R C H

N E W S L E T T E R



SPRING
Is Coming!