



~ Reprint of Pastor's August Council Report ~

Grace and Peace to you all as we find ourselves near the end of the Summer season! This week, our congregation will help host the biggest community event of the year: Rose Fest. It is great to experience how involved our congregation is in the life of the Kenyon-area community, as we do our best to extend the love we've first received from God through Jesus Christ. While we are out and about in the community this week and in the days to come, my hope is that we continue to show this welcome to folks we encounter—whether they are old friends or new neighbors to us. This ministry of welcome, of being present, and of inviting folks to join in what we are already doing together is a key way to both extend the peace of Christ and to expand the good work we are already doing together in God's name. You never know, we may see some new faces showing up in worship on Sunday mornings too! I'm looking forward to what the next month will bring together, from the start of another school year to Rally Sunday.

I also look forward to sharing more updates of my ministry such as these:

- Made ongoing home visits and continue to value the wisdom and stories shared from folks in all stages of life.
- Continued Revelation Bible Study as well as Men's Ministry group on Sunday mornings.
- Carried on with our Summer Sermon Series, "Our Faith is Like a Rock: foundational stories of faithfulness in Scripture," and featured readings that don't usually show up in the lectionary cycle.
- Thank you to Mary Danielson Gates for her help in putting the slides together during worship, and to all who have stepped up to run the slides!
- Met with Tyler Haasnoot and Emma Crouse to plan their wedding scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at 3 pm at First.
- Continued to plan a joint Confirmation curriculum with Pastor Dwaine (Grace & Dennison) as well as Pastor Dustin (Holden & Dale). Looking forward to this opportunity to collaborate and have a more robust program for our young people.
- Organized clergy colleagues in Goodhue County to show gratitude for our County officials in their work of following state election law, and engaged in conversation on ways to support them in this important work prior to last week's board meeting.
- Met with my first call group (today) in Saint Peter. I continue to value this time for leadership development and formation.
- Attended Pool Party—thanks to the Ed You Committee for your work hosting this event!
- Reminder of 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.

Thank you for your accompaniment in this ministry we get to share together. I continue to pray for each one of you, that we may continue to be joined together like a great tapestry—each thread unique, and all coming together to create something incredible to bless and care for so many.

Peace, Pastor D.J.

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – August 17, 2026

Welcome and Call to Order: Sherry Sathrum @ 6:34 pm

Devotions: Sherry

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

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

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's report: Reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy provided detailed report. Giving was down in July. We are holding well with expenses. We have exceeded the general benevolence that was pledged and have paid the missionary sponsorship. Discussed making an appeal to the congregation in early September. Will need to use \$5,000.00 out of budget reserve to pay insurance and payroll taxes. Cannon River Conference is due \$245.00 with baptized member number 766.

Pastor's Report: REPRINTED ON NEWSLETTER PAGE 1.

Pastor D.J. Reimbursement (July 22-August 17): Expenses (\$0) + Mileage (\$219.68) = \$219.68 Time Off

Request: September 17-22. Going to Duke for Homecoming and to visit the Lutheran Campus Ministry (first time back since 2018, and Carrie, Asha, and Jack's first visit to campus!)

President's Report: It was great to be able to gather midweek for fellowship and worship. Our mid-week Ministry has become a wonderful fellowship gathering with a simple summer grill-out theme, and a wonderful sharing of faith among its participants. Many thanks to the consistent volunteers who help make this happen - especially the Cordes family for their generous help with the meal prep. Thanks to Bryanna for planning and hosting the pool party, another great summer gathering to simply enjoy the company of others, and swim if you desired. On August 13 a small contingent from First joined a non-partisan group of several other congregations in Goodhue County and attended the County Commission general meeting at the County Fair. We met with those Commissioners available prior to the meeting to discuss protecting well-run election processes through-out the County, thanking them and their staffs' hard work in this area, and preserving free, fair, and accessible access to all legal voters. Rose Fest is fast upon us! I am grateful for the active role our Congregation takes in this important and growing event for our community. Our handprints are everywhere in the direct support we provide as a congregation to the Town Cruise, Grand Marshal announcement, Family Movie Night, and morning concessions for the car show. It is also great to see our Congregation members all over the celebration in their own ways supporting so many other service organizations across the community. Looking forward to the fall, start of school, and the too-soon end of another amazing summer in Minnesota; Labor Day is late this year on September 7. Rally Sunday is planned for September 13 including our annual Pancake Breakfast, yard games, and the ceremonial start to our youth education activities for next year.

Ongoing items:

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process. No new updates.
2. Continued need for Vice President.

New items:

1. Brad was contacted by Metro regarding copy machine. Discussion options to purchase, lease or wait for a while, as parts are no longer available for our current copier if it should break. No immediate action needed with the decision to wait it out with immediate options available if needed.

Youth Report: Not in attendance. Discussed First and ten tailgates and will add volleyball (cotton candy). Dates 9/24, 10/14 for volleyball and 9/25, 10/14 for football. Youth will help at these events.

Committee Reports:

FLCW: FLCW did not meet. Next meeting is August 30 after the service. Puzzle Room will be ready Rally Sunday for its Grand Opening. Thank you to the many talents making the idea a reality.

Worship/ Evangelism: Fall worship services: will return to lectionary. Brainstormed ideas to have more blended opportunities: using a variety of Bible translations, adding visual to sermons, music (at least one familiar hymn per service). Led to discussion regarding "slides" on TVs. Pastor DJ will hold a training for volunteers to advance slides on 8/23 and 9/6 which would only take 15-20 minutes. Worship attendance- has been down this summer. How can we improve this discussion followed. Many thanks to Endowment for their financial support. Welcome community packets - to be distributed to anyone moving into Kenyon via realtors, community events and church visitors. Potential items including bookmarks, acrylic key chains (2.1 x 1.5 with FLC business card inserted with

Tammy to purchase), Pocket prayer cards (Erica will research), First Lutheran pen and post it notes (Sherry will check with D&S), youth schedule and FLC pamphlet (Pastor DJ will check with Bryan and Annette). Campus Ministry Sunday information was shared with committee enthusiastically supporting them to come to church on 10/4. Tammy will contact Carmen for support from the Stewardship Committee via coffee hour. Will reach out to recent high school grads to participate.

Property and Management: Did not meet. Continue to provide weed, shrub and grass management. Shannon Bauer will relocate water spout. Josh Lorfald will provide estimate for ed wing roof.

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 events. \$636.00 was donated.

Youth and Ed: We had 41 participants from area churches for Vacation Bible school this year, it was a great time and the kids really enjoyed the week. Pool party/grill out- around 30 came out for a nice evening of food, fellowship, and swimming. ****WE ARE IN NEED OF THRIVENT GRANT DOLLARS FOR MANY UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES!!!** Wednesday August 19th - outdoor movie ALL HANDS ON DECK, volunteers needed. Sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or thru the online link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA4AC2BAAFCCF8-65079339>. Outdoor Wednesday August 26th- last outdoor worship, giving garden pizzas starting 5 pm Sunday September 13th-Rally Sunday-outdoor breakfast. The 26/27 Sunday School and Youth calendars are just about completed, and will be out in the next week. Town Festivities in the next few months: Fall Festival (October 10th), Trunk or treat (Time/date TBD) Christmas in Kenyon (December 12th)

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees and KAIC: Discussed potential need for long range planning to meet.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Susan /Tammy /pass Time: 7:50 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sathrum, secretary



WEBER / ST JOHN
IN CONCERT



Harmony in Faith

Thursday,
September 10th, 2026
7:00 pm

First Lutheran Church
309 Forest Street
Kenyon, MN 55946



WEBER/ST JOHN was born from a Craigslist ad between musician and composer Kurt Weber, inspired by his time overseas in the US Army, and Ash St John, a classically trained violinist. Since their first meeting in 2020, they've bonded over a shared love of music and their faith in Jesus. Specializing in hymn arrangements, they see their music as a way to serve Jesus and bring joy to others, it is their joy to share their gift whenever and wherever they can.

September 2026

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

		1	2	3 4-7 Farmers Market	4 6:30 AA	5
6 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	7	8 6 EdYou	9 6 Confirmation Orientation	10 1 LOVE DAY  7 Weber-St.John Piano-Violin HARMONY IN FAITH Concert	11 6:30 AA	12
13 RALLY SUNDAY 9 Worship -- Cradle Roll, 3 rd & 7 th Bibles & Noisy Offering 10 1 st Day of Sunday School -- Outdoor Pancake Brkfst	14	15	16 5:30 Confirmation 7 COUNCIL	17 4-7 Farmers Market	18 6:30 AA	19
20 9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 10 Coffee	21	22	23 5:30 Confirmation	24 1 LOVE DAY  5 WEDDING REHEARSAL	25 6:30 AA	26 3 HAASNOOT WEDDING
27 9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 10 Coffee 10:15 Revelation Bible Study	28	29	30 5:30 Confirmation			

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September

Newsletter



HAPPY SEPTEMBER
The world shall now transform INTO ~
Pumpkin E V E R Y thing!
-KEITH WYNN

