



And just like that, we're in the month of June. Each year, June seems to show up quicker than before. The first 90 degree day, flowers in bloom, and the realization that living in Minnesota comes with both sets of extremes on the thermometer. June is also when we mark the halfway point in the calendar year. We've recently celebrated Easter, but Christmas is already six months away! Being one who went South for college to escape the freezing winters, June brings back memories for me of the warm Southern sun, and yes, the humidity. The month of June also feels like the perfect time to remember how life can be expansive when we journey out into the great wide open.

Nature gives space for this sense, as we will enjoy the longest stretch of daylight during the year. I have many memories of playing outside late into the night as a child, enjoying the nice weather, and appreciating the fact that I didn't have to wake up early to go to school the next day. Summertime came with a sense of freedom: my days were pretty unstructured and I was able to be grounded and present in the Earth around me—mostly my backyard with plants, a garden, a basketball hoop, and a playhouse my dad built for my older sisters when they first moved into the house. I could look across the street at the corn and soybean fields and imagine walking or getting in a car and driving to Chicago or beyond. Even though I literally couldn't do those things, my imagination ran wild and the possibilities seemed endless.

We find ourselves beginning another month of June; and, looking ahead, we have lots happening here at First and in the wider Kenyon community. Page through our newsletter and notice some of the ways you can be engaged with the community we share. On Sunday mornings, we'll divert slightly from our normal lectionary readings to center on the theme of "Rock," i.e. grounded faith, foundational living, and other instances of this image in stories of the Bible we might not usually hear during the lectionary cycle. There will be an opportunity to bring painted rocks up to the front of the church—these rocks can be painted during the week or at home. They will be dropped off throughout the community at the end of the Summer as a sign of prayer. Look for specific directions in the coming weeks.

We will also resume our Wednesday night outdoor services (weather permitting) on June 10th—come for a grill out at 5:30, followed by an informal campfire service at 6. Summer Stretch will also begin that day and run on Wednesdays through July 15th. Please keep our young people in your prayers as they grow their faith over these weeks together! Our Revelation Bible Study and Men's Ministry groups continue to meet, as do FLCW, Love Day, and others. Oh, and don't forget about pickleball!

There are so many ways to be involved in our community here at First. If you have any ideas on how to expand the ministry we share, don't hesitate to reach out to me for a conversation. And, invite a friend or neighbor to come and see what we are doing together here at First—whether that's on a Sunday morning, Wednesday night, or another day during the week.

Peace, Pastor D.J.

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – May 19, 2026

Welcome and Call to Order: Eric Hoversten @ 6:02 pm

Devotions: Sherry

Present: Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bryana Lothert, and Sherry Sathrum

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions to discuss pickle ball by Brad. Carmen/ Sherry pass

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed with request to make note that Peyton is not groundskeeper at the school.

Treasurer's Report: Giving trend in April was down and year to date giving is same as last year. Expenses are stable with decreased heating bill and change to auto pay for phone for consistency. Benevolence is doing well with missionaries paid. Attendance: year to date average is 62.5

Pastor's Report: Pentecost is right around the corner, and I can't help but reflect on how the Holy Spirit continues to move in our midst to inspire and bring life to the ministry we share at First and in the wider community. I continue to give thanks for the steadfastness of our congregation, and how we continue to show up for each other and for others in the community. And, I remain energized by the calling we share to follow in Jesus' footsteps—guided by the power of the Holy Spirit, and rooted in God's love for the world—each and every day. Here are some ways I've witnessed this calling being lived out in the past month:

- Continued to visit homebound members. Heard appreciation for cards, prayers, and remaining connected to the congregation through online worship.
- Attended Gustavus Association of Congregations Board Meeting and was voted in to serve as a clergy member on the board.
- Held Grief Support group at Area 57 in Wanamingo and leaned into conversation surrounding living through loss.
- Participated in a first call education retreat as well as a prayer vigil at HCMC to call attention to its critical place in our State's health care system.
- Continued Revelation Bible Study as well as Men's Ministry group on Sunday mornings.
- Wrapped up the Confirmation lesson year by covering Acts—Revelation over the course of a few weeks. The end of year celebration will be tomorrow.
- Attended the Spring High School Band and Choir Concert—cheers to all involved and my prayers are with Claire Larson and the band program and families as she is leaving.
- Planned Celebrations of Life for Willie Dahl and Frank Peterson.
- Recognized our graduating seniors as well as all motherly figures on May 10. Congratulations to Elsie, Lindsey, Ryan, Emilie, and Patricia! Also hosted the Baccalaureate service on May 13.
- Coordinated final details for Summer Stretch with Pastor Joe and Pastor Dwaine. Registration is still open for 6th-12th graders!
- Pastor Joe Jorgenson (Gol) and Pastor Dwaine Sutherland (Grace—Nerstrand) will cover for me in case of pastoral emergencies when I am gone June 14-25.

I look forward to what is to come in the month ahead, including the Farmers' Market, Wednesday Night Outdoor Worship, and Summer! Know that my door is open and I am available to talk or listen about anything you may be going through right now in your life. I pray for our congregation, and I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us with her wisdom and creative spirit, now and forever.

Pastor DJ has been accepted into Prairie Fire Preaching via a grant which will help provide more ideas regarding blended service worship and preaching.

Pastor DJ will obtain a debit card at Security State Bank for Ed/you.

President's Report: We closed out April joining our Youth in the clean up of our section of County 12 ditch east of town. This act of stewardship helps us to reflect on the bounty of the world we live in and our need to protect it. All-in-all, the ditches were pretty clean. It is nice to see that our community is taking better care of the land and that there is less littering along the highways. It was also a nice, sunny spring day to be outside.

After the ditch clean up, Susan and I joined with the Methodist Church for their community meal. They served a wonderful ham and potato casserole, veg and a wide variety of desserts. We met a number of our congregation members there as well as others from throughout the community. It was a wonderful expression of fellowship.

The first weekend in May was busy with the Synod Assembly in Mankato. This was a full day of ministry working in fellowship with delegates from across Southeast Minnesota. The Bishop lead an inspiring worship service and spoke about Peter's faith while walking upon the stormy water. Noteworthy that this is the image contained in our

west stained-glass window above the balcony. We also had a very informative discussion by the Keynote regarding the inclusiveness of baptism and its roots all the way back to creation. I can't wait until next year and I hope we are able to include our full complement of delegates.

Sunday Men's bible study continues on a more ad hoc schedule as we are able to convene. We are looking more deeply at the Book of Acts. What incredible insights are revealed. Also, the Revelations Bible Study continues for all. Both of these are excellent opportunities to stretch your understanding of the scriptures and challenge yourself to a deeper walk in faith. They are also full of interesting and valued conversation and ideas from all participants.

Spring planting is almost complete in the lands around us, but we continue to plant seeds in our community for ministries of all shapes and sizes. It is exciting to see us continue to build our mission and ministry even when we know the community around us as well as our own get busy with all that Minnesota summer has to offer. We become a part of that fabric of work as fruit grows in the vineyard. So many emerging opportunities to engage - pay close attention to all of the announcements and opportunities that they provide to get involved ourselves; and invite others to join our ministries and worship with us, and join our broader community in those activities that center us all.

We are still in need of a Vice President. I will be working this vacancy through the summer. We will have a visiting pastor Jun 21 while Pastor DJ is away over that weekend.

Ongoing items:

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process. No new updates.
2. Sanctuary Screens: Discussed using screen for hymns. Mary Danielson Gates has volunteered to provide word processing.
3. Continued need for Vice President. Eric will fulfill obligations for summer.

New items:

1. Closed caption options: Pastor DJ had a request to research the opportunity to include closed captioning for his sermons. Members will look at options available, possible app.
2. Pickle ball court: Brad was contacted regarding the possibility of adding painted lines for a second pickle ball court. Supply cost will be covered by the requesting party. Approved Sherry/ Carmen pass

Youth Report: Not in attendance. Band/ choir concert enjoyed by many.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLCW: FLCW did not meet. Carmen and Susan attended Cannon River Valley Spring event in Welch, MN. June 4 we are selling extra clothing to attract people to our FLC Grill out. June 7th is our next FLCW meeting after the service. June 18th will be our home-made goods Farmer Market fundraiser with hair cut offerings from Sandy D.

Worship/ Evangelism: Met two times with discussion of summer worship opportunities including:

- Sermon series- Our Creative God. Sherry will bring rocks to church. Parishioners encouraged to paint rocks, bring to church and watch the pile grow. Youth will then distribute around town. Tammy and Sherry will have paint markers available at church to be used throughout the week and for coffee hour for rock painting.
- Wednesday evening service (weather permitting) with meal at 5:30 and 30 minute campfire story following on 6/10, 6/24, 7/7, 7/22, 8/12 and 8/26. Communion will be served. Tammy will prepare a sign up for donations for meals. Use sandwich board to advertise.
- Outdoor service on July 12- brainstormed ideas utilizing a duck pond and prizes, beach ball/ Keep your Faith Up, etc

Will work on updating Children's Activity Bags- will ask Endowment for \$500.00 and Mary will contact Jill Berg and Trudy Johnson to make totes for activities. Will brainstorm items to be used and have age groups. Discussed placing them on some sort of pegs. Birthday list-opt out option. Tammy has contacted Annette to get a list of church members and birthdays. Pastor DJ will talk to Cuds and see if he wants to announce birthdays.

Property and Management: Committee did not meet however members completed several tasks. Heating season has come to a close so boilers in the church basement and ed wing were shut down. In turn, all mini-splits have been activated in order to provide a/c as well as heat as needed. Church grounds around our buildings were treated with contact as well as pre-emergent herbicides for weed control

Stewardship: Stewardship-March MADNESS items to the Food Shelf equaled a total of 170+ pounds collected. The south side of the church won the competition. Thank you to all who contributed. Offering envelopes not picked up at church mailed out with a letter inviting members to worship.

Youth and Ed: Sent 22 care packages to our 18-22 year old members for finals week! Spring ditch clean up went well, thanks to all those who were able to make it out and help. On the last day of Sunday School, we had 5 kids in attendance. Played some relay games and pickle ball. Upcoming events: Planting of Giving Garden after the 1st outdoor worship service in June. June 4th Farmers market meal fundraiser- WE NEED VOLUNTEERS, please sign up either online with the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA4AC2BAAFCCF8-64039220-farmers> or you can find paper sign up forms in the Narthex and fellowship hall. REMINDER THIS IS FOR ALL FIRST LUTHERAN MEMBERS. June 10th- Summer stretch begins, they will be installing our Free little Library & Free little pantry. Big thank you to the Endowment committee for grant money for materials to build the pantry. July 13th-16th Vacation Bible School-FLC will be in charge of lunch and a snack on Tuesday July 14th. August 2nd- Pool-Party-Grill out at Depot Park, more info to come. August 19th- Rosefest Outdoor movie.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Endowment- checks were disbursed for Scholarships and Community. Outreach for TV's in the sanctuary. Application for Education/Youth Blessing Box was approved. Committee voted to increase scholarship amounts; the first year payment increased to \$500 (once enrolled in second semester), \$500 for one subsequent year and \$500 during graduate work.

KAIC: met last Tuesday of April and will reconvene in August. No intern next year but looking at collaborating youth events.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:00 pm

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Carmen/Sherry /pass Time: 7:19 pm
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sathrum, secretary



Thursday June 4 - Opening Market Day - First Lutheran is FOOD VENDOR.

Helpers/Food Sign-Up to be available on paper & on-line. Online Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA4AC2BAAFCCF8-64039220-farmers>

Thursday June 18 --- First Lutheran to sell your homemade/crafted items

Price and deliver day before or day of. Hair cut offerings from Sandy D.



Wednesday Outdoor Worship – June 10 and June 24

Supper at 5:30 followed by Informal campfire worship



Wednesday Summer Stretch Program - June 10 to July 15

For Youth in Grades 6th through 12th [GRADE AS OF FALL 2026]

Contact Pastor D.J. for information or questions.

Friends are welcome to join, too!



Vacation Bible School with Good Earth Village



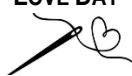
JULY 13 through JULY 16

Held at First Lutheran Church. CONTACT: Bryana Lothert

Registration Sign Up Link: <https://goodearthvillage.org/flc-kenyon>



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

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1-7 Red Cross-Blood Drive @ VFW			4-7 Farmers Market FL/Food Vendor		
7 <i>Lect. 10</i> 9 Worship 10 FLCW Mtg-Joy Rm 10 Coffee	8	9	10 SUMMER  STRETCH 5:30 Outdoor Supper & Campfire Worship	11 1 LOVE DAY 	12	13
14 <i>Lect 11</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Men's Ministry	15	16 6 Council	17	18 4-7 Farmers Market FL/Crafts Vendor	19	20 11-4 Family Fun Day @ the Fire Hall
21 <i>Lect 12</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee	22	23	24 5:30 Outdoor Supper & Campfire Worship	25 1 LOVE DAY 	26	27
28 <i>Lect 13</i> 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Revelation Study	29	30 5 Worship Committee				

Coming in July: Outdoor Worship on Sunday July 12 with outdoor activities.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 FOREST STREET, KENYON, MN 55946

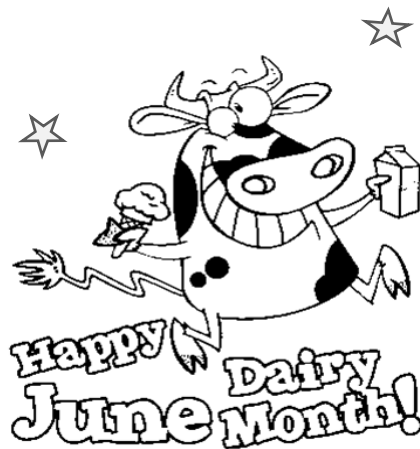
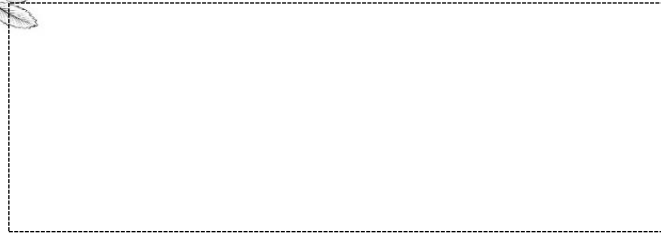
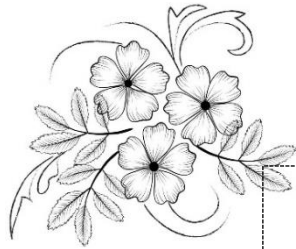
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JUNE

Newsletter



“June is bustin’ out all over!”

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel 1956