



NOVEMBER 2024

Dear People of First Lutheran Church,

As I have said many times, it is so good to be here with you all! I began my call as your pastor on October 1, and it has been a Spirit-filled first month sharing in ministry. I continue to learn your names and faces, and I am excited to see where God leads us during our time together. Thank you for welcoming me, for praying for me, and for supporting me as we embark on this journey.

It seems fitting to me, that as we begin this new season together, so too is nature transitioning from Summer to Fall. As I drive to and from First Lutheran down Highway 60, I continue to be awestruck by the beauty of God's creation. The leaves on the trees are vibrant—gold, maroon, orange. Most of the fields are harvested by now, and we look forward to gathering for Thanksgiving. Fall can also be a challenging season—the air gets colder, flowers die and prepare to bloom again after a long winter, and the days get shorter. We are quickly approaching the shortest day of the year, a time that has me longing for the summer to come.



This time of year, I can't help but think of the words in Ecclesiastes 3: *"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven."* There is such profound wisdom in this story, a wisdom that was present at the very beginning with God. It is the wisdom in Scripture that I turn to in seasons like this, when I'd like the golden days to linger and the hard days to get over as quickly and painlessly as possible. I am reminded by the words of Ecclesiastes 3 that *God is with us*—a promise we will soon repeat during the season of Advent.



Because God is with us, God knows all of what it is to be human, and God is there for us at all times and in all places. God is with us on the beautiful Fall days when we enjoy time in the crisp, cool air. God is with us on the coldest day of the year, when we are stuck at home and feel alone. God is with us when nature shows us that new life is about to spring in March, and God is with us when we're soaking up the sun on a hot July afternoon.

When we gather together, we remind ourselves of God's presence and action in our lives and world. In addition to Sunday morning worship, we will have some new opportunities to gather this month. On **Tuesday, November 26 at 7 pm**, we will join with Kenyon area churches right here at First Lutheran for a community Thanksgiving service. And, beginning on **Tuesday, November 5**, the sanctuary will be open on the first Tuesday of the month from **noon-1 pm** for a time of prayer. I will be present to pray with and provide space for folks in the greater Kenyon community to pray. There will be opportunities to light candles and meditate, to practice sabbath during the middle of a busy day. Since it falls on Election Day, come before or after you vote. I invite you to bring your prayers for our country—that we may heal, that we may learn to listen well to each other, that we may reflect God's love for all creation in all that we do.



I give thanks to God for you, and I continue to keep you all in my prayers.

Blessings, Pastor D.J. Chatelaine



November Greetings from Vicar Yvonne

Dear Friends,

Fall is in full swing, isn't it? Cooler days, nearly-frosted nights, stars twinkling above, and the moon shining through the harvest dust. It's always interesting to see how these familiar seasons hit us differently each year. Yes, we've lived through falls before, but what is particular about this one? Take a moment to reflect over the last couple of months: what will you remember about this time?

November is a funny time in our church calendars: we move from celebrating the Reformation of the Church, celebrate gratitude with a national holiday of Thanksgiving, and then feel the tension building already for Christmas. November sees the end of the church year. What are your new church year resolutions? Will you try to come to midweek Advent services or commit to saying "no" to at least one holiday party invitation in your busy schedule?

What if you just take the month to write one thing for which you're grateful, each day? You could even do this on the calendar at the back of this newsletter. If you'd like to get your family involved, even better! Perhaps put your "gratitudes" together in a jar and take turns reading them aloud as a Thanksgiving activity; see what you haven't considered, learn about your loved ones, and share the joy as you prepare for the busy Christmas season! It can be something big like your connection to a loved one or something small, like how grateful I'm going to be when the first hard frost comes and eradicates the hornets constantly buzzing outside our apartment, trying to break in!

Take a deep breath, feel the crisp air, and cozy up for winter.

Gratefully, Vicar Yvonne *See what I did there*



A Norwegian Tradition

Lefse Making –

Join us , Friday Nov 15, 9 am.

Contacts: Cora Lee Monroe & Candy Herrlich

Lefse Ordering –

Use Sign-up Sheets in Narthex & Basement. Sold 6 rounds per Pkg for \$10.

Women of the ELCA
THANKOFFERING
SUNDAY, NOV. 10

A Giving Tradition

Sunday, Nov 10 – Operation Christmas-Child.

An Intergenerational Activity – 10 am – All are Welcome

In the Church Basement - followed by Potluck Meal

We will pack *Shoeboxes* for

NEEDS: Packing Help, Gift Donations, \$ for Shipping

Find gift suggestions on posters around church & also in your e-mail, or visit:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>



A Live-Streaming Tradition

SEEKING TECH TEAM MEMBER -- The team is looking for another member to assist with

live streaming on Sunday mornings. We'll Train You!

TECH TRAINING 101 to be held: Sun. Dec. 1 following worship

Contact Steve Johnson 507-213-9577 or Heidi Haugen 507-649-0517

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – October 16, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Chris Cordes @ 6:03 pm. Devotions: Erica.

Present: Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Chris Cordes, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Amy Lee, Bryana Lothert, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Tammy Fletcher, Tanya Short.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions Tammy/Erica/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Treasurer's Report: Council reviewed attendance, giving, and expense reports. Giving is down approximately \$12,000 annualized. FLC sponsored missionary Karen Anderson has retired. Benevolence giving is on track. A new laptop has been ordered for financials, and a new version of QuickBooks will be required by the end of the year, due to current version being outdated/retired. Will switch to the new version with the new fiscal year. The memorial account has been split into 8 separate choices for designation.

Pastor's Report: First day was October 1. It is great to be here! Ordination on October 6. Thank you to all who helped make this a special day. Stopped by the Kenyon Fall Festival on October 12. It was good to meet some folks in the community! Installation on October 13--Assistant to the Bishop, Kathy Chatelaine present from the Office of the Bishop Staff. Fall Theological Retreat--October 13-15: good conversation on what it means to be a neighbor as church. Also, good takeaways on community organizing, i.e. listening to the needs of the community and discerning who has the gifts/energy to respond. Beginning to visit folks. I sent a card to each homebound member. Mary Skundberg Memorial Service will be Saturday, January 4th at 1 pm. Working with family to plan--they will not be using a funeral home. Planning monthly open prayer times in the sanctuary on the first Tuesday of the month from noon-1 pm, starting on November 5. Wednesday Evening Advent Contemplative Services: looking into themes, time likely 6-7 pm. Will be in conversation with Kenyon area clergy re: Thanksgiving service. 7th/8th Confirmation will begin November 6th: Focusing on Old Testament this year; New Testament next. 5:30 pm. Confirmation Sunday is on the 27th. Intern Yvonne getting the 9th graders ready. I sent an email to families today regarding details for the morning. Starting to think about opportunities for collaboration in the community. Got access to Church Facebook page and website to use for communication purposes. Thanks to Margaret Lorfald for her stewardship of the website. I will bring my continuing Education and Mileage reimbursement form from October 1-October 16 for approval. Enrolled in a 1st call program called Strong Start and will attend a Power & Boundaries workshop that is required by the Synod. Total mileage: 274
Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and continuing ed. reimbursements.

Carmen/Erica/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. Website & Facebook: Pastor DJ has gained access to the Website and Facebook pages and begun making posts and updates. Thankful to Margaret Lorfald for her work to keep the Website active in the interim between. The laptop designated for website design may be available for the tech teams use- will explore that option.
2. Use of the Church on Thanksgiving Day: No further information has been received.
3. Confirmation Sunday: Council will provide a cake in honor of confirmands. Erica will purchase 2 sheet cakes. Families of confirmands will use the fellowship hall after coffee hour.

New Items:

1. Organ Repairs Fundraising: Brainstorming fundraising ideas for Organ repair fund: 'sponsor-a-pipe' donor display; a recital with dinner service; some offerings have already been designated to organ repairs; Stewardship has designated the returns from the Stewardship challenge to go to organ repairs.
2. RV Parking: Allowing members to use the gravel section of the parking lot for seasonal RV parking was discussed. A motion was made that the council does not approve of RV parking on church property due to the risk of liability to the church. Tammy/Amy/passed

Youth Rep. Report: Not present, no report. There was a high school football game with pep band tonight. Pastor DJ reminded council that next spring will be a Bishop election at the Synod assembly in Mankato and attendance from a youth representative is recommended.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Helped set up & serve Pastor DJ's ordination reception on Sunday October 6th. We will be holding a board meeting on Sunday October 20th, to plan end of year items. We are looking for new officers for the 2025 year. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to fill these positions. Upcoming Love Days at 1pm: 10/24, 11/14, 12/12 (no meeting 11/28)

Worship/Evangelism- Confirmation Sunday: discussed confirmands inviting Godparents and confirmands assisting with communion and processional. All Saints Sunday: church will send a letter next week. We will use wood lighting sticks to light candles. Advent: discussed Wednesday evening contemplative service with word and prayer with possible light meal prior to or cookies after. As a church will be more mindful of passing worship helper folder. Will open sanctuary for prayer on election day and possibly first Tuesday of each month.

Property and Management- No formal meeting held. Members focusing on 3 projects: Window blinds needed in Pastor DJ's office. Attempted installing new nosing on stairway in ed wing however tile failing so all removed. Will look into replacing with rubber/vinyl treads. Reliable Heating & Cooling serviced 3 church boilers. One in main basement is failing and in need of replacement. Will consider options. A motion was made to authorize the purchase of blinds for DJ's office and repairs of the stairs. Tammy/Carmen/pass Stewardship- Still collecting membership update forms and Stewardship Challenge envelopes. The committee has delegated the funds from Rally Day Stewardship Challenge and Breakfast to go to the Organ Restoration. Our committee will be brainstorming on how to raise funds for the Organ Restoration project.

Youth and Education- 7 volunteers helped with dich clean up- Luke Cordes won a prize for the strangest thing found. Feed my starving children on 11/2. Will be doing a fall fundraiser- Simmer Pot Kits. Youth to create kits & pizza party on 11/20. Intergenerational activity on Sunday 11/10- will be assembling operation Christmas child boxes & potluck meal. Volunteers needed. FLC youth has a new email address: flcyouth45@gmail.com Next meeting 11/13*******We desperately need Sunday school teachers! Ideas to help get parents or congregation members to help out?**

KAIC- No report.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- **Endowment Committee:** The committee met on Oct. 9 with all members present. The CD at Security State Bank was renewed for 3 years. We approved a request for funds for the Organ Restoration. Our next meeting is January 8 at 5 pm. We will invite Pastor D.J. to attend.

Next Meeting: November 20th, 6 pm

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Carmen/Tammy/pass Time: 8:35 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, Secretary

Upcoming Events:

11/2 Feed My Starving Children, Eagan 9:30 am

11/10 WELCA Thank Offering Sunday & Christmas Shoebox Intergenerational Activity

11/15 FLCW Lefsa Making at 9 am - *Signup pages in narthex & basement.*

11/26 Community Thanksgiving Service at First Ev Lutheran 7 pm



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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – 7 PM at FIRST LUTHERAN
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Fundraising efforts for our ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT are now underway and will be on-going. We are open to all ideas, and appreciate all contributions. Envelopes may be found in the Narthex.

November 2024



SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

					1 9 Organ Tuning	2 9:30 to 11:15 <i>Feed My Starving Children</i> <i>Daylight Svg Time ENDS</i>
3 <i>All Saints</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	4	5 12-1 Open Prayer Time- Sanctuary	6 5:30 - 7 Confirmation	7 7 AA	8	9
10 <i>Women of the ELCA Thankoffering</i> <i>Bell Choir</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	11 5:30 Worship Evangelism	12	13 5:30 - 7 Confirmation 6:30 EdYou	14 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	15 9 Lefsa Making	16
17 <i>Afr Pent</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	Intergenerational Activity Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes + Potluck Meal		20 5:30 - 7 Confirmation 6 Council	21 Internship Lunch 5:30 Sons of Norway 7 AA	22 11 Mel Kirchhoff Funeral	23
24 <i>Christ the King</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee			27 No Confirmation	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29	30

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun Dec 1 - Tech Training 101 following Worship,
 Tue Dec. 2 - Open Prayer Time 12-1 pm
 Wed's Dec 4, 11, & 18 - 6 pm Advent Contemplative Worship at
 Sun Dec 8 - 10 am Sunday School Christmas Shopping & Costume Fittings
 Sun Dec 22 - Sunday School Live Nativity at 9 am Worship
 Tue Dec 24 - 4 pm Chr. Eve Candlelight Service



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November

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NEWSLETTER



N O V E M B E R

**What's every pumpkin's dream in November?
To grow up and become a pie.**

Joke Plant