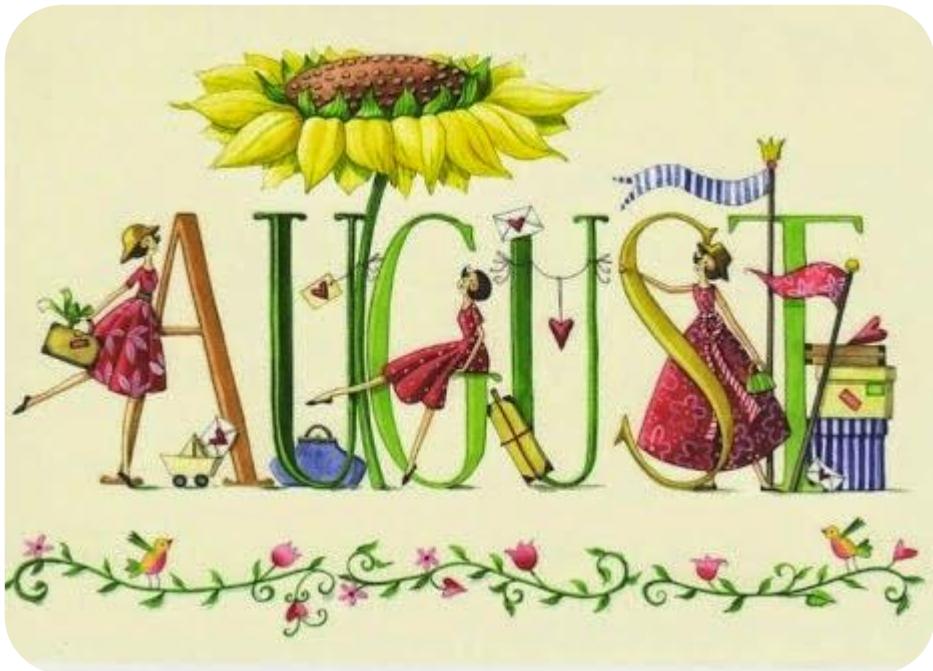


*First Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Member of the
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

First Fruits





*Serving Christ by proclaiming Christ
crucified in the
Minnesota North District of the LCMS*

Notes from the Pastor's Desk



*Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."^{ESV} **Luke 10:36-37***

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell prey to robbers who beat him and left him half-dead on the side of the road. We are not given the name of this man. We are never told why he was on the road or what he had that attracted the robbers' attention. We are not told his race, age, skin color, or religious affiliation. Simply put, beside the fact that he is a male, the only thing we know about him is that he is a human being, and that he has neighbors or at least should. It is assumed and presumed in this story of the Good Samaritan told from Jesus that this man who is bleeding on the street is part of a community; a community that should be looking out for him and showing him undeserved compassionate mercy.

It is so sad to see those who are supposed to care for the weak, hurting, and vulnerable, turn their back on their duty. That is precisely what we have here as a priest, seeing the man half-dead on the road, passes by on the other side (Luke 10:31). We see it a second time with the Levite who walks up to where the man was, looks down at him, understands the situation, and then walks away (Luke 10:32). We read this story and are disgusted by the cruelty and the indifference of these people! How can they simply walk by a person so broken with such little compassion? It is as if their heart and mind are so calloused that they do not even see the humanity in a fellow person anymore. They have forgotten what it means to be a neighbor, a relationship lived out in compassion and love (Leviticus 19:18).

But there is good news in this story! A hero comes. A Samaritan, the least likely person anyone in the community would think would know what God desires for His people and do it, demonstrates mercy (Luke 10:33-35)! He is not too busy to help. He does not lecture the half-dead man on how he put himself in this situation and had it coming. He does not accuse the man of deserving what he got or try to point back to some situation in the man's life that led him to this point. He certainly does not take that moment as an opportunity to victimize the man further by taking what little he had left, kicking him when

he's down. No. He takes time to be a neighbor. He takes time as he sees the humanity in his fellow person. He takes time to show mercy.

So who is this Good Samaritan in the story of Jesus? This parable of Jesus is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning for us to see the nature of mankind, the heart of God, and the relief we have in Christ. The Good Samaritan is a figure that represents Jesus, a person whom the world thought nothing good would come from (John 1:46). This is a story about how God took time to come in mercy to His broken and bleeding people, fallen prey to sin and evil, now helpless and hopeless on the road of life. It is in this parable that we see the unexpected love of God and the extent to which He would go to demonstrate that love, paying for the healing of the hurting (Luke 10:34-5). A healing that ultimately is seen in the balm of His blood on the cross.

This is what our Lord has done for you. When you look at your life and feel as though you are a victim by the chances, changes and chaos of this life, our Lord moves to you. When those you thought would always be quick to help, especially those who have made oaths to care for you as a Priest or Levite, but simply walk by, our Lord comes quickly to remind you that He will never abandon you (Deuteronomy 31:38; Psalm 139; 73; Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 13:5). He has and will meet you wherever you are in this life, regardless of the circumstances, just as He met the disciples mending their nets, tax collectors in their homes, Zacchaeus in a tree, and the Pharisees in their pride. You have God's compassionate mercy. It is your treasure, you are His.

So now, hear the words at the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, "You go, and do likewise." (Luke 10:37) Be a neighbor to those around you. Do not treat them as inconveniences, or someone else's problem. See their humanity. See their need and show them mercy. Take the time to care. Do not turn your back on this duty. It doesn't matter their ethnicity, skin color, religious affiliation, or their age. Recognize they have a story, one much like ours, full of ups and downs, changes, and chaos. Meet them wherever they are, hear their story, and then tell them Christ's story of how He meets them wherever they are. You do not have to be a hero; in fact, you cannot be. But, you can point to the One who has already saved them. By God's grace may the calluses of our heart, calluses we all have, begin to soften as our eyes are opened to the love of God in Christ Jesus. May we not look at the people around us and ignore their pain, treat them as if they deserve their helplessness, explain away their pain, or even kick them when they are down. My prayer for you this month is that God give you more opportunities and foresight to take the time to be intentional neighbors to the human beings in your life. So that they will no longer be strangers, but objects of the mercy they desperately need. To God be all the glory.

*In Christ's service,
Pastor Lovejoy*



**The last Monday of each month
at 3pm**

Starting September 26th

*The gap between what is and what ought to
be is enormous!*

Grandparents are incredibly important to their grandkids. Grandparents are uniquely positioned to spiritually influence their grandkids. Grandparents have a Biblical mandate to do so.

Most Christians agree with these statements about grandparents, but so little is being done to challenge and equip this huge group — 30 million strong — of potential influencers. Yes, the grandparenting relationship has incredible potential for discipleship, but it is unrecognized and under-resourced. For example, many churches have a family ministry, which focuses on parenting, but nothing on grandparenting. And grandparenting is too often associated with a seniors ministry, which results in younger grandparents being overlooked and ignored. Resource providers, like speakers, authors, and Christian ministry organizations, largely neglect this audience

as well. Finally, Christian grandparents themselves get caught up in a “retirement culture” that pushes them to pursue their own pleasure rather than invest in their grandchildren.

What will you experience at this monthly seminar?

You will hear from a variety of speakers and relevant topics each month to help you grow as a Christian grandparent.

In these webinars, you’ll:

- Get practical ideas and information on grandparenting
- Learn how to nurture your grandchildren’s faith and overcome obstacles
- Find encouragement through testimonies from other grandparents

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Lovejoy

ASSIMILATION COMMITTEE

- **The Board of Elders is reforming an Assimilation Committee. Duties of the committee are:**
 - 1. Responsibility of planning ways to assimilate new members.**
 - 2. Responsibility of assuring that visitors are welcomed, helped to feel comfortable, and encouraged to return.**
 - 3. Giving new membership kits with information on the history, beliefs, mission and opportunities for study, service and companionship in the church.**
 - 4. Preparing a brochure or flyer with information for visitors about the church.**
 - 5. Conducting orientation sessions for new or prospective members with the church's staff.**
 - 6. Posting photographs and biographical sketches of the new people for others to see.**
- **If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Matt Pellinen at (218) 360-2578.**



LIBRARY CORNER FOR AUGUST 2021

While inventorying our church library books, we came across four little-sized books filed in the LITTLE BOOKS section that might be helpful for our students as they return to school in the fall: **MIDDLE SCHOOL SURVIVAL MANUAL, THE** by Katrina L. Cassel, 373.2 Cas and **SURVIVING MIDDLE SCHOOL – How to manage the maze** by Sandy Silverthorne, 373.13 Sil.

JUNIOR HIGH SURVIVAL MANUAL, THE by Katrina L. Cassel, 373.2 Cas and **COLLEGE BOUND** by Kathleen Winkler, 376.1 Win. As stated on the back cover of one of the books: “School requires dedication and work on your part, but with God at your side, you’ll be amazed how things work out.” *“Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.”* - Tomie dePaola

ACCEPTABLE RISK by Lynette Eason, 813.6 Eas, Book 2 of Danger Never Sleeps series. Taken from the book blurb: “Sarah Denning is a military journalist with the Army in the Middle East when she is taken hostage. When former Army Ranger Gavin Black is asked by his old unit commander – Sarah’s imposing father – to plan an

extremely risky rescue, he reluctantly agrees and successfully executes it...Back in the US, Sarah is livid when she’s discharged on a false psychiatric evaluation and vows to return to the army...What they uncover may be the biggest story in of Sarah’s career – if she can survive long enough to write it....”

DO YOU BELIEVE? DVD ADULT DO. From the creators of God’s Not Dead. Taken from the back cover:

“When a local pastor is shaken to the core by the visible faith of an old street-corner preacher, he is reminded that true belief always requires action. His response ignites a faith-fueled journey that powerfully impacts everyone it touches in ways that only God could orchestrate. More than a movie, it’s a question we all must answer in our lifetimes: DO YOU BELIEVE?”

GRACE UPON GRACE – SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY by John W. Kleinig, 248.322 Kle. Taken from the back cover: “The longing for spiritual fulfillment, inevitably paired with spiritual frustration, is common among Christians. Do we read and study the Bible enough? Do we worship often and in the right way? Do we pray enough, in the correct way, and for the right things? How do we become truly spiritual? And the answers from numerous self-help spirituality books only lead to confusion and the fear of missing key steps on the road to becoming spiritual. In response, John W.

Kleinig clarifies that there is no process for becoming spiritual. Instead, God graciously gives to us every spiritual gift that we need, beginning with the very gift of faith in Christ, our Savior.

Because God has joined us to Christ, He continually comes to give life.”

MIRIAM’S SONG by Jill Eileen Smith,

813.6 Smi. Taken from the back cover:

“She has prayed for deliverance from Egypt. But perhaps the greatest liberation happens within the heart...From the very beginning, Miriam has lived in her younger brother’s shadow. Thrust into the role of protective older sister before Moses was even born, she will grow into a woman who not only keeps her family’s secret but bears the burden of leading a new nation...In her mind, she knows that she is serving both her God and her people.

But in her heart, Miriam yearns for more. She longs to experience the privilege Moses has – to talk with God face-to-face. But when God finally does speak directly to her, the outcome is not at all what she expects...With her impeccable research and keen eye for detail, bestselling author Jill Eileen Smith offers this epic novel to fill in the gaps in Miriam’s story, following her from childhood to motherhood, obscurity to notoriety, and yearning to fulfillment as she learns that what God promises He provides – in His own perfect timing.”

MY BOY BEN by David Wheaton, 813.54 Whi. This is a poignant and beautiful story. Though this is a true story of the warm bond between tennis star David Wheaton and an exceptional yellow lab named Ben, it is much more. When David’s joy in Ben is cut short, his grief is overwhelming. But David, a committed Christian, finds healing and new meaning in these words of 1 Peter 5:10-11: “May the God of **all** grace who called us to his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after you have suffered a while, make perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.” – *Reviewed by Alice Hill.*

SINGLE MOMS RAISING SONS by

Dana S. Chisholm, 248.8 Chi.

“Preparing boys to be men when there’s no man around.” “Dana S. Chisholm writes from her experience as the single mother of two boys. From financial concerns to teaching a boy to be macho, she knows what it’s like to try to see life through a boy’s eyes. She understands your struggle and shares ways you can support and help your son – even when his dad lets him down again and again. If you’re a woman raising a boy on your own, this book will give you the honest insight, advice, and guidance you need to raise your son to be the solid Christian man you want him to be.”

I love the way that each book – any book – is its own journey. You open it, and off you go...” – Sharon Creech

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – AUGUST 2021

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without

supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, “Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart” (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God’s gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

MISSION BOARD NEWS

On August 29th we have the wonderful opportunity to have Kipp and Tami Beaudoin, our Missionaries from the Ukraine with us. We have been supporting them in their ministry in our **TOGETHER IN MISSIONS**. (TIM). They will be sharing with us in between our worship services. It will be exciting and rewarding to hear first

hand how they are sharing the good news of the gospel with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Ukraine. Please mark your calendars now. May we continue to financially and prayerfully support them in this ministry.





FIRST LUTHERAN LWML NEWS

First Lutheran LWML board decided to set a goal for our mites of \$600.00 this year. As of June 30, 2021 we have received \$494.08 in Mites Offerings.

Our Mites, no matter how small or large are very important to sharing the love of Jesus through mission grants that our District and National LWML have committed to.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as Mite Box Sunday.

Offerings can be placed in the big Mite box that is placed on a stand just

outside of sanctuary that Sunday or in the wooden box by the mailboxes at any time. Please feel free to take one of the small cardboard mite boxes home with you, if that works for you, and return at your convenience.

Thank you to the women and men of our congregation for their mite offerings.

Here are 3 of the 12 Mission Grants approved by our LWML MN North District for 2020-2022.

GRANT 4: C.R.O.S.S. Appeal (\$18,000)

Funding for this grant would enable the seven LCMS schools that are currently operating in the Minnesota North District to meet costs that are not in their current budget. These costs may be in technology, improved programming, or in providing financial assistance to students who desire to receive their education in these settings, but may find it difficult to afford the tuition.

GRANT 5: Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students (\$32,000)

Rising costs of receiving an education through the Concordia University system may discourage potential students from enrolling at our universities. This grant would provide financial assistance to students eager to serve the Lord through full-time work in our churches and schools. Scholarships for these students have been offered since 1964; these former students now serve in many varied ways throughout our synod.

GRANT 6: Financial Assistance for Food and Clothing Co-op, CTS, Fort Wayne, IN (\$10,000)

When seminary students make a decision to leave their jobs and come to the seminary with their families, they no longer have the same financial flow of funds that they had previously, but still have the same financial needs. This food co-op helps reduce the burden by supplying between 80-90% of all families' food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Each seminary family volunteers a certain amount of

time each month in either the food or clothing area, making this a true cooperative. Money supplied by this grant will go to offset the \$7,500 per month cost that is used to purchase grocery items and paper products. This grant would provide financial assistance to students eager to serve the Lord through full-time work in our churches and schools. Scholarships for these students have been offered since 1964; these former students now serve in many varied ways throughout our synod.

Here is the report on Mission Grants from the District. Below is the April 13, 2021, Board of Directors report from the Mission Grants Committee. A total amount of \$17,200 in mites for LWML MN North grants was raised this past quarter. The Mission Grant Committee recommended, and the BOD approved, the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$5,000 for Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students, \$3,000 for Doxology Pastoral Care and Well-being, \$3,500 for Project 24 Christ's Care for Children-Kenya, \$3,000 for LSF Haiti-Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage, and \$2,700 for Connecting People in an inclusive Christian Housing Community. The chart below details the current balance remaining for the 2020-2022 biennium.

Mission Grants for the 2020-2022 Biennium (Balance as of April 13, 2021)

GRANT	2020-2022 Mission Grant	AMOUNT	BALANCE
# 1	Orphan Grain Train	\$9,000	\$3,000
# 2	Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch	\$10,000	\$5,000
# 3	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$6,000
# 4	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$18,000	\$11,000
# 5	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students	\$32,000	\$11,800
# 6	Financial Assistance for Food and Clothing Co-op, CTS, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	\$8,000
# 7	At Just the Right Time – Mission Central	\$10,800	\$7,700
# 8	"Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$5,000	\$2,500
# 9	DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000	\$9,000
# 10	Project 24, Christ's Care for Children –Kenya	\$10,800	\$4,500
# 11	LSF Haiti – Jacmel Lutheran Home & Center of Refuge Orphanage	\$10,000	\$4,500
# 12	Connecting People in an Inclusive Christian Housing Community (partially funded)	\$2,700	PAID IN FULL
TOTALS		\$140,500	\$76,000

Dear Heavenly Father,
 Thank You for giving me all that I have.
 Bless these mites that I give back to You
 so that they can be used to spread the
 Good News of Jesus' love here and
 throughout the world. Amen
 Serve The Lord with Gladness

Submitted by Theresa Howrey, Treasurer.
 Mark your calendars. First Lutheran
 LWML will be having Cookies for Coins on
 Sunday, September 19th. The funds raised
 will be used to support LWML Missions.
 More information to come at a later date.



2021 LWML Retreat
August 13 – 15, 2021
Lutheran Island Camp
Henning, MN

“Heaven is my Home” Bible study led by Pastor Timm on Friday evening
“The Way Home” – a study of the book of Ezra led by Pastor Timm on
Saturday

Deadline for registration is August 6, 2021.

Registration forms are on the counter outside Shirley’s office.
If you are interested in attending, please fill out a registration form
and send to Corles Rainer (address on form).

LWML – Funeral Work Units

Occasionally we need extra help when serving a funeral lunch. We have a “Will Work Anytime List” and are in the process of updating it. If you or your spouse are interested in being on this list please sign your name, phone number and email on the signup sheet outside the office. We appreciate your consideration.

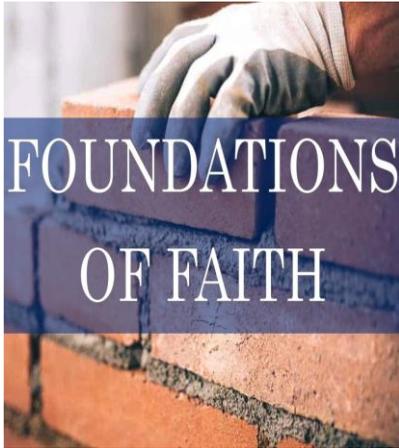
SWADDLING CLOTHES



In Thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, **First Lutheran** would like to reflect God's love by blessing the '**Swaddling Clothes**' mission of the women at Redeemer Lutheran in Aurora with 80 pairs of mittens for children ages 1 to 7 years old. Swaddling Clothes is a place for Moms and Moms-to-be to find some help gathering all the items that are needed for a new bundle of joy. We will bring the mittens to the Ingathering at the Fall Rally scheduled for Thursday, September 23rd at **Gloria Dei in Virginia**. A box for gathering the mittens will be placed in the narthex next to the Food Shelf box.

www.swaddlingclothes.org





Monday **SEPTEMBER 13th**, Pastor Lovejoy will begin a 10 week new member class called “**Foundations of Faith**” class. This class explains the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Whether you have had many years of experience reading the Bible or have just began attending church, this is a great opportunity to be acquainted with core teachings of the church.

Help change the world for Christ! This class represents an evangelism opportunity for you to extend an invitation to someone you may know that needs to be connected to our faith family. Perhaps you know someone that would like to know more about the church and but

doesn't know where to start. Here is where they can start.

A useful way to approach this is to think about three individuals you would like to approach about this opportunity. Begin to pray for them. Speak to them about the class two to three weeks before it begins, and hand them the **save the date coupon** that you cut off of the bottom of this page. *The people to be thinking about are your family members, your neighbor, your co-worker, your boss, your close friends, your distant friends, the guy that sits next to you at Sammy's, or even the checker at Super 1... or perhaps you would like to attend.*

Because dinner is provided we ask that all participants

Register with the Shirley in the office.

On **MONDAY**, September 13th @ 5:30pm “**Foundations of Faith**”

A class on the essential Biblical Christian beliefs

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

735 1st Ave NE, Grand Rapids MN
999-4101

DINNER PROVIDED



"IT IS OKTOBERFEST TIME"

1st Annual Oktoberfest Celebration

Saturday, September 25th 4:00 – 7:00

Mark your calendars for this fellowship event.

We are planning an evening of good food and

fun for all ages. RSVP in the signup notebook by September 12th.

Volunteers will be needed to help with this event.



Youth News

Lasting Impact of COVID

Let us take a minute and talk about Generation Z. This is the generation that is currently between the ages of 10 and 25. The Youth Ministry with LCMS continues to do research on this generation and how we can best minister to them. COVID-19 has made dramatic changes in some of this generation. We still do not know the lasting affects it has on them. This generation was living in fear to start with. For instance they are growing up with active shooter drills in school. They are angry advocates, extremely opinionated, they are lacking grit because of helicopter parents. Please remember the reason why parents went to helicopter parenting is because our neighbors were calling the police on them for their child outside playing by themselves, or a video got blasted on social media because their child was not wearing socks or shoes while going into a store in the middle of winter. People are no longer willing to extend a helping hand, instead they grab their phone and record the incident and then shame the parent.

Generation Z are authentic individuals, they speak truth and are not afraid to say what is on their mind. In the early 2000s this age group had an attention span of 12 seconds, today it has dropped down to 6 seconds. This is because they are constantly being stimulated with quick videos. This generation is able to multitask. They have more than one device open at a single time and can jump from one thing to the next quickly.

With COVID and the pandemic in the last year, we have seen Generation Z go from being on their devices averaging from 6 hours a day to 11 hours a day. They have had to learn to cope on their own which makes them emotional. They have a heightened distress due to COVID; they do not know who they can trust because they kept hearing different stories

as facts. They become upset easily, they are self-reflecting and are still struggling, they are self-focused and do not worry about other people. They are angry and upset at the lazy people, those that are not working when they are capable. They are upset by the lack of adults that have reached out to them during the pandemic.

We are seeing a mental health surge due to COVID in young adults. The mental health insurance claims from 2019 to 2020 have increased 103% for ages 13–18-year-olds. Self-harm claims have ballooned 90% and peaked with 333% increase in August 2020. Overdose-related claims increased 119%. Substance use, anxiety and major depressive disorders also rose significantly. OCD and tic disorder claims rose in youth ages 6-12. Mental health, panic disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia claims rose in youth ages 19-22. These are only the instances where insurance was notified.

You might be wondering how we can help these children, and maybe you are seeing this in some of your loved ones. This did not happen only to generation Z; adults have also been impacted by the pandemic.

We can help not only Gen Z, but everyone around us by listening and not judging each other. Everyone has a story, and we need to stop and listen to their story. We can show empathy to each other and not talk down to each. Life is better together, so let us live life together and not alone. We can be a faithful example to the youth by going to church, praying at home, reading the Bible at home, talking about Jesus at home. Focus on joy and all the good things God has given us. If you are in a situation where you just do not know what to say to the other person, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. We can offer Hope in Jesus.

Please know YOU are accepted. You are a beloved, treasured, redeemed child of God and you do not have to work at it. He loves you and we want to walk beside you through these times. No matter what happens, you are safe in your Savior's arms. God's love, patience, and forgiveness for you will never run out. No matter what you or your child is going through, God already knows, and He is already there.

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

May you share God's beauty and grace with those around you this month.

Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director.

SUMMER YOUTH NEWS!

Summer is here! Are you ready to have fun in the sun with your friends from church? We have lots of opportunities for you to come and gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20. Be sure to check the website, Facebook, Sunday morning slides and the

bulletin board for more information on each activity.

August 15th is set for Youth Sunday. We will continue with youth Sunday every third Sunday of the month unless notified. Youth are asked to be a part of the service that Sunday and can sign up at Youth Group Wednesday evenings.

We have an acolyte schedule! Please sign up if you know you will be here and want to light the candles. The sign-up sheet is found on the bulletin board in front of the youth office or by the library.

Youth group will continue throughout the summer. Friends are always welcomed and encouraged to come. The current schedule will be August 18th and the 25th.

Be sure to watch the Facebook group, email or the website for any changes.

AT GOD’S WONDER LAB VACATION BIBLE CAMP, your children look into the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and discover that Jesus does the impossible, giving us eternal life with Him! Jesus shows that He is God with amazing miracles. And He shows us that He loves us by using His power to do marvelous things on our behalf.



Join us on August 11th from 9-4. Sign up on the VBC table in the foyer.

Games, crafts, group leader and helpers are still needed. Thank you to those that have already signed up to help! The five lessons we will focus on are John 2:1-12 Jesus’ First Miracle, Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks

on Water, Mark 5:21-43 Jesus Gives Life, Luke 24:36-49 Jesus Appears to His Followers, and Acts 9:1-19 Jesus Sends Paul. The theme is “JESUS DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE.”

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! We know how busy teenagers get especially during the Summer. We will take this opportunity to get to know each other again and have some fun. This is for anyone entering 9th grade in the fall and at least 13 years of age. Dinner will be provided. Join us for fun, laughter and talk about Jesus on August



15th from 6:30-8:30. High School Youth Group -We will focus on evidence on creation verses evolution.

AUGUST 8TH IS THE TALL TIMBER DAYS PARADE! Save the date as we plan to have a float in the parade again this year. We will need people to help decorate it and walk in the parade. More information to come.



To All Of Our Youth with
Birthdays in



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

August 1

Mite Sunday

8:00 Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

August 8 Communion

Dimes For Missions

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Tall Timber Days Parade

August 15

Youth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

6:30pm-8:30pm H.S. Youth Group

August 22 Communion

Food Shelf Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

August 29

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
JULY 13, 2021

Present: Doug Carlson, Les Flem, Jennifer Flem, Dwight Kessler, Tom Lattimore, Pastor Lovejoy, Molly Bartel, Linda Urevig

Call to order: Tom L. called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor shared devotions and prayer from Isaiah 40:6-8. It is a great relief to know that the Word of God will stand forever.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda.

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in Packet
2. Board of Elders: Report in Packet/Les F.
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: No Report
4. Board of Stewardship: Report in Packet/Doug C. stated that the 2020 Financial Review has been completed and the program for Stewardship month (October) is “Discover the Joy in Sharing God’s Blessings”.
5. Board of Trustees: No Report
6. AV Ministry Committee: No Report
7. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No Report
8. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Report
9. Direction and Planning Committee: No Report

Family Ministry Program Director’s Report: Report in Packet

Pastor’s Report: Report in Packet/Pastor stated that Shirley would like a white board for the office. A new member class is planned to start Monday, September 13th at 5:30PM with dinner provided.

Financial Secretary’s Report: Report in Packet/Molly B.

YTD income 2021: \$152,313.59 (figure to be corrected) YTD income 2020:
\$140,946.98

Treasurer’s Report: Report in Packet/Jennifer F.

As of: June 30, 2021

General Fund Chkg: \$37,515.47

Building Fund Chkg: \$7,129.53

Mortgage loan balance: \$54,840.17

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$83,105.34

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the oral and written Board and Committee Reports.

Correspondence – None

Unfinished Business

1. Survey Committee Update – Dwight K. stated that paper surveys are being given out and the committee will report back in September.
2. Assimilation Committee Update – Committee is putting together the New Member Welcome Packet and a tri-fold information brochure for prospective members.
3. Building Maintenance Evaluation/Plan Update – No Report
4. Air Conditioner Update - Completed
5. Leadership Retreat Update – Pastor will be planning the retreat for September.
6. First Lutheran Individual Board Goals Update – Pastor plans to meet with boards after the Leadership Retreat.

***It was noted that the credit card for Pastor Lovejoy has been taken care of and the refrigerator repairs are complete. The Front Lawn Landscaping has not been completed.

New Business - None

Caring and Sharing

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM

Pastor Lovejoy closed with prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

August 3rd – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

August 10th – Council Meeting 5:30PM



Newsletter

***Please Have September 2021
Newsletter Articles to Shirley
By August 15th.***

***Newsletter will be published
and***

***Sent out on or about
August 26th***