

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

# June First Fruits

REJOICE







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

## *Notes from the Pastor's Desk*



*<sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 ESV)*

Over and over again it is said that the number one issue facing Americans right now is inflation. I disagree. Yes, the rising cost of pretty much everything from gasoline to bread is increasingly on the rise. It is unpleasant, it is forcing families to make tough decisions, and it is putting tremendous pressure on those living on fixed incomes. More than that, no matter who you are, you are touched by it. It being universal in nature, virtually unavoidable, and persistent is why I think it gives the impression that it is the most significant issue facing our culture. We are reminded of its existence every time we go to a restaurant, buy medication, or pay our electricity bill. Imagine if there was something in this life that forced us, at every turn, to see the tears shed every day in family court, or the infant of drug addicted parents crying in hunger laying in soiled garments. What if we couldn't just pretend that the person in our extended family, or the child that sits next to ours on the bus, or that young man holding a sign on the corner wasn't really there. What if, just as we are forced to go to the gas pump, we were forced to pull over, and confront the issues our neighbors faced? What if we saw everyone's pain as everyone's pain and that it bothered us as much as \$5 gas?

Can you imagine a community where we bear each other's burdens, and not just the burdens that impact us personally (Galatians 6:2)? If that were the case, what would we list as the greatest issues facing us as a people today? Would it be the drug epidemic that continues to claim more and more lives? Would we list our children's mental health as a top concern seeing how they have struggled over the last three years? If we took a step back from the fray to stare at the increasing divide in our society, where hatred and condemnation are flung across political aisles, would we see it as the huge issue it truly is? Would we see the anger and resentment in our communities as the biggest issue? For me, I would list how we have lost sight of the most basic reality, that the people around us are people; people with families, feelings, needs, pains, and

value... immeasurable value. After all, it wasn't with gold or silver that Christ redeemed their soul, but with His holy, innocent, precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Woven throughout this article are stark rhetorical questions which ought to cut us all to our core, and expose what is too often lacking, at least in my heart. The truth is, as we examine ourselves, and list the issues that we face relationally in our communities across this world, there is no simple answer. The answer isn't solely found in more legislation, supreme court rulings, or protests. The answer is only found in a transformation of the heart and mind within the individuals of a community. A transformation that runs countercultural. It is represented in the words, "Help the weak... be patient... don't repay with evil... seek to do good." Over and over again in scripture we encounter our calling to rise above the chaos of this world and love with an understanding, compassionate, heart. Romans 12:15 tells us to rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Ephesians 4:12 reminds us that we are to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving as Christ forgave us. Peter instructs us to be united, be sympathetic, love one another, possess a compassionate soft heart, and be humble (1 Peter 3:8). These are but a few times scripture reminds us that we are to love one another with an intentional love demonstrated first by how Christ sought us out and reconciled himself to us through His selfless sacrifice (John 13:34, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21). Some of the voices in the world might say that inflation might be the greatest issue facing us at this point in time. But we know better. The greatest issue is our heart, it always has been. Inflation is simply a convenient distraction from facing the mirror. At least it is for me.

This is the time of the year where we get outside and clean up around the house from the winter months. It is the time of the year where we try to make time to do all of that spring cleaning, both inside and out. Can we at least be as diligent with our souls as well? Let's take out the clutter. Wash the windows of our heart, and dust off the empathy we are to embody in this world toward one another. Not simply because it is the nice thing to do. But because when we look into the mirror we see, yes, a selfish sinner, but also a blood-bought child of God that has the privilege of showing others how God in Christ chose them as His child before the foundation of the world was set. More than that, that He would stop at nothing to call them His child as He looked down and saw their universal, unavoidable, and persistent helpless state, and demonstrated compassion by rescuing them. He did this by moving toward them, and bearing their burdens! Lean on Christ, run to Him and His word which is living and active. He will restore your soul, live in and through you as He alone supplies relief from the REAL greatest issue facing not only Americans but all of humanity in this time and place. To Him be all the glory!

*In His Strength, (Philippians 4:13)*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy

*Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*735 NE 1St Ave*

*Grand Rapids, MN 55744*

*flcgr.org*

*1-218-999-410*

## PASTOR'S REPORT –May 2022

**Opening** <sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 6:1-2** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

### **Pastoral Acts**

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Worship services | 12 |
| Bible studies    | 5  |
| Communion visits | 15 |
| Hospital visits  | 1  |
| Baptisms         | 0  |
| Wedding          | 0  |
| Funerals         | 3  |

### **Membership Changes:**

Transferred out: 0

Transferred In: 2 (Nagle)

New Members: 0

Phone contacts (members/ visitors) Contacts: 18

### **Events, Activities, and Special Announcements:**

- Contributions to the Grand Rapids Herald continue.
- I continue to serve on the Board for NAMI Grand Rapids, as well as the Board for New Beginnings.
- My contributions for the United Way Impact Committee will be finished this month.
- I am looking into the possibility of being the Arrowhead LWML Pastoral Counselor.
- Calls to the membership continue.
- Shut-In Visitations continue with a monthly rotation. Pastor Zeige has begun volunteering to sharing in the ministry.
- I continue to offer monthly communion services to Majestic Pines (12), River Grand (9), and Emeralds (11). Attendance is in brackets.
- The staff meetings continue the staff that has been using Church 360, has been undergoing scheduled trainings.
- Confirmation Class continues. Confirmation Sunday will be held on 5/22/22. There are 5 being confirmed.
- Foundations of Faith has concluded, and I am looking at offering the next class as a one-day class on a Saturday.

- Grand Mondays has resumed, and we are using a book (Biblical Grandparenting) as our guide.
- Sunday morning's Bible Study continues on the book of Romans and the Wednesday morning Bible Study continues on the book of Galatians. Each Bible study continues to be well attended.
- Holy Week services were well attended and well received. I am always looking for, and welcoming, insight in how to enhance our services for the coming years.
- The new member reception will be on 6/12. the list of new members and prospects is provided on the back of this report.
- A planning meeting for our education program for next fall took place on 5/1.
- A leadership meeting for Ruby's Pantry took place on 4/25; and 5/3.
- The First Lutheran Early Education Team (FLEET) to discuss possible outreach and ministry objectives.
- Also, this month Jessica and I met with John Schroder as well as a representative from Trail Life Boys to explore the possibility of offering this ministry to our church.
- Shirley has announced her retirement to be 12/31/22. She will remain working her regular schedule to then, as we begin to look for her replacement.



**To all the Father's here at First Lutheran!**



### What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for



praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



## LIBRARY CORNER FOR JUNE 2022

### Here's to books: the cheapest vacation you can buy.

Greetings gentle First readers! As you're enjoying warmer weather and getting outside to play and work on your garden and yard, know that wonderful books are waiting to be read from your church library. Check out the Small Book shelf above the DVDs for titles that will capture your attention, but won't take long to read through on a quiet evening inside. – *Your library volunteers – Janie Carlson, Darlene Baltus and Shela Cline.*

**BABYSITTER'S HANDBOOK, THE** by Sarah Fletcher found at 649.1 Fle. Maybe there are some young people out there thinking about earning some money during the summer. There always seems to be the need for good babysitters. I was thinking of that a couple of weeks ago so I went to the card catalogue and found this book. Inside you'll find 15 chapters about how to do your job, what to expect, and what is expected of you. Included are suggestions for stories, games, and activities and hand forms to help you get all the information you need to do the best job possible. This book was put into circulation in 2007 from a Marie Mueller Memorial fund (maybe some of you remember Marie from the town library), but the information still holds true. – *Reviewed by Darlene Baltus.*

**COUNTERFEITER** by Moritz Nachtstern and Ragnar Arntzen found at 940.53 Nac. In 1945 Moritz Nachtstern sat down in his Oslo apartment and dictated the story of how he survived the Holocaust. First published in Norwegian in 1949, this English edition is complemented by a foreword by his daughter Sidsel. This must have been a hard story to tell and I found it a hard story to read. – *Reviewed by Darlene Baltus.*

**GRANDMA'S ON THE GO** by Carol V. Weishampel, Ed. D. found at Fiction Wei. A single mom and her passel of kids hit the road with guts and gusto. If you like to travel and camp, you will enjoy reading about trips taken from Texas to Montana and points leading from Austin to the state parks in Texas. Cooking over open fire? There are recipes in the back along with travel guides and check lists. This was a fun read. – *Reviewed by Darlene Baltus.*

**SOUND AMONG THE TREES, A** by Susan Meissner found at 813.6 Mei. This is taken from the back of the book: A house shrouded in time. A line of women with a heritage of loss. As a young bride, Susannah Page was rumored to be a Civil War spy for the North, a traitor to her Virginian roots. Her great-granddaughter Adelaide, the current matriarch of Holly Oak, doesn't believe that Susannah's ghost haunts the antebellum mansion looking for a pardon, but rather that the house itself bears a grudge toward its tragic past.



## JUNE WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

### June 5: Mite Sunday:

8:00 Traditional Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Chosen People Ministry

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Family Camp at Camp Bluewater Begins

### June 12: Dimes For Missions

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service/Communion

9:30a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service/Communion

**New Member Installation at Second Service**

**Picnic to follow**

### June 19: Youth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

### June 26 / Food Shelf

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service/Communion

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service/Communion



Let us  
**WORSHIP**  
Together

**9:00AM QUILTERS MEET EVERY TUESDAY**

**JUNE 2: 2:00PM WOMEN OF THE BIBLE STUDY IN PERSON AT THE CHURCH**

**JUNE 5-JUNE 9 FAMILY CAMP**

**JUNE 5: CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES BETWEEN SERVICES**

**JUNE 7: 5:30PM BOARD MEETINGS EVERY TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**6:30AM: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT FOREST LAKE EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**9:00AM: ADULT BIBLE STUDY EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**JUNE 11: 2:00PM OLSON WEDDING**

**JUNE 12: 12:00PM NEW MEMBERS PICNIC**

**JUNE 14: 12:00PM SUMMER CONCERT 12:45PM LUNCH TO FOLLOW**

**JUNE 14: 5:30PM COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUNE 15: 6:30PM-8:00PM YOUTH GROUP**

**JUNE 15: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**JUNE 18: 11:00AM PROSEK FUNERAL**

**JUNE 20-22 LWML CONVENTION**

**JUNE 20-22 PASTOR GONE TO LWML CONVENTION**

**JUNE 20: 4:00PM RUBY'S PANTRY DISTRIBUTION**

**JUNE 23: OUR REDEEMER'S SERVANT EVENT AND LUNCH**

**JUNE 27-29: MEN'S FISHING RETREAT (PASTOR GONE)**

**JUNE 30-JULY 3 PASTOR GONE TO FAMILY REUNION**

**GRAND MONDAY POSTPONED UNTIL JULY**



**RUBY'S PANTRY:** would like to establish a Volunteer Base. You will need to pick up a 2022 Volunteer Application at the Church Office, or you can apply online at [www.ruby'spantry.org](http://www.ruby'spantry.org). you have to register prior to being a volunteer. Any questions please call Judy Peterson at 218-398-0849.

## *Lutheran Woman's News*

The **LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION** will be held in Moorhead, MN on June 20-22. If you are interested in being a delegate from First Lutheran, please contact Carla Taylor at 218-259-4080. Our LWML Society will pay for registration/meal plan and hotel.

**LWML:** There will be a door offering on Sunday, June 12 for the LWML Mn North District Convention which will be held in Moorhead, MN on June 20-22. The door offering will be given as an offering for mission grants at the convention.

**FIRST LUTHERAN LWML** The *Tuesday Summer Concert Series is back this summer.* First Lutheran is hosting the concert Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Denise Minea will be entertaining us with her acoustic guitar and folk vocals. The concert is from Noon to 12:45 pm and is a free will offering. At 12:45 there is lunch for \$6.00 per person as available.

Save the date! **OUR REDEEMER** has invited the women of First Lutheran to a Servant Event and lunch on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. More information to come.



*Women of the Church*



## **GREAT WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

Last October six women joined together on Zoom to do a small group Bible study series on the Great Women of the Bible. We added a new member to our group in March and we'll be finished with our second series in May.

There have been suggestions of doing an in-person study starting in June (depending on Covid and interest in this). This series will study the wives of King David (Michal, Abigail and Bathsheba),

Jezebel, the Shunnamite woman, and Esther. The class size is limited to ten women. The class will be held at 2 pm at church on the first and third Thursdays starting in June (June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.)

The study guides are eight dollars each. The class size is limited to ten women. Please contact Kay Grabarkewitz if interested. She can be reached at 218-256-1941 or [kaygee@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kaygee@paulbunyan.net).



## Lutheran Island Camp (Summer Employment)

Hey there! We have a great summer planned for 2022! We can't wait for the Island to be full of campers laughing, playing, and learning more about Jesus. Our mission is the same as always--to nourish the whole person for joyful, Christ-centered life and service!

**Unfortunately, staffing has been tough, and we are currently five days away from our deadline to decide if we will need to limit the number of kids who can come to camp each week due to a low number of applicants.** Each summer we hire 20-25 college-aged individuals to fill leadership, cabin counseling, kitchen, maintenance, and wrangling positions. We currently have eight. This is where you come in!

Encourage any college-aged people in your life to [apply!](#) Remember, there is no "right" personality for the camp environment. Just like the Body of Christ needs all kinds, so does our camp staff! When you encourage a young adult to work at camp you are encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone and learn to be a strong, Christian leader. Let them know the benefits of working at camp! To name a few:

- **Experience:** Working at camp looks great on resumes! It shows future employers that the candidate worked in a fast pace, intense environment and succeeded. It implies that the candidate can be adaptable and has good problem-solving skills. A summer at camp can also double as an internship opportunity!
- **Community:** When people serve on summer staff, they get the opportunity to be a part of a community bigger than themselves. Lifelong friendships are made as a result of working on summer staff. The community people experience nurtures each individual's faith and brings them closer to Jesus.
- **Faith building:** There's no better way to learn something than to teach it yourself! All summer staff have the opportunity to teach or preach the Word of God to campers. Countless numbers of summer staff have had their faith lives transformed as they work to transform the faith lives of the campers. As part of the camp staff, individual get to directly live out their Christian calling to "make disciples of all nations"!

Working at camp as a college student encourages young people to fulfill their Christian calling, gain great experience for their future, and be a part of an incredible community of their peers. We ask that you reach out to the young adults that you know and let them know about this invaluable and transformative experience! God is good and we trust Him to take care of the mission of Lutheran Island Camp.

Julia Johnson  
Program Coordinator  
[licprogram@islandcamp.org](mailto:licprogram@islandcamp.org) (218) 583-2905

May 2022

Spring Flower Fundraiser has been extended until May 25, 2022. Please see our Flower Power order link or our New Beginnings Pregnancy website if you are interested in ordering perennial flowers.



Go to:

<http://newbeginningsbulbfundraiser.fpfundraising.com/> or  
[www.newbeginningspregnancy.com](http://www.newbeginningspregnancy.com).

We sure enjoyed seeing all the smiling faces at the Children's First Fair of 2022. It might be one of our most fun events! 😊 Come visit us at the Brat Barn at Super One North (by our Grand Rapids office) on June 30<sup>th</sup>- July 2nd, the Deer River Wild Rice Festival the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of July, the Tall Timber Days Parade Aug 7th, or the Itasca County Fair Mid Aug.

We hope to see you there.

We have started prayer times for both Centers. If you are interested in joining, please email us at:

[contactus@newbeginningspregnancy.com](mailto:contactus@newbeginningspregnancy.com) or call us at 218-326-0404. Ask for Kathy.

This past month of April 2022 we have been able to come along-side 41 different individuals and their families, 7 of which were new to our ministry. We were able to provide 265 services, some of which included 155 Earn While You Learn through Bright Course classes, 5 ultrasounds and 36 boutique visits. Thank you so much for making this work possible through your generous support!

Thank you again for making New Beginnings possible! We can follow our call in this ministry, to empower people and promote life, because of your generosity!



# Hayden Rensner LCMS Missionary Serving the Lord in the Czech Republic

Find out more: [lcms.org/haydenr](https://lcms.org/haydenr)



May 2022



Above: Helping hands

Since the beginning of the year, the physical copies of my monthly newsletter have been printed, prepared

and sent out by a faithful Kindergarten class under the supervision of their teacher, my sister. I send a copy of my newsletter, and these kids fold, stuff envelopes, label and stamp each newsletter.

This class will be resigning their duties for the summer, and next year's Kindergarten class will be taking over in the fall.

A big thank you to these students who have helped me tremendously this semester.

Also, a huge thank you to all of you who assist, support, and encourage me in so many ways.

Join me in thanking God for Lutheran schools and praying for all students and teachers as they finish out their school year.

## May Update



This month I continued teaching in two different schools, three days of the week. I teach 7th, 8th and 9th grade classes and enjoy it very much. I am fortunate to be able to build these relationships with students from different towns. My Wednesday morning classes are an especially lively bunch, and I look forward to leading them in conversations and games each week.

This month I was asked to lead a devotion for a local youth group. I loved having the opportunity to meet even more new students and walk with them through the theme "God's Calling."

I was asked to serve as a substitute leader for my supervisor's English Group. It was great to see some familiar faces and meet new ones. This English Group is followed directly by a time for youth group and devotional study. Following the English Talk Group time, I had a great conversation with one of the student participants. She shared with me that she would like to stay on for the youth group time and talk more with people, but the prayer and Bible reading makes her uncomfortable as she considers herself an atheist.

Please keep this girl in your prayers. Also pray for the youth whom I and others interact with on a regular basis, whether in classrooms, English groups, coffee shops, etc. Pray that relationships would continue to be built and that the hearts of the youth I interact with would be softened and opened to hearing the Gospel.



#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- For the Riga Academy students as their summer break approaches
- The continued conflict in Ukraine and the refugees who have temporarily settled in the Czech Republic and surrounding countries
- Preparations for English Bible Camps that will take place this summer
- That I would continue to make connections and form relationships with the students and young adults whom I work with here in the Czech Republic

#### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- New relationships and opportunities
- Continued health
- My newsletter helpers
- The arrival of spring
- You! My faithful encouragers and supporters

#### GET IN TOUCH WITH ME!

Facebook/Instagram:  
@rensnersontherun

WhatsApp:  
+420-731-679-308

#### Witches Night

Towards the end of last month, I went for a walk around my town. I was confused when I saw several of the witch 'scarecrow' type figures outside of buildings and homes.

I told my Czech tutor about it, and she explained to me that the last day of April is 'Witches Night' in the Czech Republic. People make these witch figurines, and then when the sun sets, they build a bonfire and burn them.

The tradition is that by burning the winter witches, winter is officially over and the spring weather can fully settle in. Historically, these ceremonies were taken more seriously and burning the witches was seen as a way to ward off evil. Nowadays, while the tradition still carries on, it is a low-key event carried out by individual families. Czech people whom I asked about this tradition said that they view it as an opportunity for families and friends to gather together and celebrate the new spring season.



"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" - Isaiah 55:11(ESV).

The more bold I become in attempting to speak in Czech, the more blunders I make. I have had a few instances this month where I will use a phrase that my students have taught me, only to realize that they jokingly taught me to say an offensive phrase or bad word without my knowledge.

Thanks be to God that despite our shortcomings and blunders, we can speak boldly about the hope we have in Christ because we are confident that God is the one in control, not us. He graciously allows us to be tools in His hands as He accomplishes His purposes and brings people unto Himself.

With that being said, I am now more cautious about using phrases that the youth I work with teach me. My students bring me so much joy and keep me on my toes.

May God continue to bless and keep you all in His gracious care.

- Hayden

*Prayerfully consider financially partnering with me as we work together to bring the Good News of the Gospel to those living in spiritual darkness in the Czech Republic! Thank you for your continued support!*

*Send checks with 'Rensner-Czech' in the memo line to:*

*The Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861*

*OR*

*Mission Central  
40718 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034*





## Youth News

On July 7<sup>th</sup> seven youth and three adults from First Lutheran are venturing down to Houston, Texas for the National Youth Gathering put on the LCMS Youth Ministry. The seven youth have committed to attend this event in 2021 and have been looking for this time to come.

The guiding principles of the Youth Gathering is it proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ and God's saving grace to His people through Christ. Young people grow in their personal relationship with God and

grow in their fellowship of Word and Sacrament in Christ's Church. The Youth Gathering equips youth and adults for ministry and vocational service in a variety of settings in their congregations, communities, and world.

This year's theme is In All Things. We will be looking into Colossians 1:15-20 where Christ is the Creator of all things and became a creature Himself, entering into His own creation. Christ reconciles all things to himself through his death and resurrection. Christ (risen, ascended, complete, sovereign) reigns over all authorities inside and outside the church. Christ transforms the lives of all his people into his image. Christ promises to return to restore all things and make his reign explicit for all to see. This is found in the Talking Points on the [lcmsgathering.com](http://lcmsgathering.com) website.

They all have worked hard at raising funds to attend the Gathering. They want to thank the congregation for your support and contribution to them. I am excited to introduce the seven youth who are attending.

**Lainee Spangler** will be in eleventh grade this fall, and she likes to play sports, hang out with friends, and help the community. She is looking forward to the Gathering to spend more time with the youth Gathering and learning more. Lainee signed up to attend to spend more time with the church, learn and have fun. Lainee says, "I would like to thank the congregation for everything they do to help us with Youth Gathering."

**Annika Spangler** will be in eleventh grade this fall, and she likes basketball and volleyball. She dislikes olives and mushrooms. She is looking forward to meeting other people her age and seeing the ocean. When asked why she signed up to go the Gathering she responded with "I think it will provide me a great opportunity to grow in my personal relationship with God." She would like to tell the congregation "I would like to thank everyone that has supported us with fundraisers and generous donations we've received supporting us to go to the Youth Gathering."

**Tijanna Lattimore** is graduating this spring and she likes food and Valleyfair. She does not like running. She is looking forward to the food, environment, and meeting new people at the Youth Gathering. She signed up to attend this Gathering because she went to one three years ago and it was fun. She would like to tell the congregation "Thank you so much for all your donations. It really helped us out."

**Kate Clairmont** will be in eleventh grade in the Fall, and she likes gymnastics, golf, softball, roller coasters, waterslides, and shopping. She does not like sauerkraut and the cold. She is looking forward to having fun with her friends and meeting new people at the Gathering. She signed up to make memories that will last forever and grow closer to God. She would like to tell the congregation “Thank you! I am extremely excited for this opportunity.”

**Chase Pellinen** will be in tenth grade next Fall, and he likes video games, board games, card games, chess, his family, and Jesus. He is looking forward to the food and learning about God. He signed up to attend the Gathering because he thought it would be really fun. He would like to tell the congregation “Thank you” for supporting him in this opportunity.

**Leif Gilman** will be in eleventh grade in the Fall, and he likes swimming, math, martial arts, and history. He does not like reading and writing. He is looking forward to meeting other believers and going to Houston. He signed up to attend the Gathering because he would like to go to be still and eat new food. Leif would like to tell the congregation “Thank you” for supporting him in this opportunity.

**Daimon Hill** will be in eleventh grade in the Fall, and he likes running, soccer, reading, hanging out with friends and church. He is looking forward to hanging out with new people at the Gathering. He signed up because he thought it would be a fun new experience. He would like to tell the congregation “Danke or Thank you” for supporting him in this opportunity.

Along with the seven youth our adult leaders are RaeAnne Lattimore, Pastor Lovejoy and me. As adult leaders we are all looking forward to this opportunity to support these young adults in their faith experiences.

Our trip will consist of driving down in a 12-passenger van and leaving early morning on July 7<sup>th</sup>. We will return back to Grand Rapids on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our plan so far is to do a low-key dinner with games. On Saturday we will drive to Houston Space Center and then head to Galveston in the afternoon. We will get to see the Gulf of Mexico, see the dolphins, and eat at a fresh seafood restaurant all before heading to our first mass event.

Our goal is to help in the service project and make seven fleece tie blankets on the way down to Houston. At the Gathering the onsite service event is building bed frames and making blankets to be donated to local families. Since we have some time in the van, we plan to try and execute this task.

We are so close to our goal in fundraising. Since gas prices have gone up a bit and some other expenses have gone up, our budget increased a bit as we are finalizing everything. We are still in need of about \$1000 more in funds. We will be doing one last ask to reach this goal. You will see one of the posts decorated with envelopes. If you have already given to them, THANK YOU!! If you have not donated yet and feel you would like to contribute, grab an envelop and put that dollar amount inside. Place that envelop in the locked box underneath. Thank you again for your contributions and support toward this trip!

Please continue to pray for the youth and the adults attending. We will have a commissioning and send off service on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 worship service.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the death, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heave, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:15-20*

Jessica Pellinen

Family Ministry Program Director



To All Of Our Youth Born in





*“Sharing the Love of Jesus”*

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – UNAPPROVED

May 10, 2022

Present: Tom Lattimore, Dick Buech, Mary Buech, Jessica Pellinen, Greg Taylor, Pam Clairmont, Jennifer Flem, Les Flem, Joan Johnson, Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Dick B. gave the devotion, and Les F. led the prayer

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with additions to New Business (2. Octoberfest; 3. Youth Ministry; 4. Invest Early Lease Agreement).

**Oral Reports of Boards and Committees**

1. **Boards of Christian Education & Youth:** Report in Packet/Pam C. stated that the Youth are doing yard work for a church member. Jennifer F. stated that there may be members that have a need for services such as yard work, meals, etc. Boards of Human Care and Stewardship could take a look at what some of the needs could be and the people who would be willing to help.

2. **Board of Elders:** Report in Packet/Les F. stated that a date will be set up for CPR/AED training. A congregation picnic is planned on June 12<sup>th</sup> for assimilation of new members.

3. **Boards of Human Care & Missions:** Report in Packet/Mary B.

4. **Board of Stewardship:** Report in Packet/Joan J. stated that the Stewardship Board is asking all boards to discuss with their members what their current “actual” needs are and come back next month with them. This will allow the Stewardship Board to accurately list the needs of the various boards and their activities on a revised information sheet to be handed out.

5. **Board of Trustees:** Report in Packet/Greg T.

6. **AV Ministry Committee:** No Meeting/Tom L. stated that there have been some issues with Pastor’s microphone and sound issues on the livestream. An update will be done on the computer in the AV system. Always looking for more helpers to run the system.

7. **Revolving Trust Fund Committee:** No Report

8. **Wiebe Grant Committee:** No Requests

9. **Direction and Planning Committee:** No Report

**Family Ministry Program Director's Report:** Report in Packet/Jessica P. stated that the Children's Fair was wonderful.

**Pastor's Report:** Report in Packet

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Report in Packet

YTD income 2022: \$111,784.53      YTD income 2021: \$93,291.60

**Treasurer's Report:** Report in Packet/Jennifer F.

As of: April 30, 2022

General Fund Chkg: \$24,217.50

Building Fund Chkg: \$10,916.65

Mortgage loan balance: \$32,912.88

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$92,946.36

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

**Correspondence** – New lease agreement from Invest Early through the School District for the period of 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2023 was received. (Added to New Business)

### **Unfinished Business**

1. Visa Card Issues – Issues have been resolved
2. Ruby's Pantry Update – All the leader positions have been filled and distributions will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month starting on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6PM. Our Redeemer will be donating supplies that they used when they were doing the distribution.

### **New Business**

1. Trustee's Proposal – See attached list of projects

- Re-Key Six Rooms

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to re-key six rooms at a cost of \$200.00 to be paid from Major Maintenance.

- Education Wing Lower Bathrooms

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to proceed with the bathroom remodeling except for the flooring for a cost of \$4,500.00 to be paid from Major Maintenance.

- Fellowship Hall Remodel/Update (Includes overflow area on the east side)

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to Remodel/Update the Fellowship Hall doing everything but the floor at an approximate cost of \$13,000.00 to be paid from Revolving Trust, Major Maintenance and Member Contributions (small capital campaign).

2. **Octoberfest** – Greg T. stated that a larger committee is needed to put this on again. A date has been set for 9/24/2022.

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to move forward with plans for the Octoberfest on 9/24/2022 under the leadership of DPC.

### 3. **Youth Ministry**

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to change Sunday School to Wednesdays after school along with Release Time, Confirmation and Youth Group for K-12 students from 3PM – 5:30PM and create a Toddler Pre-K Education Hour and Music Program for Sunday Mornings as approved by the Boards of Christian Education and Youth.

### 4. **Invest Early Lease Agreement**

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to move forward with the lease agreement with the Board of Education for space used from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 in the amount of \$750.00 per month.

### **Caring and Sharing**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM and closed with The Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

## COMING EVENTS

June 7th – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

June 14th – Council Meeting 5:30PM





## **Board of Trustees**

### **Re-key six rooms**

1. Fellowship hall storage room, old choir room, Sunday school storage, computer room, cold room, another door to be determined
2. Cost \$200.00
3. Paid for from major maintenance

### **Education wing lower bathrooms**

1. Stall partitions - \$2,400.00
2. Flooring includes bathroom and hallway off the fellowship hall - \$2,227.15
3. Vanities and sinks - \$1,500.00
4. Miscellaneous \$500.00
5. Total Cost \$6627.00 paid from major maintenance

### **Fellowship hall remodel/update (includes overflow area on the east side)**

1. Partitions \$2,300.00
2. Floor options
  - a. Polyurea floor \$12,783.00
  - b. Carpet \$12,280.00
  - c. Existing floor - \$0.00
3. Sheetrock - \$600.00
4. Red pine wainscot - \$2,000.00
5. Trim - \$400.00
6. Lights - \$3,000
7. Miscellaneous (taping, paint, pine sealer) \$2,800.00
8. Paid for from Revolving Trust, Major Maintenance, Member contributions (small capital campaign)

**Total Approximate Cost - \$25,000.00**