

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Member of the
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
March First Fruits





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

Notes from the Pastor's Desk



And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. (Luke 4:1-2^{ESV})

In-between college and grad school I took a job that involved remodeling houses. I remember one home in particular that had a basement that no one would go into. Everyone who came into work on the home would stand at the top of the stairway, peering into the darkness of the lower level, trying to muster the courage to descend, but with zero success. There was something about that space under the house that made everyone shudder, or as one 275-pound brick-mason put it “gave him the “heebie jeebies.”

There are times when we find ourselves standing on the threshold of rooms when our heart sinks, we fear danger is looming, or when the darkness seems too unsettling. For some it is the hallway leading to the marriage counselor's office. It could be the office that we work in as unforgiveness or undealt with wrongs loom. It might even be the living room that every night before was a place of relaxation, but tonight is the place where you are being asked to admit your wrongs. It is definitely experienced in those places we all fear one day that we'll be, like the oncology department at Mayo, or the funeral home here in town. There are a lot of “dark” rooms that we are called to enter, and the thought of doing so is far more terrifying than that dark basement of that house so many years ago. It is overwhelming to be asked to enter any of those rooms and taking that first step sometimes almost feels impossible.

Doing what is impossible for us is what Christ demonstrated after His baptism when He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to confront Satan. In that single act our Lord was pointing all the way back to the first day of creation as the word of God penetrated the darkness of the void to bring about light. When the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ, walked into the darkness of the wilderness to face our greatest enemy, He was working toward bringing about restoration and reconciliation between God and mankind. The work that Jesus did in the wilderness cannot be overstated. He came to that

place, boldly, and strove with the devil for forty days being tempted in every way (Hebrews 4:15), when we could not last a single hour, minute, or fraction of a second. The light that was the light of all mankind (John 1:4-5) descended into the realm of disorder once again, and the power of God's word was once again demonstrated. But this of course is not the only time Jesus demonstrates His power as the Word Made Flesh by taking on the darkness. There will be a Friday soon when the sun will fail to shine (Luke 23:44). There will be the blackness of a borrowed tomb, the hopeless gloom of a tearful Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning. The Word of God would meet them all, confront them each in time, and show that no amount of darkness could overcome Him (John 1:5).

Without Jesus, creepy basements would not be our biggest problem. We would be constantly forced into situations of helplessness, where each experience the reality of our weakness in the face of guilt, and death. However, with Christ, we have the light of God, His Word, to move to rooms like that of marriage counselors, office buildings, and living rooms overshadowed with shame and guilt, as our consciences scream out from our soul, rejoicing that we have forgiveness to revel in with each other. With Christ we have the ability to step through the threshold of the oncologist's office, and if necessary the funeral home, confident that death no longer haunts us. We are more than conquerors through Christ who gives us strength each day to face the enemies He has already destroyed (Romans 8:36-39). What Jesus began at His baptism, then as He descended into the wilderness to confront Lucifer, and finally stripped him of His power through the cross and empty grave, changes everything for us! It takes all of the moments of darkness in our lives and turns on the lights, ripping through all of the terror, helplessness, and hopelessness we otherwise would experience every day.

The weeks went by as we all worked on that house with the foreboding basement. Finally, the day came when we were finished and one of the contractors brought a new employee to show him the job site. Before we could warn him of the basement, he walked over to the stairwell, flipped on the light, and headed down as he asked what the basement looked like. We all stood there in amazement. Mostly because none of us had ever noticed the light switch. What a difference light makes. We all followed the young man down the stairs to see for the first time the room we all had avoided for weeks. We laughed and made fun of each other for the rest of the afternoon... off the clock of course.

It is a powerful thing when fear can be replaced with laughter. Now many years later, I experience that same thing in much more powerful ways in hospital rooms as families pray and sing over the beds of their loved ones. I see it as families cry but smile at a graveside, knowing they will see their lifelong friend in Glory. I am even given the

same privilege when I hear the wonderful words of forgiveness touch a terrorized conscience of a wife as she receives the balm of forgiveness in my office from her husband. Light overcoming darkness... that is what this time of the year is all about. We begin in the wilderness, but we will end in the garden of an empty tomb. May you be moved in your life to flip on this Light of Christ in the rooms you find yourself in, regardless of the situation, that all fear and despair may be removed. To God be all the Glory.

In His Strength, (Philippians 4:13)

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy

Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – March 2022 God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, and that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to

the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being: That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. “For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (Luther’s Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



LIBRARY CORNER FOR MARCH 2022

Greetings our gentle First readers! We're pleased to announce that we've received a good number of donated books and have processed them.

They can be found on a shelf under the 2021 donations. Among the others there, look for the 4-book An Amish Candy Shop Mystery series by Amanda Flower, 813.6 Flo; once we were

strangers – What Friendship with a Syrian Refugee Taught Me about Loving My Neighbor by Shawn Smucker, 92 Smu; have a little faith – a true story by Mitch Albom, 813.6 Alb; HEROES AND OUTLAWS OF THE BIBLE – Downhome Reflections of History's Most Colorful Men and Women by Don Reid with foreword by Jimmy Dean, 92 Rei; and AND GOD CHANGED HIS MIND...Because His people dared to ask by Brother Andrew, 248.3 And.

For our younger and middle school readers: DEAR GOD, IF I WAS A STAR ... I'D LIKE TO BE A VERY BRIGHT ONE JUV DEA; fatty legs – A TRUE STORY JUV JOR, THE LOSERS CLUB by Andrew Clements, JUV CLE; and LUTHER – THE GRAPHIC NOVEL – Echoes of the Hammer by Susan K. Leigh, JUV LEI. Adults will enjoy these books also – so don't let the titles put you off!

We also want to remind you that we've pulled books from the shelves that our teenagers might enjoy and they're placed above the card catalogue. – *Your library volunteers – Janie Carlson, Darlene Baltus and Shela Cline.*

HAVEN FOR HER HEART, A by Susan Anne Mason, 813.54 Mas, Bk 1 Redemption's Light. Taken from the back cover: "Upon her release from a woman's reformatory in 1941 Toronto, Olivia Rosetti wants nothing more than to forget the horrors of her time there and return to normal. But with her family unwilling to forgive and employers wary of hiring her, she quickly ends up desperate and homeless – until a chance encounter with well-to-do widow Ruth Bennington. The two discover they share a painful history and together decide to open a maternity home for troubled women."

THIN ICE by Irene Hannon, 813.54 Han, Bk 2 of the Private Justice Series. This was another page-turner, sit on the edge of your seat mystery by Hannon. This one had FBI Special Agent Lance McGregor tracking down a would-be kidnapper of a woman who supposedly died 2 months earlier in a house fire. Now her sister, Christy, has been receiving letters that her sister is alive and being held captive. The culprit is a very twisted and shadowy figure who is out to do no good for either of the sisters. Well-written and with a good Christian message intertwined. – *Reviewed by Corinne Hultman.*

'TIL I WANT NO MORE by Robin W. Pearson, 813.6 Pea. Taken from the book blurb: "...feels like an extended afternoon at a family reunion barbecue, complete with mouthwatering food, spilled family secrets, and voices of faith that never lose hope. This brilliantly written story reminds us that God is bigger than the struggles that all families face, yet as a woman of color, I love that Robin's courageous characters look and sound like me" – Barb Roose, speaker and author of *Surrendered: Letting Go and Living Like Jesus*.

UNKNOWN THREAT by Lynn H. Blackburn, 813.6 Bla, Bk 1 of Defend and Protect series. Taken from the book blurb: "US Secret Service Special Agent Luke Powel is lucky to be alive. Three of his fellow agents have died in unusual circumstances in the past ten weeks. Luke is devastated by the loss of his friends and colleagues, and his inability to locate the killer feels like a personal failure. He and his team are experts at shielding others, but now the protectors are in need of protection..."

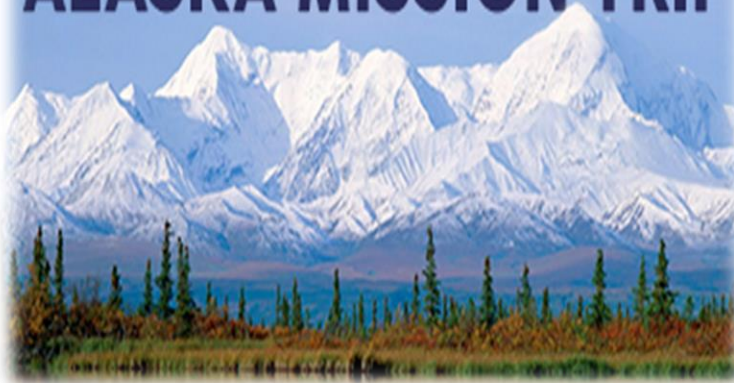
WHAT HOPE REMEMBERS by Johnnie Alexander, 813.6 Ale, Bk 3 of Misty Willow series. Our library also has Bk 1 *Where She Belongs* and Bk 2 *When Love Arrives*. Taken from the back cover: "When you need a new beginning, sometimes the best place to start is home...When Amy Somers leaves her job as a lobbyist, she moves to Misty Willow, well aware that she's crossing bridges she'd burned years before. With all the mistakes she's made and the things she's done, she can hardly believe that happiness will find her – especially when Gabe Kendall, her first crush and her first kiss, rides back into her life atop a buckskin mare."

YESTERDAY'S EMBERS by Deborah Raney, 813.54 Ran, Bk 3 of a Clayburn novel. Taken from the back cover: "He never thought he'd be widowed...with five young children. She never thought she'd be thirty and still single. But is falling in need the same thing as falling in love?"

When I've had too much reality, I open a book.



ALASKA MISSION TRIP



ALASKA MISSIONS FOR CHRIST

Team members have been gathering monthly in preparation for this summer's trips. The teams are led by Neil Grunke of Redeemer Lutheran, Deer River, and the trips are being made:

- So that we may share the Gospel of

Christ with the local children through Bible School, as well as others in the community. We will also be doing fixits & carpentry projects, and painting at the local church facilities.

- By three teams consisting of thirteen people, most of whom are from First Lutheran, Redeemer Lutheran (Deer River), and Our Redeemer Lutheran (Cohasset)
- To Point Hope (June) & Ambler (August) in northwest Alaska and Chalkyitsik (July), which is 150 m northeast of Fairbanks .

We thank God for the opportunity to teach His word of truth, light, and salvation through Jesus; the Word made flesh.

Please pray that the Lord of the Harvest will bless our time there.

Brad Bensen

The Door Offering held on February 27 for the Alaskan Mission Trip raised \$454.00

OVERVIEW OF 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. They finished the series in February.

This first Great Women study covered Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel. It was an enjoyable and educational study. Each study guide included a Leader's Guide with expanded information.

Beginning March 17th the second series will study Jochebed (Miriam's mother) and Miriam, Deborah, Ruth and Hannah. This will also be held on Zoom on Thursdays from 2 – 3 p.m. 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.



Second Harvest North Central Food Bank
2222 Cromell Drive
P.O. Box 5130
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218.326.4420

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
TRISHA ZIMMERMAN, 218.326.4420
trisha@secondharvestncfb.com

Grand Rapids, MN – Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is an Important Time to Give

During March, The Food Shelf at Second Harvest will participate in the statewide Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign by collecting donations of money and food. This collection will support local efforts to help feed people in need and reduce hunger in the local community. When congregations, businesses, schools or service clubs participate in the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, by donating to the Food Shelf at Second Harvest, their donation **stays local** but counts towards a statewide effort to help stock the shelves of every food shelf in the state. The share of the overall Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign that Second Harvest will receive will be even greater the more they can raise locally.

On a daily basis, there are individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Having to choose between paying a utility, medical or automotive repair bill or putting food on the table is a reality for people in North Central Minnesota. Many will turn to the Food Shelf at Second Harvest to fill the gap during hard times. Second Harvest needs help from the community to keep the shelves stocked to ensure there is enough food for struggling children, seniors and families.

The Food Shelf at Second Harvest serves approximately 1,400 individuals every month including over 400 children and over 180 seniors.

Each gift impacts people like Kim and Brandon, a young couple who says, *“with utilities and grocery prices going up, we usually only have around \$75 for over two weeks to get groceries with. We try our best, but it’s not enough unless we get help at the food shelf, too.”*

Hunger does not know seasons. Hunger happens all year long. Every dollar received today will help the Food Shelf at Second Harvest reach its goal of providing food for thousands of meals for young struggling couples like Kim and Brandon.

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign gives people an opportunity to make a difference in the local community by acting before March 31, 2022.

To learn more about the Food Shelf at Second Harvest visit

<https://secondharvestncfb.com/> or call 218.999.4135.



MARCH WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 6 Mite Sunday

8:00 Traditional Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

March 20 Youth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
6:30pm-8:30pm H.S. Youth Group

March 13 Communion/ Dimes For Missions

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

March 27 Communion/ Food Shelf Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

MARCH 2022



MARCH 1: 9:00AM QUILTERS MEET EVERY TUESDAY

MARCH 1: BOARD MEETINGS (Times Determined By The Boards)

MARCH 7: 5:30PM FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

MARCH 8: 5:30PM COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 14: 5:30PM FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

MARCH 14: 6:30PM MEN'S CLUB MEETING

MARCH 15: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MARCH 21: 5:30PM FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

MARCH 28: 3:30 GRAND MONDAY

5:30PM FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

God's Mercy Through LENT 2022

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in his life, death and resurrection. The special services of Lent this year focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in Christ.

MIDWEEK SERVICES AT NOON AND 6:30PM

Lunch and Dinner Served Before Each Service.

If no one signs up for either meal you may bring your own.

3/2 Ash Wednesday: *Mercy in Ashes (Joel 2:13)*

3/9 Lent Midweek 1: *Mercy in Temptation (1 Cor 10:13)*

3/16 Lent Midweek 2: *Mercy in Suffering (1 Peter 2:23)*

3/23 Lent Midweek 3: *Mercy in Betrayal (1 Peter 3:11)*

3/30 Lent Midweek 4: *Mercy in Relationships (Eph 4:32)*

4/6 Lent Midweek 5: *Mercy in Service (Hebrews 6:10)*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

4/10 Palm Sunday: *Mercy in Palms (John 12:13)*

Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Only

Mercy in Bread and Wine (1 Cor 11:26)

Good Friday 6:30pm Only

Mercy in the Cross (Last 7 Words from the cross)

Easter Sunrise Service 8am

Mercy in the Open Tomb (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Easter Breakfast 9am

Easter Resurrection Service 10:30am

No Idle Tale Luke 24:1-12

Be sure to grab your Lenten devotional material on the table outside the main office.

Christmas in the Czech Republic!



Hayden Rensner
LCMS Missionary
Serving the Lord In The Czech
Republic

GET IN TOUCH WITH ME! Facebook/Instagram: [@rensnerontherun](#)

I have arrived! On December 6th I received a phone call saying that my Czech visa had been approved and on December 11th, it arrived in the mail along with my passport. The moment I have been waiting for! After my passport arrived on the 11th, everything went very quickly. I secured my plane tickets, packed, said final goodbyes, and flew out from the States on December 20th. I flew from Sioux Falls to Chicago, Chicago to Munich, Germany, and Munich to Prague. In Prague, I was picked up by LCMS missionary Cindy Wrucke. The first two weeks in the Czech Republic were jam-packed. I spent a few days with Cindy in Prague, then Cindy and I went to Havirov and spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with my supervisor Ben and his wife Becca. Even though Christmas was different than usual, the message of Christmas remains the same no matter what the time-zone is! We all had a great time with one another.

The Work Begins

Now that I am here and beginning to get settled in, I am starting to step into my roles. Here is a look at some things that I am getting involved with so far: Riga Luther Academy: In total, I currently will be serving as an English tutor to eight different men. There are currently six men associated with the Riga

Luther Academy whom I am tutoring. I am also tutoring a pastor based in Slovakia, and the Lutheran Bishop of Spain. Out of the eight men, I have so far met and had tutoring sessions with five of them. I am eager to meet the others! Local Czech churches: This week, I had meetings with two pastors from different local Lutheran congregations. I loved talking with these pastors and learning from them about the history, struggles, strengths, and overall life of their congregations. The pastors and I discussed different English-language learning opportunities that I can provide through their churches. I am very excited to get these groups and activities up and rolling. Online opportunities: This spring, I will be assisting with an online program called English Conversation Partners. This program is an opportunity for people here in the Czech Republic to meet over Zoom, with volunteers from the States, and practice their English through conversations. Starting in two weeks, these sessions will take place every week for an hour for a total of six weeks. I have been working on the conversational curriculum for this program.

Youth Retreat: In addition to visiting Prague, getting settled in, and spending Christmas with fellow missionaries, I also was able to attend a youth retreat in a neighboring town and meet some of the young adults that attend the local Lutheran churches.

I found a local tutor and have continued my language learning journey with weekly in-person classes. My tutor is great and very kind and encouraging. I am eager to continue hearing and learning the language

I rang in the New Year in a new country. Despite the unfamiliarity of a new country, I know that God is with me every step of the way. None of us can be certain about what 2022 will hold, but, we can be certain that our God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). May we fix our eyes on Christ in this new year and in the days to come. May God continue to bless and keep you all in His gracious care. – **Hayden**

MISSIONARY TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS IN MARCH

CONFIRMATION AT 3:00PM. EVERY WEDNESDAY

MARCH 14TH: 6:00PM-8:00PM SECOND HARVEST

MARCH 20: SNOWTUBING AT MT ITASCA.

Youth News



Youth group started because there was a need for children to be around other children. In March of 2020 everything shut down. God created us to be around other people and not to be alone. Parents saw what this was doing to their children. They were being isolated, and Zoom wasn't cutting it for them. It was teaching the kids how to handle everything on their own. Parents got more involved in their schoolwork. Most families came together during the last two years, but some were ripped apart. Some families couldn't handle the burden of having their children home all day with them.

Youth group is a place for children to come and be themselves in a welcoming environment. It has been 2 years since then and youth group is still meeting. It started with a few kids that would show up and then by the end of the year more and more children came. High school youth group started a year later. Today youth group is a vibrant ministry in our church.

There are three adult leaders and average 15 students per session. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8. We have an opening activity, lesson, games, snack, and discussion. There are some Wednesdays when we don't get to our game because the discussion is so rich. The children are hungry to learn more about the triune God.

The ministries at First Lutheran aren't about the numbers and how many people attend. It is about what we do in the time they are here. It is about listening to one another and hearing their story and applying God's word to it. It is about what that person is going to do with the information they have learned. We will never know the impact we have on our community. That is not something we can measure.

When possible, I try to attend M3, Making Meaning out of Multiple Data Sets. The MN Extension for Youth puts this training on every year through Itasca Network for

Youth. I really like this training, because I am able to dig into how the ministry is working and how I can better my teaching. I used High School youth group as the ministry I took apart. Tijanna Lattimore came with me to help dig deeper into what the youth experience. We go over attendance, youth outcomes, youth experiences, and quality practices.

What I learned was we get distracted easily and move off topic, so I had the youth decide what we should do to stay on topic. They came up with great ideas. We decided that if we get off topic more than five times, we will not play any games. Well needless to say, we stayed on topic most of the night. When the youth are the leaders, they invest more into the ministry. They are more than capable of being leaders in our church.

It has been fun to watch the youth engage in conversation on the topics we discuss. They are wanting to learn more and more. We don't give kids enough credit and accountability. In reality this generation knows more than we ever did at that age. Their knowledge is amazing. The older we get we forget what it is like to be a child. So many of them show leadership skills. The youth even decided to have a youth representative at the board of youth/education meetings. They will take turns three months at a time.

Moving forward with our ministries at First Lutheran we need to keep in mind that it's okay to fail. It's okay for us to not have all the answers. It's okay for us to just sit in silence with someone when they are hurting. How can we reach more children in our community that doesn't have this kind of church family? How can we show those around us that Jesus loves them too? Our motto has been Sharing the Love of Jesus, how can we continue to do that with more people? My prayer is that you are already doing that with those that you know.

May you see God's beauty and grace in your day today and always.

Jessica Pellinen

Family Ministry Program Director

More Youth Information

We are having a family event on March 20th. If there is enough snow we will go tubing, otherwise look in the trifold for updated information.

No Wednesday night youth group until April 20th. We will start to make homemade baskets for the shut-ins that night.

Second Harvest volunteer opportunity on March 14th from 6-8.

High school youth group will meet on March 27th from 6:30-8:30

Happy Birthday

To All Of Our Youth Born in





Are you making it through the winter ok? We had a ton of fun at the Northwoods Pond Hockey Championship on McKinney Lake on February 12th!!! It was sure cold that day, but it somehow adds to the experience of being Minnesotans. Our team of all ladies did an excellent job, winning 2 out of 3 games and the last game they only lost by 2 points. What a great way to help locally and abroad, by digging water wells in Africa. In Jan **2021**, we were able to provide 371 services to **27** clients and their families. Some of these services include 27 boutique visits, 296 Earn While you Learn/BrightCourse educational lessons and 2 ultrasounds. Thank You so much for being a part of making that change of mind possible! We are in need of some personal care and cleaning items for our mothers and young ones. Here is a list that could really help: Oral care for babies, kids and adults' toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash (kids and adults). We could also use body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, Chapstick, baby safety Q-tips and regular adult Q-tips, facewash, toilet paper and laundry soap. We want to thank everyone for the items you give! It really helps those in need to feel loved and meets them at their need.

Please remember to use Amazon Smile when you shop online! Thank you so much!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0579091>

"Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children. Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death." Proverbs 14:26-27
NLT

Amanda Jo Grovenburg and Trudy Hasbargen Grand Rapids - 218-326-0404 - Deer River - 218-246-2010

www.newbeginningspregnancy.com

"Sharing the Love of Jesus"
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Present: Dick Buech, Doug Carlson, Mary Buech, Greg Taylor, Pam Clairmont, Jessica Pellinen, Jennifer Flem, Pastor Lovejoy, Tom Lattimore, Les Flem, Molly Bartel, Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Lovejoy shared a devotion and prayer from Exodus 32:1.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with an addition to New Business (4. Lay Delegate to MN North District Convention)

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. **Boards of Christian Education & Youth:** Report in Packet/Pam C.

2. **Board of Elders:** Report in Packet/Les F. stated that Steve Goplin will be the Head Usher at the 10:30AM Service.

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

4. **Board of Stewardship:** Report in Packet/ Doug C. stated that the 2023 Offering Envelopes had been ordered at a cost of \$924.00 plus shipping.

5. **Board of Trustees:** Greg T. stated that the board will be finalizing goals and projects by June 1st. Doug C. stated that outlet covers need to be put on outlets in the "Tot Spot" in the upper narthex.

6. **AV Ministry Committee:** No Meeting/Tom L. stated that everything is going well. He asked if there have been any issues with the recording of the Sunday morning Bible Study. Not hearing the questions was mentioned.

7. **Revolving Trust Fund Committee:** No Meeting/ Greg T.

8. **Wiebe Grant Committee:** No Requests/Greg T.

9. **Direction and Planning Committee:** No Meeting/Greg T.

Family Ministry Program Director's Report: Report in Packet

Pastor's Report: Report in Packet

Financial Secretary's Report: Added to Packet/Molly B.

YTD income 2022: \$26,274.95 YTD income 2021: \$20,473.33

Treasurer's Report: Report in Packet/Jennifer F. went over the new report format.

As of: January 31, 2022

General Fund Chkg: \$30,292.00

Building Fund Chkg: \$12,176.46

Mortgage loan balance: \$41,095.07

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$92,992.44

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

Committee Reports.

Correspondence – None

Unfinished Business

1. ICTV Update (Possible Sponsorship) – No Update
2. Picture Directory (Committee) – Pam C. will co-chair the committee. By next month a committee will be formed with another co-chair.

New Business

1. American Red Cross Blood Drive May 26th/Shirley is the Host

*** Motion was made, seconded and approved to hold the American Red Cross Blood Drive on May 26th.

2. TOPS would like to use the church again

*** Motion was made, seconded and approved to allow the TOPS group to use the church for their meeting.

Pastor and Jessica will look at the schedule and be in touch with the group.

3. Request from Board of Missions to pay unpaid 2021 donation to ICTV in the amount of \$150.00.

(Motion in their Meeting Minutes)

*** Motion was made, seconded and approved to pay both the 2021 and 2022 donations to ICTV in the amount of \$300.00.

4. Lay Delegate to MN North District Convention (May 9th – 11th)

At the District Convention a new District President and a set of Vice Presidents will be elected.

Tom L. and Pastor will talk to several people about being a delegate. We will vote on it next month.

Caring and Sharing

Tom L. adjourned the meeting at 6:14PM

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

March 1st – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

March 8th – Council Meeting 5:30PM



Please have the April Newsletter articles to Shirley by March 15th. Newsletter will be published on or around March 23rd.



On March 13th