

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





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

Notes from the Pastor's Desk



³⁷And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **Matthew 22:37-39** ^{ESV}

In a book titled "Leadership and Self-Deception" by The Arbinger Institute, one of the main characters, Bud, is discussing with his employee how many people perceive the worth of others. He challenges his employee to see himself as "A PERSON among people; instead of THE PERSON among things." Regrettably "things" are what many people are reduced to in the eyes of those around them. They are what hands them their fries through the window, checks them in at the doctor's office, and irritates them in traffic. They might be the thing they emotionally rant against on social media, compete against at work, and ignore when walking through their neighborhood.

There is a story of a couple that lived in a cul-de-sac for over 20 years. Each day they would drive to and from work and go about their daily lives. One day they saw a moving van pull up to the house a few doors down. The husband and wife discussed it for a while and thought it would be nice to go and buy a housewarming gift and a card to show how welcoming their neighborhood was. The problem came when they showed up at their neighbor's door. They were moving out, not in. They had lived their many years and never once had anyone introduced themselves, offered help, or even delivered misplaced mail. Some neighborhood huh? The problem is that this example is not rare anymore, especially in my own life. We become so busy with the demands of the world and this life that we miss the people that are right in front of us. We miss opportunities to show compassion, kindness, and love as we would so desperately appreciate, because we are moving from one task to another or distracted by a device in our hands. In this tragic state, it is not just our neighbors that end up alone and unnoticed, we become alone in a world filled with animated objects. We simply live life as THE PERSON among things. This applies to how we see our neighbors, co-workers, even our children and possibly our spouse. We are alone together.

Being isolated and alone is not how any of us were designed and created. We were created to bear the image of the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We were designed to represent the community found there as God proclaimed: let *us* make man in *our* image (Genesis 1:26). God, after making all of His beautiful perfect creation, announced, “It is not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18)”. From the very onset of life on this planet, we have been hardwired for living in unity with those around us. However, as individuals reported in study after study, they have fewer close friends than in years past, and participate in community events and group activities less and less than before. Because of this we have seen an increase in mental health issues, drug abuse, and the breakdown of the family and marriage which is the building block for our entire civilization. How marriage goes, so goes the family, so goes our city, state, country, and eventually the world.

It would be nice if we could simply tell each other to “stop it” and tear down the social and emotional walls that we have erected over the years. It is much more challenging than that. What must start is an empathetic eye to be developed in our minds where we see the hurts of others as important. Where we do not see this life as a series of moments given to us for self-gratification, but rather as opportunities for service and bearing each other’s burdens (Galatians 6:2). Where this must flow from, where it only can genuinely flow from, is the cross of Christ. He was cut off, despised, and rejected by men, abandoned by His people, even forsaken (Isaiah 53). Alone, He bore our sorrows and by His stripes we are healed. Isolated, alone among many, He bore our sins so that we would never be alone. He couldn’t stand to see His people wandering as sheep aimlessly by themselves in this world as sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Even now as He comes to you through His word, He does so to remind you that there is nowhere you can be stranded without Him being there with you (Psalm 139); knowing and resting in the beauty found with the heart of God seen in how He pursues you, having you on His mind as He hung on the cross; even before that when He had your every day in mind when He said, “Let us make man...” knowing what He’d eventually have to do for you to be with Him, gives way to inexpressible praise. Knowing your worth to God, that His family would not be complete unless you were in it, gives rise to us seeing the worth in others as well. Our family in Christ would not be complete without them in it also. Our Lord bled and died for them as well, they are not just animated objects.

So, let’s journey together down the street to the homes in our neighborhood, not waiting for the moving van to pull up and discover our opportunity to meet, serve, and care for our neighbors is hauled away. Let’s not deceive ourselves any longer going through life

as if we are THE PERSON, but merely A PERSON. We desperately need to move from being strangers in a community, to being neighbors in a community that love and protect each other as much as we love and protect ourselves. It can start right there in your home as we throw away being alone together with our children or spouse and be transformed into the community God created us to be! Through it all, may God be given all the glory!

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy
Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church
735 NE 1st Ave, Grand Rapids MN 55744
flcgr.org 1-218-999-4101

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

Starting September 27th

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.

SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION STRATEGIES

LEARN TO...
**RECOGNIZE
RESPOND
REFER**

SEPTEMBER
21ST, 22ND, 23RD @ 6:30PM

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH
735 1ST AVE, GRAND RAPIDS
218-999-4101 FLCGR.ORG

rightnow MEDIA

A GIFT FOR YOU THAT'S ENCOURAGING...

AND GIGANTIC.

On SEPT 12 You are getting access to to over
20,000 Christ centered videos.

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Receive your invitation
email to register for
RightNow Media.
(Please let us know if
you do not receive an

2

Click the Get Started
button in the email.

3

Create your profile.
Then explore!!

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www.rightnowmedia.org

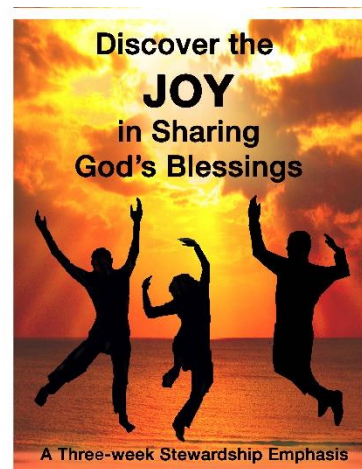


Our Joy Comes from Jesus

Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy be in you, and that your joy may be full”* (John 15:11). As we are filled with God’s grace, love, and presence, joy is an everyday experience, and our joy is full. For periods of time, the world can provide happiness, but it does not last. When the thing or person that provides the happiness is gone so is our joy. Only the joy from Jesus is full and everlasting.

When Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you,”* He is referring back to the beginning verses in John 15. In those verses, we are told that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. Jesus likens our relationship with Him as a vine with its branches. Those branches that stay connected with the vine will thrive and do well. Those branches that become disconnected will die. Abiding in Jesus will cause us to bear fruit, because fruit just naturally flows from branches that are connected to and abide in the Vine, Jesus.

Fruit are works of love. Abiding in Jesus, the Vine, we receive the Holy Spirit Who prompts us to bear fruit that glorifies God. We do not bear fruit by our own efforts. We bear fruit because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Our fruit is seen as we minister to the needs of others. We feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, entertain the strangers, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the prisoners (Matthew 25:37-39), all in the name of Jesus, the Vine. Jesus tells us that when we love and serve others in His name, we are serving Him.



Jesus said, *“My joy be in you.”* That joy was manifested when, *“for the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:2). His joy was to bring us to heaven by the way of the cross. To fill us with joy, He was shamed and died. As we abide in Him and bear the fruit of faith, our joy is made full.

During our stewardship emphasis, **Discover the Joy in Sharing God’s Blessings**, starting on October 10th we will learn more about the joy that comes from abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit.



CONFIRMATION LETTER TO PARENTS

Greetings in the name of Christ!

It has been wonderful getting to know many of you and even being able to spend time with your kids at Lutheran Island Camp and even the Vacation Bible Camp this summer. Seeing how engaged many of them are at youth group, and the challenging questions they put forth, has me very excited about what the coming year of Confirmation is going to be like. Yes! Its already time to start thinking about Confirmation!

With this letter you should receive a schedule of the year's class times, topics, and even expectations. Please review this letter and if you need a replacement please let me know. I will be handing out an additional copy to the students on the first day of class on September 15th. Please be sure to have your student bring their Small Catechism, a note book, and their student workbook if they received one last year. They will be receiving a new Student Study Bible the first day of class.

In addition to the work in the workbook, each week there will be assignments where your child is asked to learn lessons by heart as well as occasional quizzes. I will send progress reports home for your signature before Christmas and before the last session of the year.

As in years past, there will be a requirement of Sermon Notes. The format of these worksheets will be a bit different. The goal of these worksheets to be done during the Sunday morning service is to engage your child in the service and have them interact with the message. Along with Sermon Notes, each week participation in the Acolyte program is also a part of this three-year program. Your child will be given the opportunity to sign up for particular Sundays as well as special services (i.e. Christmas Eve/ Day; Good Friday; Easter Sunrise).

The program is a three-year program designed to complete the study of the Small Catechism the first two years (60 class sessions), with the third year designed

to be a year of application. During the third year, the final 30 sessions, your student will apply what they learned the first two years to tackle topics such as: addictions, dating, divorce & remarriage, evolution, gender identity, grief, sexuality, world religions, and more.

There is a lot of new information and material being presented with this program this year. That is why Jessica and I are asking for you to join your student at a **brief introduction session on the 12th of September immediately following the second service in the fellowship hall.** This is a time where your family will be able to see the importance of your household's participation in the process of confirmation. If you have any questions please reach out to me any time via email or by calling the office. Jessica and I will be praying for you and your student as the **12th of September** draws even closer. May this be a year of spiritual growth for us all!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Lovejoy



Confirmation 2021-2022 (1st Year)

Confirmation class is not simply about education. Confirmation is much more than passing information to the student, or developing their ability to process facts. Confirmation is about spiritual growth. It is about exploring the faith we were given at our baptism and truths that will guide us through our lives until we rest in the grave. Confirmation is about personally discovering, the deepest meanings of the love of Christ, His forgiveness, the nourishment He constantly provides, and the hope we all share in the resurrection. We will see how the Small Catechism is a handbook for life as it guides us as Christians.

Meeting Schedule

09/15/21 : What is Confirmation	09/22/21 : Creeds and Confessions	09/29/21 : Small Catechism Intro
10/06/21 : Reading God's Word	10/13/21 : What is Worship	10/20/21 : Catechism Overview
10/27/21 : Commandment Intro	11/03/21 : 1 st Commandment	11/10/21 : 2 nd Commandment
11/17/21 : 3 rd Commandment	11/24/21 : NO CLASS	12/01/21 : 4 th Commandment
12/08/21 : 5 th Commandment	12/15/21 : 6 th Commandment	12/22/21 : NO CLASS
01/01/22 : NO CLASS	01/05/22 : 7 th Commandment	01/12/22 : 8 th Commandment
01/19/22 : 9 th & 10 th Command.	01/26/22 : Close of Commands.	02/02/22 : Unit 1 Exam
02/09/22 : Intro to Creed	02/16/22 : First Article (A)	02/23/22 : First Article (B)
03/02/22 : First Article (C)	03/09/22 : Second Article (A)	03/16/22 : Second Article (B)
03/23/22 : Second Article (C)	03/30/22 : Third Article (A)	04/06/22 : Third Article (B)
04/13/22 : NO CLASS	04/20/22 : Third Article (C)	04/27/22 : Review of the Creed
05/04/22 : Returning to the 10	05/11/22 : Returning to the Creed	05/18/22 : Yr. 1 Final Exam
05/25/22 : Yr. 1 Comprehensive Exam		

This schedule is based on a three year program, with classes running for 30 weeks. Above is year 1 of 3 in the cycle. Sessions and assignments missed must be made up, and arrangements to do so must be made with the pastor as soon as possible. In addition to the weekly meetings, the students will be asked to submit sermon notes for every sermon preached from 9/19/21 - 5/15/22. Exceptions may be made according to appropriate arrangements agreed upon with the pastor.

Each week the students will meet on Wednesdays from 3-4pm. Each session they are to bring a pencil or pen, their personal Bible, their Luther's Small Catechism, and their Catechism Study Guide.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Pastor. Office: 1-218-999-4100

E-mail: pastorlovejoy@rocketmail.com

Confirmation 2021-2022 (2nd Year)

Confirmation class is not simply about education. Confirmation is much more than passing information to the student, or developing their ability to process facts. Confirmation is about spiritual growth. It is about exploring the faith we were given at our baptism and truths that will guide us through our lives until we rest in the grave. Confirmation is about personally discovering, the deepest meanings of the love of Christ, His forgiveness, the nourishment He constantly provides, and the hope we all share in the resurrection. We will see how the Small Catechism is a handbook for life as it guides us as Christians.

Meeting Schedule

09/15/21 : Means of Grace Intro	09/22/21 : Nature of Baptism	09/29/21 : Blessings of Baptism
10/06/21 : Power of Baptism	10/13/21 : Baptism Indications	10/20/21 : Confession
10/27/21 : Office of the Keys	11/03/21 : Sacrament of The Altar	11/10/21 : Sacrament of The Altar
11/17/21 : Sacrament of The Altar	11/24/21 : NO CLASS	12/01/21 : Sacrament of The Altar
12/08/21 : Review	12/15/21 Unit 1 Exam	12/22/21: NO CLASS
01/01/22 : NO CLASS	01/05/22 : Daily Prayers	01/12/22: Table of Duties
01/19/22: Church Year	01/26/22 : Congregational Life	02/02/22 : Stewardship
02/09/22: Intro to Creed	02/16/22 : First Article (A)	02/23/22 : First Article (B)
03/02/22: First Article (C)	03/09/22 : Second Article (A)	03/16/22: Second Article (B)
03/23/22 : Second Article (C)	03/30/22 : Third Article (A)	04/06/22 : Third Article (B)
04/13/22: NO CLASS	04/20/22 : Third Article (C)	04/27/22 : Review of the Creed
05/04/22: Review of Sacraments	05/11/22 : Returning to the Creed	05/18/22 : Yr. 2 Final Exam

This schedule is based on a three year program, with classes running for 30 weeks. Above is year 2 of 3 in the cycle. Sessions and assignments missed must be made up, and arrangements to do so must be made with the pastor as soon as possible. In addition to the weekly meetings, the students will be asked to submit sermon notes for every sermon preached from 9/19/21 - 5/15/22. Exceptions may be made according to appropriate arrangements agreed upon with the pastor.

Each week the students will meet on **Wednesdays from 3-4pm**. Each session they are to bring a pencil or pen, their personal Bible, their Luther's Small Catechism, and their Catechism Study Guide.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Pastor. Office: 1-218-999-4100
E-mail: pastorlovejoy@rocketmail.com

Confirmation 2021-2022 (3rd Year)

Confirmation class is not simply about education. Confirmation is much more than passing information to the student, or developing their ability to process facts. Confirmation is about spiritual growth. It is about exploring the faith we were given at our baptism and truths that will guide us through our lives until we rest in the grave. Confirmation is about personally discovering the deepest meanings of the love of Christ, His forgiveness, the nourishment He constantly provides, and the hope we all share in the resurrection. We will see how the Small Catechism is a handbook for life as it guides us as Christians.

Meeting Schedule

09/15/21 : Means of Grace Intro	09/22/21 : Nature of Baptism	09/29/21 : Blessings of Baptism
10/06/21 : Power of Baptism	10/13/21 : Baptism Indications	10/20/21 : Confession
10/27/21 : Office of the Keys	11/03/21 : Sacrament of The Altar	11/10/21 : Sacrament of The Altar
11/17/21 : Sacrament of The Altar	11/24/21 : NO CLASS	12/01/21 : Sacrament of The Altar
12/08/21 : Review	12/15/21 : Unit 1 Exam	12/22/21 : NO CLASS
01/01/22 : NO CLASS	01/05/22 : Daily Prayers	01/12/22 : Table of Duties
01/19/22 : Church Year	01/26/22 : Congregational Life	02/02/22 : Stewardship
02/09/22 : Q and A	02/16/22 : Review of Confirmation	02/23/22 : World Religions Part 1
03/02/22 : World Religions Part 2	03/09/22 : World Religions Part 3	03/16/22 : LBGTQIA+
03/23/22 : Gender Identity	03/30/22 : Fear and Anxiety	04/06/22 : Addictions
04/13/22 : NO CLASS	04/20/22 : Dating	04/27/22 : Marriage and Divorce
05/04/22 : Faithful Witnessing	05/11/22 : Defending the Faith	05/18/22 : Yr. 3 Final Exam
5/22/22 : Public Exam	06/05/22 : Confirmation Sunday	

This schedule is based on a three year program, with classes running for 30 weeks. Above is year 3 of 3 in the cycle. Sessions and assignments missed must be made up, and arrangements to do so must be made with the pastor as soon as possible. In addition to the weekly meetings, the students will be asked to submit sermon notes for every sermon preached from 9/19/21 - 5/15/22. Exceptions may be made according to appropriate arrangements agreed upon with the pastor.

Each week the students will meet on Wednesdays from 3-4pm. Each session they are to bring a pencil or pen, their personal Bible, their Luther's Small Catechism, and their Catechism Study Guide.

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E-mail: pastorlovejoy@rocketmail.com

My Sermon Notes

This Morning I....

- Spent time praying.
- Came to church with a good attitude.
- Have read the readings before the service began.
- Said "hello" or "good morning" to at least three people outside of my household.
- Am ready to worship and sing!

My favorite song this morning was

If I could give Pastor's Sermon a title it would be

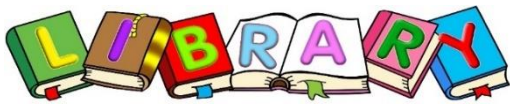
After listening to the sermon I learned,
That we all struggle with.....

That God shows us His love by....

And in my life I can show God's love by....

Today I am thankful for

My prayer for this week is



LIBRARY CORNER FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Greetings faithful First readers!

Upcoming books to watch for: I read a series of four eBooks recently. I knew we just had to have the physical books for our library, so I ordered them. Look for IT HAPPENS EVERY SPRING, SUMMER BREEZE, FALLING FOR YOU AGAIN, and WINTER TURNS TO SPRING. The authors are Catherine Palmer and Gary Chapman. You will fall in love with this group of neighbors. These books remind me of the Jan Karon series. Watch for them! - *Darlene Baltus*.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS - Escaping from Tyranny: Growing up in the Shadow of Saddam by Zainab Salbi, at 92 Sal. “The highly anticipated memoir from the daughter of Saddam Hussein’s personal pilot: An unforgettable story of survival, strength, and one woman’s struggle against tyranny.” “In this intimate portrait, she reveals the tyrant through the eyes of a child, a secretly rebellious teenager, an abused wife, and ultimately a professional woman.” “Between Two Worlds is a story of heroism like no other.”

FACING THE DAWN by Cynthia Ruchti, 813.6 Ruc. Taken from the back cover: “While her humanitarian husband Liam has been digging wells in Africa, Mara Jacobs has been struggling. She knows she’s supposed to feel a warm glow that her husband is eight time zones away, caring for

widows and orphans. But she is exhausted, working a demanding yet unrewarding job, trying to manage their three detention-prone and needy kids, failing at her to-repair list, and fading like a garment left too long in the sun...Then Liam’s three-year absence turns into something more, changing everything and plunging her into a sunless grief. As Mara struggles to find her footing, she discovers that even when hope is tenuous, faith is fragile, and the future is unknown, we can be sure we are not forgotten...or unloved.” – *When I first starting reading it, I thought to myself “I hope nobody that’s already feeling hopelessly overwhelmed reads this. It sure won’t lift their spirits.” It wasn’t until the very end of the book that a beautiful and peace-filled plan to all that transpired becomes obvious. (Sound kinda like life?) It is an exceptionally good book. – Review by Alice Hill.*

GIFTED HANDS – THE BEN CARSON STORY by Ben Carson, M.D. at 92 Car. “Dr. Ben Carson is known around the world for breakthroughs in neurosurgery that have brought hope where no hope existed. In *Gifted Hands*, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at John Hopkins Medical Institutions at age thirty-three. Taking you into the operating room where he has saved countless lives, Ben Carson is a role model for anyone who attempts the seemingly impossible.” “Filled with fascinating case histories, this bestselling book tells the dramatic and intimate story of

Ben Carson's struggle to beat the odds – and of the faith and genius that make him one of today's greatest life-givers.”

HANNAH GRACE by Sharlene MacLaren, 813.6 Mac, bk 1 of Daughters of Jacob Kane series. Growing up in the west Michigan resort town of Sandy Shores in the early 1900s, Hannah Grace, the eldest of Jacob Kane's three daughters, ... “is feisty and strong-willed, yet practical. Between working at her father's general store and courting the town's physician, Ralston Van Huff, Hannah has her life planned out in an orderly, meaningful way. Or so she thinks. Hannah's world turns upside down when the new sheriff comes to town. Gabriel Devlin is

strong, outspoken, and a Christian to boot – but he's sworn off women, having met ones mostly interested in money and apathetic about God. Determined to ignore the newcomer's handsome looks, Hannah is drawn to him nonetheless by a shy, runaway orphan boy named Jesse. While Hannah works to befriend the shy vagabond, who's living with Gabriel until other arrangements can be made, God works in her heart. What plans does He have in store for this young woman who thought she had it all together?” “*I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.*” – Groucho Marx

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – September 2021

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote: “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and

accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.



FIRST LUTHERAN LWML NEWS

LADIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN: October 3rd is LWML Sunday. We need volunteers for two greeters, two readers and two ushers for each worship service. There is a sign-up sheet in the book. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Taylor or Elaine.



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.

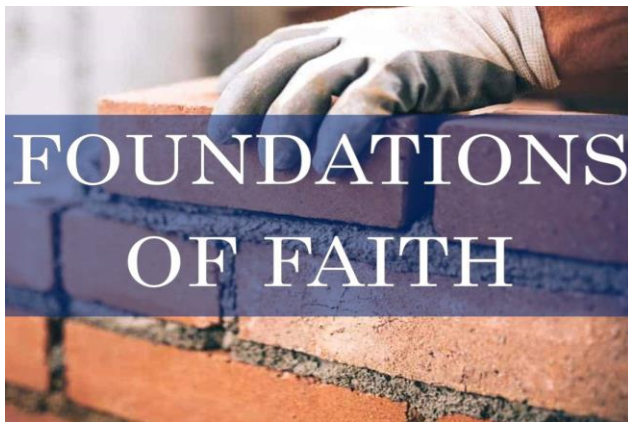
www.swaddlingclothes.org



**As of July 31, 2021 Mites collected:
\$554.41
Submitted by Theresa Howrey**

COOKIES FOR COINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH – ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR SOME DELICIOUS HOMEMADE COOKIES? The women of First Lutheran have decided to *stir things up a bit* and will be selling cookies for our district mite mission. If you can bake some cookies for this important ministry, please bring them to the church on Saturday afternoon, September 18th, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM or Sunday morning. Please package your cookies. It will be a free will offering. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you so very much for your help either in baking cookies, buying cookies or for your donations. Please keep LWML's ministry in your thoughts and prayers.





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.



OPEN DOOR COAT RACK

The Community Coat Rack will once again be accepting new and used winter coats, boots, snow pants, winter hats, mittens, and waterproof gloves for adults and children of all ages. We will accept winter wear from October 5th to the 18th at First Lutheran and then I will bring our donations to the United Methodist Church all at the same time.

USED WINTER WEAR MUST BE:

Washed and clean

Gently used

No stains

No mending needed

Zippers that work

No wool coats (unless they are dry cleaned with the cleaning tag attached)

No coats longer than knee length

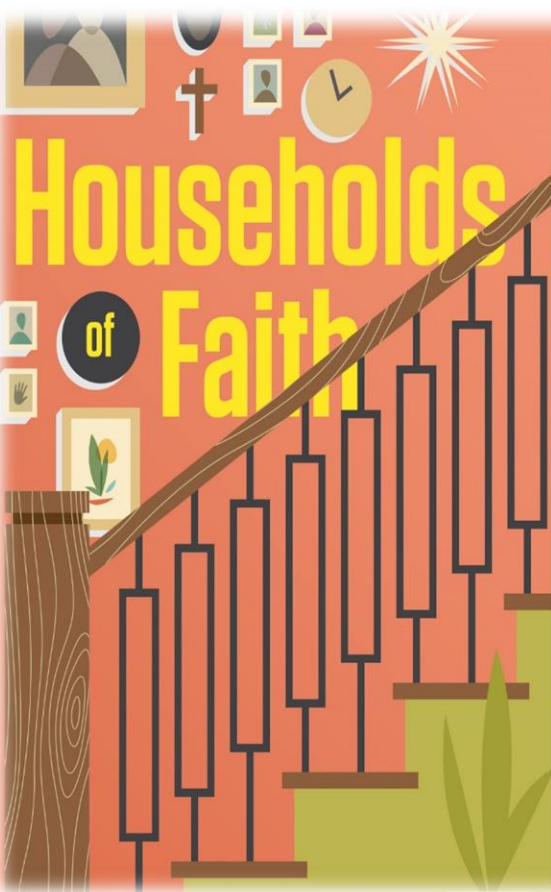
No logos/sayings on coats or jackets -
exception: school emblems from the area

Light weight jackets are okay but no sweatshirts or sweaters

Distribution dates will be October 27, 28 and 29th at UMC. If you would be willing to help in anyway with the coat drive, please call Judy Peterson at 218-398-0849.

Thank you for making a difference in children's and families' lives by participating in the 2021 Coat Drive distribution.

Corinne Hultman, for Board of Human Care.



Learn how to cultivate
Messy Prayers,
Loud Tables,
& **OPEN DOORS**

To Have a Spiritually Vibrant Home
Starting September 29th @ 6:30pm

Drop your children at Youth Group
And come Into the Sanctuary.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

October 3: LWML Sunday

October 3: Cowhorn/Family and Youth

October 6th, 13th, 27th: Household of Faith. A class for younger families. Wednesday's. (Drop Your children off at Youth Group and Join Pastor Lovejoy in the Sanctuary)

October 10th, 17th 1p-4p: Everyone His Witness

October 10th, 17th, 24th : Discover The Joy Of Sharing God's Blessings. Theme For Sunday Services

October 24th: Annual Voters Meeting with Lunch. After second service.

Grand Monday Nights: October 25th, For Grandparents (Last Monday of each month)

October 31: Reformation Sunday

Youth News



September brings so much change. Change in the colors of the trees, change in the air temperature, and change in routines. Every year we go through this and yet it still seems like it's different every year. If you have children living at home, you know all too well what school brings.

Bus schedules, after school schedules, and if you home school you need to get your curriculum and figure out what your schedule will look like. Change can be hard.

It's easy to stay in our routine and keep doing the same thing day in and day out. By August we have finally gotten into our summer routine and now we have to change. Children adapt to change well, they are extremely resilient, more so than adults. It can still be hard for them to change. They might be entering a new school this year, getting a new teacher, not knowing if their friends will be in the same class or not.

As adults we need to remind ourselves that, even though, children are resilient they have feelings too and they can get overwhelmed with all their changes. If you work think of your job and your current boss. Now think that every fall you got a new boss. You wouldn't know what their expectations were going to be or how they were going to discipline if you did something wrong. What if they stuck you in a different department with none of your friends? That is kind of what it's like for elementary kids every year. School can be overwhelming so this year, give your child a little grace when they come home crabby, disappointed, upset, hurt, or just not happy. Give them the space they need to talk about their day.

As parents its easy to get upset with your child when they don't behave the way you want them to. We expect children to be happy all the time, but are we capable of that? If not, then why would we expect children to be happy? Next time you get upset with your child take a step back and ask yourself are you reacting or responding to the situation? Show warmth, challenge, and grace with your children this year if you don't already.

When you start to plan out your fall with after school activities, try to make sure you plan family time too. Maybe it's around the table for dinner, or for breakfast. Start the day with a good meal together, yes it may include everyone getting up just a bit earlier. Start small and try one meal during the week. Decide as a family what your family time will look like and how you will make it happen. Put the expectations on the whole family instead of just one parent making the decision. Studies have shown how impactful family time is for children.

If you need support to help you, Pastor and myself are available. You just need to call, text, or email us. Pastor and I will be praying for you this month as you navigate your new routine and all the changes that will take place. We are planning our schedule for the Fall and if you have any suggestions, please let Pastor or myself know on how we can better be of support to you.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

In Christ,
Jessica Pellinen

Youth group will continue this year on Wednesdays and the schedule can be found here in the newsletter, online, Facebook or watch your email. We will meet a half hour earlier during the school year. 6-7:30 will be the schedule starting September 8th. As your child is spending time in God's Word, are you? Do we set higher expectations for our children and not hold ourselves accountable to do the same?

Activities for September are as follows:

Valleyfair on September 4th. Tickets need to be purchased in advance. We will meet at Valleyfair at 10:45 and then split up accordingly. This is open for all and any families and friends. If your family is unable to attend, but you have a child that wants to go, please let me know. We will have room for rides.

September 19th is cleaning graves at the Soldiers Cemetery in town. They haven't been cleaned for many years. A lunch will be provided at church after the second service. Please bring an empty ice cream bucket or pail for water and your own scrub brushes. Toothbrushes work great too!

September 19th is also High School youth group. Dinner will be provided. We will meet from 6:30-8:30pm. If it would work better to meet right after cleaning the graves, please let me know your preference I would be open to discussing this further.

October 3rd we are going to head out to Cowhorn Pumpkin Patch. More details will come out as it gets closer. Please watch your email.

To stay connected with youth and family events, email firstevyouth@gmail.com and subject line "stay connected".



First Lutheran Sunday School

735 NE 1st Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Ph:218-999-4102
Family Ministry Program Director: Jessica Pellinen



Join us! Bring a friend!

Welcome back Rally Day is September 12!

Time: 9:15am to 10:15am.

There will be fun, games and snacks to kick off the Sunday School year.

Learn about Jesus and His love for all!
Teaching patience, kindness, acceptance, and sharing the good news in a fun and welcoming environment.



To All Of Our Youth with
Birthdays in



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

September 5

Mite Sunday

8:00 Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

September 12 Communion

Dimes For Missions

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Introduction To Confirmation following the 2nd Service

Rally Day

Grand Parents Day

September 19

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

Coins For Cookies Sunday

Youth To Clean Soldiers Cemetery

September 26 Communion

Food Shelf Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Thank You For Worshipping With Us

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
AUGUST 10, 2021

Present: Molly Goplin, Greg Robertson, Greg Taylor, Doug Carlson, Dwight Kessler, Mary Buech, Jennifer Flem, Molly Bartel, Jessica Pellinen, Tom Lattimore, Pastor Lovejoy, Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Lovejoy shared devotions and prayer from Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.”

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 (3. 2022 Budget; 4. October Voter’s Meeting).

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in Packet/Greg R. stated that our church float took Second Place for the Best Decorated Float.
2. Board of Elders: Report in Packet/Pastor Lovejoy explained that Camp Sweetwater is a rehab for young woman who have been part of sex trafficking. Pastor also stated that there was discussion on a Mask Contingency Plan. The first step would be for people to be free to wear or not wear a mask. An additional two families had transferred in.
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Report in Packet/Mary B. Molly G. is checking on the licensing fee to show movies from Pure Flix at church.
4. Board of Stewardship: Report in Packet/Doug C.
5. Board of Trustees: Greg T. stated that the trustees met and discussed goals and things that need to be done.
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/Jessica P. stated that she will be having a meeting with the School District on Monday regarding Release Time.

Pastor's Report: Report in Packet/Pastor Lovejoy mentioned the New Member Class starting in September, Grandparenting Monthly Seminar held on the last Monday of each month from 3 to 4PM, NAMI "Walk for Mental Illness Awareness" on September 25th, and the Leadership Workshop in September.

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

YTD income 2021: \$169,041.48 YTD income 2020: \$174,469.85

Treasurer's Report: Report in Packet/Jennifer F. stated that she will need the board budgets for 2022 by the end of September. She handed out a 2021 Budget Compared to a 5-yr Average to help with budget planning.

As of: July 31, 2021

General Fund Chkg: \$38,846.58

Building Fund Chkg: \$8,097.78

Mortgage loan balance: \$53,925.57

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$84,863.44

***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. had a summary report with comments received to date. Final report will be in September.
2. Assimilation Committee Update – Report in Packet
3. Building Maintenance Evaluation/Plan Update – Greg T. stated that there will be a report in September.
4. Landscape Update – Greg T. stated that landscaping has not yet been done because of the dry, hot weather.
5. Leadership Retreat Update – The Retreat is set for September 18th from 9AM to 2PM.

New Business

1. Window Coverings for Lower Narthex – Greg T. stated that he had gotten two bids for window coverings for the five windows to let in light but keep the heat out.

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Home Depot bid in the amount of \$1,252.32 to be paid from the Major Maintenance Budget.

2. September 25th Octoberfest – The event will be from 4-7PM and is being planned by the Hohenstein’s, Flems and Taylors. A German meal is planned with Root Beer and Beer served. There will be a free will donation. The event is being planned only for our congregation this time.

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to serve Beer at the Octoberfest.

3. 2022 Budget – Just a reminder from Jennifer F. to all boards to give her your 2022 budgets by the end of September.

4. October Voter’s Meeting

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to have the Voter’s Meeting on October 24th after the second service with a tentative Pot Bless planned.

Caring and Sharing

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

Pastor Lovejoy closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

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

September 14th – Council Meeting 5:30PM

***Please Have October 2021
Newsletter Articles to Shirley
By September 15th.
Newsletter will be published and
Sent out on or about
September 27th***