



THE FIRST FRUITS

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

First Evangelical Lutheran Church; Grand Rapids, MN
A member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

August 2019



*P*astor's Corner "PASTOR'S CORNER" "WITH YOU ALWAYS"

Have you ever thought about how ironic it is that Jesus' last words, spoken as He was leaving this world, were, "Lo, I am with you always?" By shedding His earthly body, He can indeed be with us in spirit always.

Let's make a connection between His promise and His presence in the Lord's Supper. As Lutheran Christians we place an extremely high importance on what we call the doctrine of the "Real Presence."

What we believe and teach about this is that Jesus is "really present" when we come into union with Him (communion) in the holy meal of His body and blood. This is not just a thought process or a symbolism to make us more aware of Jesus who walked the earth so long ago.

When our Lord gave us this great sacrament, He was very clear in His words. "This *IS* My body...this *IS* the new covenant in My blood." He is with us always in the bread and wine. He is really present. We are not alone.

Other churches believe differently than we do on this matter. They teach that the bread and cup "represent" or "symbolism" Jesus' body and blood. Without a proper understanding we might think, "what's the difference?" Let me share an illustration.

Many years ago when I was just starting out in the ministry, I became a tax payer for the first time. The government considered me to be "self-employed" even I worked for hundreds of people. I had to estimate how much I owed and set that aside. As tax time approached – much to my shock – I found out I had underpaid my tax estimates by about \$500. My Uncle Sam wanted me to pay up in about a week or so. What was I to do since I did not have the money? The logical answer for me was to ask my dad for a loan.

On the mantle in my living room there was a picture of my parents. When I see it I think of them. It “represents” my mother and father. Should I have walked up to that picture and made my request? I would still be waiting!

On the other hand, by picking up the telephone and coming into direct contact with a living, caring person I could “come into the presence” of my dad and ask for the loan. In days the check was in hand and the bill was paid.

What’s the difference? Being in the presence of a living person who could meet the need. In the Lord’s Supper we come into the presence of the living One who can forgive our sins, encourage our sagging hearts, bolster our troubled minds, cure our ailing bodies, guide our wandering thoughts, and meet every need we have.

Let us never allow ourselves to think that this is only a ritual the church observes that has nothing to do with real life. It is not empty sentiment. It is not wishful thinking. It is not just some strange doctrine that makes the church service run longer than one hour.

One of the most significant things we can do as we partake of this heavenly meal that brings immeasurable practical help is to prepare ourselves to receive all the blessings God intends for us.

Our burdens, cares, and sins clutter our thoughts and actions. Coming into the presence of the One who can lift the burdens and take away the sins truly does set us free.

The Lord’s Supper offers so much that cannot be offered or received anywhere else. Come, partake, and enjoy the promise of our Savior: “I am with you always.”



CONFIRMATION CLASSES for 6th-8th grade students will be starting up again in early September. We meet every Wednesday that public school is in session from 3:00-4:00. We will be contacting families *we know of* with students in this age group in a letter. If you have someone you want in class and have not received a letter by the middle of August, please contact the church to register your child. Thank you – we do not want anyone dropping through the cracks.

2019-2021 National Offering:

Every Three years, Our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod meets in convention to determine mission and ministry priorities for the coming three years. As part of the preparation for the Convention, LCMS households, and Congregations are invited and encouraged to participate in Synod wide gathering of special gifts called National Offering. The theme is “Joy To The World”. Gifts to the National Offering- which can be made at anytime will empower the work God has given us to do in His Name to bring joy to the world, as we make known the Good News of Jesus Christ, that all might rejoice and give thanks to God, our Heavenly Father. The 2019 National Offering will support the work that God has given His people to do, both nationally and internationally. The 2016 offering helped support the administration

ADULT INSTRUCTION: This fall we would like to offer basic Bible teachings for adults who were never confirmed or who would like to review our most foundational teachings. Perhaps some of you have husbands or wives who are not part of the church but would like to see what we are all about. This would be a great way to “plug in.” Please inform Pastor Zeige if you have a prospective disciple. We will set details from there. Look forward to hearing from you.

and student needs at our seminary in Dapaong, Togo.

The 2019 contributions will be deployed to help in urban areas, with new immigrants, on college campuses, with partner church missionaries and in church planting efforts, both her and abroad. A door offering will be collected until **September 22** for the National Offering drive. Please make checks to:

2019 National Offering.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry.





The **LWML Iron Range Zone Executive Board** meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15th in Virginia, MN at Trinity Lutheran Church, 900 13th Street South. Coffee will be at 9:30 with meeting starting at 10:00 am. Our board meets twice a year. All women are welcome to attend the meeting. Watch for a signup sheet by the mailboxes. Thanks Theresa Howrey

LIBRARY CORNER FOR AUGUST



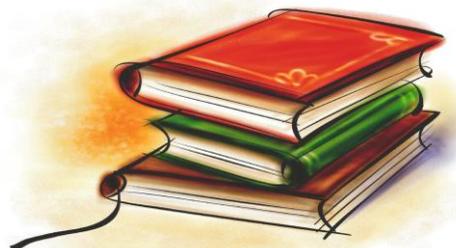
WOUNDED BY GOD'S PEOPLE by Anne Graham Lotz found at 248.86. All who have been a part of God's family for any length of time have felt the sting of a wound inflicted by a fellow Christian. Likewise, we hurt others, intentional or not. Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter, peppers the message with personal anecdotes that validate her right to say and think the way she does. There have been good reviews on this book.

PRAYER: DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? by Philip Yancey found at 243.32. This book is intellectual and

well-researched, depicting Yancey's knowledge of Scripture, particularly the New Testament. Yet this work is practical – Yancey shows ways to make prayer a priority – and comforting. Looking on Christianbook.com website, this book had 348 reviews!

PRAYER: THE GREAT ADVENTURE by David Jeremiah found at 242 Jer. Pastor Jeremiah devotes a chapter to each portion of the Lord's Prayer. He concludes with a section on journaling that helps readers keep track of their spiritual growth. The book allows readers to contemplate each section.

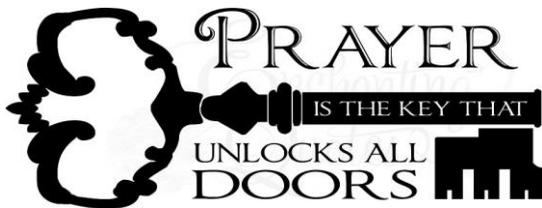
THE SECRET HOLOCAUST DIARIES by Nonna Bannister found in the new book section at 940.53 Ban. This is a haunting eyewitness account of Bannister, a remarkable Russian-American woman who saw and survived unspeakable evils as a young girl. Her story is one of suffering, torture, and death – but also of incredible acts of kindness that show the ultimate triumph of faith and love over despair and evil. An unforgettable true story.



Thank You

From Ed Ames

To all who have included me in their prayers since I was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer back in November. My treatments went well, and I am thru the first 6 of 25 check-ups to monitor my progress. Thanks to God and the power of prayer, all check-ups have shown no sign of cancer return. The following check-ups are spread out over the next four years as I continue to ask God for His care and help to win this fight. Thanks again and God Bless all of you.
Ed



THANK YOU, for all the prayers, well wishes, and donated items for the National Youth Gathering. It was an experience we will never forget. We couldn't have gone without the support of the church. It was truly amazing how so many Christians in one place could have such an impact on ones feelings. We are once again so thankful for the church to give us the opportunity to learn and prosper with 22,000 other Lutherans.

Tijanna and Abbie

THANK YOU to everyone who prayed for us at the NYG. The gathering had such an impact on so many people including our very own. We learned that God is

Real, and God is Present in our lives even when we don't see it or feel it. The next National Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas in 2022. Please pray that we will be able to impact even more children at that gathering. *Jessica*



“Sharing the Love of Jesus”

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -
UNAPPROVED
JULY 9, 2019

Present: Pastor Zeige, Gary Rosin, Jessica Pellinen, Debbie Robertson, Doug Carlson, Ann Hauser, Dwight Kessler, Mary Buech, Molly Goplin, Greg Taylor, Tom Lattimore, Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Zeige led us in devotions and prayer from Proverbs 16. Allow the Lord to be involved and have free rein in our plans.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Agenda with additions to New Business (3. Family Camp Meal, 4. Parking Area for Garage) and accept the Minutes as written.

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in packet. Ann H.
2. Board of Elders: No Meeting
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: No Meeting. Mary B./Molly G.
4. Board of Stewardship: No Meeting. Doug C.
5. Board of Trustees: Report in packet. Gary R. The lumber yard has had a problem getting the trusses for the garage. They have been backordered.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No Meeting. Greg. T.
7. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Requests. Greg T.
8. 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: Report in Packet

YTD income 2019: \$156,700.09

YTD income 2018: \$141,961.55

Treasurer's Report: Report in Packet

As of: June 30, 2019

General Fund Chkg: \$36,913.42

Building Fund Chkg: \$48,651.57

Mortgage loan balance: \$21,280.73

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$291,256.19

It was noted that since the date of this report, the mortgage loan balance has increased by \$95,545.31. This is the amount needed for the down payment

for the AV system. The current mortgage loan balance is \$116,826.04.

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

Correspondence – None
Unfinished Business

1. New Media Update – The AV contract has been signed and down payment sent. Date of the install will be week of August 5th. The install will take a week to two weeks and we will have audio for our Sunday Service.

2. Capital Projects Update – Some of the windows are here. Summer of 2019 completion Date

3. Constitution Update – Carla Taylor is waiting for clarification information and then will finish the corrections requested by the District.

4. Outside Building Cameras Update

*** Motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase two Lorex battery operated wireless infrared cameras that would be used at the front door and back door for \$332.49.

*** Motion was made, seconded and passed to use Thrivent funds for the purchase.

5. Church Vehicle – Information will be gathered to determine if a vehicle would get enough use. Insurance would be reasonable.

New Business

1. Parade Handouts

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to use up to \$525.00 from the Hron Family Fund to pay for bracelets to hand out at the Tall Timber Days parade and the \$50.00 parade fee.

2. Website Charges

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to go with a five-year renewal offer from GoDaddy for our website in the amount of \$479.00. Funds would be paid from the Board of Missions Media account.

3. Family Camp Meal – Council members will provide the 6PM meal on Tuesday, July 30th (lasagna, garlic bread, salad, bars)

4. Parking Area for Garage

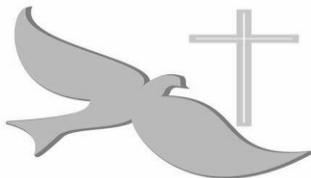
***Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$2,500.00 for cement to cover the gravel area between the end of the garage apron and the alley pavement. The funds will be paid from the Revolving Trust Fund Capital Expense Account.

Caring and Sharing

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig,
Recording Secretary



COMING EVENTS

July 30 – August 2nd – Family Camp

August 1st – Family Camp Picnic

August 16th & 17th – Youth Garage Sale

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

August 13th – Council Meeting 5:30PM

I may not be
perfect
but
Jesus
thinks I am
to die for.

ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN SET UP DESIGNATED FOR THE AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM AND FOR THE ORGAN REPAIRS.

If you would like to contribute to either project, please put your donation into an envelope marked "Audio/Visual" or "Organ" (please also indicate in the memo section of your check). Thank you.

UPCOMING YOUTH NEWS and EVENTS by Jessica Pellinen



WE HAVE LOTS PLANNED THIS SUMMER for youth and family activities. More activities will be added as they are planned at the youth board meeting. Please watch the bulletin, Facebook and the website for more information.

THIS SUMMERS ACTIVITIES:



AUGUST 16 & 17: YOUTH GARAGE SALE in the new garage! Start saving up your items you are ready to get rid of. Youth interested in working let Raeanne Lattimore or Greg Robertson know.



TALL TIMBER DAYS FLOAT DECORATING will take place in the garage at 12:00 on August 2nd. If interested in riding the float let Jessica know.

RALLY DAY is scheduled for September 8th.



FAMILY CAMP: In only 1-week Family Camp will be happening out at Camp Bluewater where the kids will learn all about the Psalms and how to use them in their daily life. The cost is \$25 per camper and scholarship funds are available. Registration forms are on the bulletin board. *******Registration deadline is July 22nd**. To keep the adults focused on the children we are asking for donations of meals. Last year the boards each took a turn and came out to cook the meal, the youth LOVED it! There is a sign-up sheet in the three-ring binder.

AUGUST 1ST IS THE 2ND ANNUAL FAMILY CAMP OUTDOOR PICNIC AT CAMP BLUEWATER: You and your family are invited for a BBQ and a fireside devotion by Pastor starting at 5:00. Bring a dish to share. The trustees will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers. RSVP in the three-ring binder. Last year we had a total of 50 people including the youth!

Jessica Pellinen: Family Ministry Program Director, First Lutheran Church
218-244-5365 Call or text firstevyouth@gmail.com



Valleyfair!

FAMILY EVENT: VALLEYFAIR AND TWINS GAME August 24th and 25th: Valleyfair on August 24th: \$29.00 per person with a minimum of 15 people going. For every paid 15 we get one free. There is a block of rooms

reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn Eden Prairie for a total of \$106.45 per room. Twins game on August 25th at 1:10 and tickets will range from \$25-30.00 and we need at least 20 people to go. Come for the day or for the whole weekend. ***Rooms need to be reserved by July 25th, to get discount.** RSVP for twins and Valleyfair tickets need to be made by August 2nd. Let Jessica know ASAP if your family is interested in going. Youth can use their accounts for this trip.

7 HEALTHY PRACTICES OF A HEALTHY YOUTH MINISTRY

The National Youth Gathering was held in July and I had the pleasure of attending. It was my first time and an experience I will never forget. I am so thankful that Abbie and Tijanna were able and willing to participate in this event. It is life changing for sure! Words cannot express the atmosphere of the gathering. Everyone

there was filled with joy and love for God. We were all there for one reason, God. There were opportunities for adults to attend sessions as well as the many sessions for the youth. I learned several wonderful things, but I am going to share the Seven Practices a Healthy Youth Ministry congregations have with you.

1. **Engaged parents.** Parents play the biggest role in their children's faith. Children watch and mimic what their parents do. If we are not setting a good example for them, we have only ourselves to blame. An engaged parent is someone that prioritizes faith by encouraging daily faith practices especially during times of transitions. Elementary going into middle school, middle school going into high school and the biggest and most life changing is high school going to college or out to the workforce.



Engaged parents participate in worship, personal spiritual practices, and service. Supportive congregations provide parents encouragement and support from other Christian adults. Parents invest in the lives of their children by understanding their child's vocation and the culture around them.

2. **Supportive Adults.** Supportive adults are any adult other than the parents of the children. Supportive adults develop long-term relationships with the child(ren). They prepare for and respond to celebration, transitions and crisis. Supportive adults deliberately invest in youth and build intergenerational relationships. Supportive congregations seek to connect every youth with at least 5 engaged adults.
3. **Warmth, Challenge and Grace.** Congregations share personal stories of failure, grace and joy with the children. They foster an open and honest environment where youth share their joys, questions, crisis, and doubt knowing God's Word will be spoken in love. Congregations are willing to engage in tough spiritual conversations. Congregations create opportunities where failure is not avoided but met with grace and forgiveness.
4. **Opportunities to Serve and Lead.** Congregations identify gifts and skills in the youth that can be used in service, leadership and vocation inside and outside the church. They

also invest in ways for youth to make meaningful contributions and provide adults who mentor youth into load-bearing leadership. Congregations give youth service and leadership experience with peers, parents, and supportive adults in ministry distinctly created by teens for teens.

5. **Deeply Understand their Baptismal Faith.** Youth live as forgiven sinners with the promise of eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection just like the rest of us. Youth recognize the work of the Holy Spirit who brought them to faith, gathered them into God's family, and works through them. Youth are provided with deliberate age specific opportunities to move toward key outcomes for young Lutheran Christians. They do this by the help of the congregation.
6. **Develop a Resilient Identity in Christ.** Resilient youth identify with the life and mission of the Christian church and seek to serve others. They also remain humbly confident in their faith in the face of crisis and transition. Resilient youth can build relationships with those different than themselves and navigate disagreements in a humble, loving way. Resilient youth are lifelong learners who face doubt and challenge by turning to God's Word.
7. **Live out their Unique Vocation.** Youth understand their role as Christ's hands and feet in their church, home, community, and other

areas of vocation. Youth reach out to their neighbor in word and deed to love and share the Good News of Jesus. Youth serve and lead in their congregation and community and yet seek to be warm, challenging and grace-filled to their community and peers. Youth are encouraged to pursue church work vocations as it fits their gifts and skills.

I do have to say that we do some things well as a congregation and some things we really need to work on. We do provide opportunity for multigenerational relationships by offering prayer partners for release time students. It would be great to build on that further and take this opportunity into your own hand. Take the time during Sharing of the Peace in service to shake the hands of the youth and get to know them better, before or after service, or come to any of the family events.

It can be hard to share our own life experiences with the youth especially the times that we have fallen and are not too proud of the decisions we have made, but that is how the youth learn. They learn

that we too are not perfect, and in that they can be humble and admit their mistakes and grow in their faith. The past two years we have had the pleasure of allowing the youth to serve in a leadership role with the VBS students. Also giving roles to the youth on youth Sunday shows leadership. We can take this one a step further and have the youth participate on a board in an advisory role, alter guild, mission projects, or usher. I pray that you will be an example for the next generation and teach them how to have a strong faith. They learn by us and our actions as a congregation and as parents. Please don't sit back and just watch them. Engage with them and help them.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalms 139:14
"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director

