

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



FIRST FRUITS
February Newsletter



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

Pastors Corner

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Scripture tells us that the temptation of Jesus during those 40 days was a constant head to head confrontation with the Devil himself. The three temptations that we hear about came at the end of those 40 days. Jesus dealt with the temptation of Satan by quoting Holy Scripture. You and I have that same power through God's Word today. The emphasis during Lent is to focus on our own true repentance which ultimately will lead us to the Cross of Calvary.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th and so does our emphasis on the book of Zechariah. The prophet's chief concern is God's kingdom. Throughout all fourteen chapters, Zechariah joyfully announces that God's kingdom is coming through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants to either the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

The book of Zechariah abounds with stunning portraits of our Savior. Jesus serves as the prophet's Interpreting Messenger throughout the first six chapters. Zechariah calls Jesus a "Sprout" (3:8; 6:12), "Servant" (3:8) and "Stone" (3:9). It is in his last six chapters, though, that the prophet describes Jesus in much more compelling ways. Jesus is righteous and humble (9:9). His blood of the covenant sets prisoners free (9:11). He is the church's Cornerstone, Tent Peg and Battle Bow (10:4). Then, in a dramatic twist of fate, Christ is detested (11:8), sold for thirty pieces of silver (11:12), struck so his sheep scatter (13:7) and finally pierced and killed (12:10). In the end, however, God's kingdom comes—finally and permanently, in pristine beauty (14:9, 16, 17).

Only the Lord knows if I will be serving as your Pastor through Lent until Easter Sunday, April 4. Until the Lord makes that known to us, I will be serving God's People at First Lutheran by sharing God's Word not only on Sundays but also during the Mid-week Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning on Wednesday, February 17. The Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 17 will include the imposition of ashes for those who desire and also Holy Communion. The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is two-fold as a sign of repentance and also of our own mortality. Mark your calendars and plan to join me during Lent for these special Worship Services!

***Lord's Richest Blessings,
Pastor Steve Breitbarth***



LIBRARY CORNER FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Greetings to our wonderful First readers! We're so pleased to report our final count of library books and DVDs checked out for the last three years for comparison purposes: In 2018 – 257 books, 42 DVDs; 2019 – 448

books, 44 DVDs; 2020 388 books, 44 DVDs. In 2020, May and June were the only months that the numbers were small and they've picked up considerably since that time. We encourage our readers to continue to make use of the library. There are many fine DVDs for children and family to watch together.

FINAL GIFTS: UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIAL AWARENESS, NEEDS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE DYING by Maggie Callanan, 236 Cal. Written by two hospice nurses who share their intimate experiences with patients at the end of life. Filled with practical advice on responding to the requests of the dying and helping prepare them emotionally and spiritually for death, this book shows how we can help the dying person live fully to the very end.

REASON TO BREATHE by Deborah Raney, 813.54 Ran, Book 1. Our library already has Books 2 & 3 of the Chandler Sisters series. Book 1 introduces us to the Chandler sisters just after they'd put their lives on hold to care for their dying mother. After her passing the three sisters choose to buy property together with their shared inheritance from their mother. (Now I have to say that any novel which includes house rehab grabs my attention and this did not disappoint!) Watching how God works in the character's lives is a testament to His love and concern for us even when we're not looking for it. – *reviewed by Janie Carlson.*

UNVEILING THE PAST by Kim Vogel Sawyer, 813.6 Saw. Sean and Meghan are newlyweds who are no strangers to pain and loss. "As cold-case detectives, they know intimately the anguish family members endure after the murder or disappearance of a loved one. But when a new case hits too close to home, it threatens to pull loose the fragile cords of their young marriage...Sheila was just a girl when her father left for work and never returned. An investigation revealed he had embezzled enough to start a new life elsewhere, but Sheila could never accept the court's criminalization of her father. Meghan reluctantly takes the case, secretly fearing it will stir up buried feelings about her own biological father. And while Sean investigates the mysterious death of two young brothers, he longs to start a family. But Meghan worries that with a negligent mother and an absentee father as her parenting examples, she might never be fit for motherhood...As they delve deeper into the past, both Meghan and Sheila must choose to either stumble along the road of bitterness

and resentment or walk the difficult path toward forgiveness and healing. When the cases begin to break wide open, these young women are poised to discover that while earthly fathers may fail, there is one in heaven who is a father to the fatherless.” “Mysteries, family secrets, and the love of a true Father are found at the heart of this follow-up novel to **BRINGING MAGGIE HOME**.” *Let your church librarians know if you’d like us to get this prequel!*

MORE THAN WE REMEMBER by Christina Nelson, 813.6 Nel. The horrible 3-vehicle crash with fatality, the popular high school coach whose car was over the centerline, the smell of alcohol, the tough woman deputy’s special need to see the coach found guilty, the surprise ending this reader didn’t see coming... This book, only months on our shelf, has a refreshingly different, multi-faceted plot. *Reviewed by Alice Hill.*

STILL LIFE by Christa Parrish, 813.6 Par. This is a new author and presents the story from Ada’s, Julian’s and Katherine’s point of view culminating in an unusual climax. Ada, coming from a cult, Julian, a photographer and Katherine a housewife with two boys, one of which had a heart condition at birth. It was interesting to see how their lives became woven together. I found it interesting to the end. This is one of the books donated in 2020. *Reviewed by Darlene Baltus.*

CONVICTION: The Journey of a Lost Principled Man by Don Wharton, 92 Wha. “David Freeman, a clean cut 25-year-old professional salesman, believes he has all of his ducks in a row until he meets Joani Givens, her drug dealing roommate, and a Jesus he never knew existed. His experiences change his life forever, testing his faith in everything he believes about God, his family, and his ability to handle adversity. **CONVICTION** is David’s great spiritual awakening and has application for every man who deals with his fears, uncovers the shortfalls of his own self-worth, and explores the depth of his dependence on God. David emerges from his struggles as a man of conviction, man of God, who recovers from getting knocked down to continue the adventure of life before him.”

“I love books because I don’t have to wait for the commercials to be over to find out what happens next.” – unknown.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – February 2021

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

LWML 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR MEMBERS OF FIRST LUTHERAN,

The LWML MN North District Convention was scheduled to be in Grand Rapids, June 2020. Due to the Covid virus the convention was cancelled. Many women from First Lutheran and Our Redeemer volunteered their time to help with the district convention and for that we were very thankful! Our spring/fall zone rallies and the summer concert series luncheon at First Lutheran were also cancelled. LWML Sunday was October 4th and we also had our Cookies for Coins event that Sunday. The Christmas Bake Sale was December 13th and Red Stockings were distributed in the mailboxes in December.

The MN North District mite goal of \$140,500 was set for the 2020-2022 biennium. First Lutheran LWML Society mite box goal of \$600.00 was set for 2021. Mite box offerings in 2020 were \$486.43 and the Cookies for Coins event raised \$466.00. A special mite donation was also received and a total \$1,707.43 was sent to the district to meet their mite goal. The district keeps 75% of the mite offerings and sends 25% to the national LWML organization. The money is used for mission grants.

The monies received from the Summer Concert Series luncheon, Sunday morning coffee, Christmas Bake Sale, and Red Stockings are designated for First Lutheran LWML society mission grants. In 2020 the proceeds from the Lenten Supper were \$90.84; Christmas Bake Sale donations were \$358.00; Red Stocking donations were \$367.88 and Sunday morning coffee \$208.50. Our executive board met January 11, 2021 and agreed to distribute our society mission grant money to the following:

1. Ft. Wayne Food & Coop - \$400.00
2. St. Louis Food Bank - \$400.00
3. Grace House - \$100.00
4. Elders Circle - \$125.00 to assist in transportation costs.

Work units will be updated in 2021 and work unit chairs will be contacted.

We are badly in need of a funeral lunch coordinator to be the liaison between the families and the cooks and to schedule the work units. This person does not need to be a cook.

Blessings,
Carla Taylor

AT THE RECENT FIRST LUTHERAN LWML EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

a society mite box goal of \$600 was set for 2021. The first Sunday of each month is Mite Box Sunday. Mite offerings may be placed in the big mite box that is on a stand by the entrance to the sanctuary or in the wooden box by the mailboxes. There are little mite boxes that you may take home with you to add your coins to during the month. These can be placed in the wooden box at any time.

The mites that are collected are sent to LWML Minnesota North District. The mites that are collected and sent to District LWML are used for mission grants only. The District keeps 75% and sends 25% to National LWML for their mission grants.

Our LWML MN North District mite goal for 2020-2022 biennium is \$140,500.00. Mites received \$16,600.

Our National LWML mite goal for 2019-2021 is \$2,100,000.00. Mites received \$1,754,544

ONE OF THE 12 MISSION GRANTS FOR OUR LWML DISTRICT IS:

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP AND CHRIST SERVE RANCH (\$10,000)

Campers come to this camp for horseback riding, fishing, and fun, and leave with Jesus in their hearts. This is the desire of the staff that works to share the Word of God with these campers. However, the staff needs training to ensure they can handle emergencies, deal with conflicts, and listen to pain some campers have, and know where to turn in Scripture to share the Gospel message. This grant will provide funding to provide facilitators, training, and resources needed for the work in all camping programs

MITES RECEIVED AND DEPOSITED AS OF JANUARY 11, \$9.34.

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

Serve the Lord with Gladness

Women in Mission



MEN & BOY'S FISHING – As a result of the Covid virus, we had to cancel our trip to the NW Angle of Lake of the Woods in 2020. Young's Bay Resort graciously held our deposits for the same period this year, which is now scheduled for **June 27-30**. Because of virus concerns, the Canadian border closure remains in effect. Consequently, we don't know if it will even be open for this year's June 27-30 reservation. In the meantime, block out these dates. Contact Greg Taylor or Dick Buech if you are unable to come this year or if you would like to attend. When you get your vaccine shot, try to get documentation that you received it in case that becomes a border crossing requirement. **Also, don't buy an Ontario fishing license until it is clear the trip is on! We will hold an organizational meeting when it is clear we can go! Stay tuned!**



Youth News

DARKNESS VS THE LIGHT

It is so easy to complain and be upset right now. With everything going on in the world we can easily get distracted by the negativity and be drowned by others sorrow, hate, anger, sadness and eventually lose focus on the light. Everywhere we look we are being told of all the wrong things that are going on locally and in the world. You can find it on TV, Facebook, Twitter, any social media platform, the newspaper, even the people around us. Sometimes it feels like we are drowning in darkness and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. If you are able to see past the darkness and look at the cross you WILL find light. You WILL find positivity, and most importantly you WILL find Jesus. But how?

It is easy to become negative ourselves when that is all we see or hear. Sometimes we do not even know that we are being negative! Have you been feeling anxious, depressed, sad, on edge or angry? These are all reactions negativities can have on us. In order to turn things around we need to be educated and know what we are dealing with. Let us start by learning the different types of negativity so we can be aware and not allow it to seep in unexpectedly.

Cynicism is a general distrust of people and their motives. **Hostility** is the unfriendliness towards others or the unwillingness to develop relationships. **Filtering** is only noticing the bad in what should be a happy experience or memory. **Polarized Thinking** is the belief that if something or someone is not perfect, then they must be horrible. **Jumping to Conclusions** is assuming something bad will happen because of circumstances in the present. **Catastrophizing** is the belief that disaster is inevitable. **Blaming** others for personal maladies and feeling that you are a victim to life's uncontrollable events. **Emotional Reasoning** is using your emotions to define what is real and what is not. **Fallacy of Change** is the thinking that if people or circumstances change, you can then be happy. ¹

What does the Bible tell us about negativity, what does God say about it? God tells us in Galatians 6:1 *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.* God says that we should let the other person be aware of their negativity, but we need to watch ourselves or we too can become like them.

God gave us negative thoughts and emotions as a natural response to disaster or heartache. If we allow ourselves to be negative for too long they can have an impact on our mind and body. Some common effects are headache, chest pain, fatigue, upset stomach, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, social withdrawal, drastic changes in metabolism like overeating or not eating much at all. ¹ It can really make our bodies unhealthy. God tells

us in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* We must treat our bodies like temples and feed it well with good food and thoughts.

Everywhere we look we are surrounded by darkness. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

There is a saying you may have heard: you are what you focus your time and energy on. If you are focused on the world right now, you will not be in a happy place, if you focus your time on the media or are constantly on social media there is a big chance that you are not going to be a positive person. If we focus our time and energy on the wrong things, we end up losing focus on the good things and the many blessings we have in life. Most importantly we lose focus on the cross. If we stop focusing on Jesus, we can lose hope and faith. 1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

When you find yourself losing hope or faith in yourself or in others around you, please take the time to read the Bible. Being aware that you are personally being negative is the first step in changing. God is so good that he sent His son to die on the cross for YOU. So that YOU can have eternal life with Him. Come to church or watch it online, find a Bible study, call up a friend (hopefully a positive one) that can help you through this dark time. Look for the beauty all around us. God's beauty and grace is among everything we do and see. Smile. Even when you do not want to, force yourself to smile. Every time we laugh, we release endorphins or happy hormones that promote positive feelings. If that does not help your mood, pray. Ask God to show you the goodness around you, ask Him to put the right people in your path.

January was a surprisingly warm and beautiful month. God showed us what nature can do in the winter. The hoar frost and the rime ice created some of the most picturesque views I have seen in a long time. God is so good. We need to keep staying positive and be reminded daily that Jesus is the light, and we need Him to help us be the light for others.

Did you know that Love is the strongest emotion we have? When you love someone you want the best for them, you want them to shine. You are the driver of your life, meaning you are in control of how you act, react, feel, and do. No matter the circumstances around you, you are still in control of yourself. If we lose focus on the cross, we lose focus on ourselves. We are all made of energy and everything was created out of energy. God created everything and energy is found in the food we eat, the words we speak, hear and even in the people we hang round.

In order to move forward toward the light and out of the darkness, we first need to realize that we are in darkness. Once you have established that maybe you have not been the most happy or positive lately, then you can start focusing your energy on positivity or the cross. Indulging in God's Word is the most effective way to get to the light. That is not always easy, so take baby steps. Start reading Matthew, Mark or Luke and relearn the stories about Jesus' life. I do not know about you, but I can read a scripture over and over and every time learn something new.

Here are some verses to get you started on the positive path. Be sure to keep your eyes on the cross!

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Romans 15:5-7 *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Numbers 6:24-26 *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*
Amen

Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director

Reference used:

1. <https://marquemedical.com/damaging-effects-of-negativity/>



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING INFORMATIONAL SESSION

for parents and eligible youth, there will be an informational session on Sunday, January 31st at 1:30 in the fellowship hall. The National Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, TX on July 9th-13th, 2022. This session will give you a better understanding of what to expect before, during and after the Gathering. We will answer questions about COVID-19, cost, activities, travel, who can attend and much more. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide each eligible youth in making the decision to attend or not. Contact me with any questions or concerns.



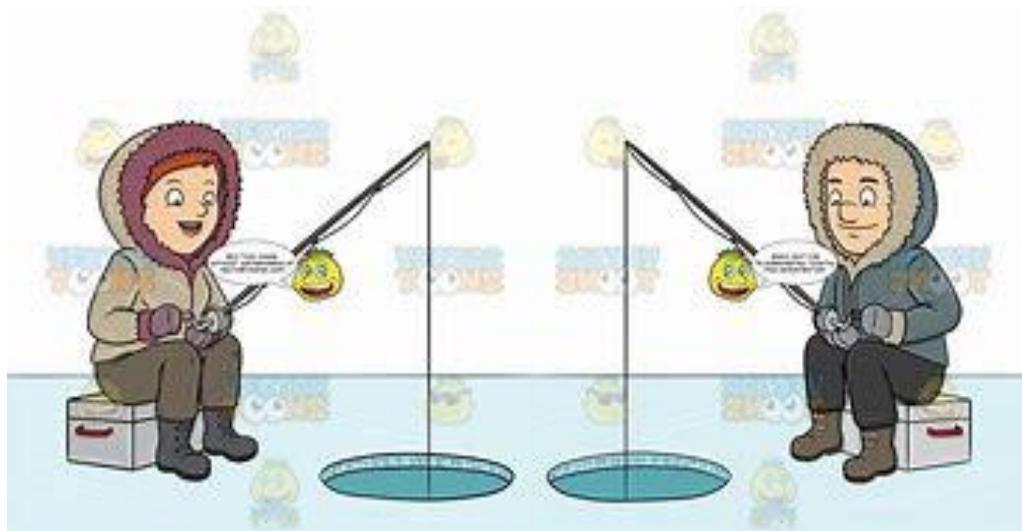
Family Event: Ice Fishing

When: February 28th

Time: 1:00-?

Where: Please watch for location and lake (we will wait until closer to see where the fish are biting)

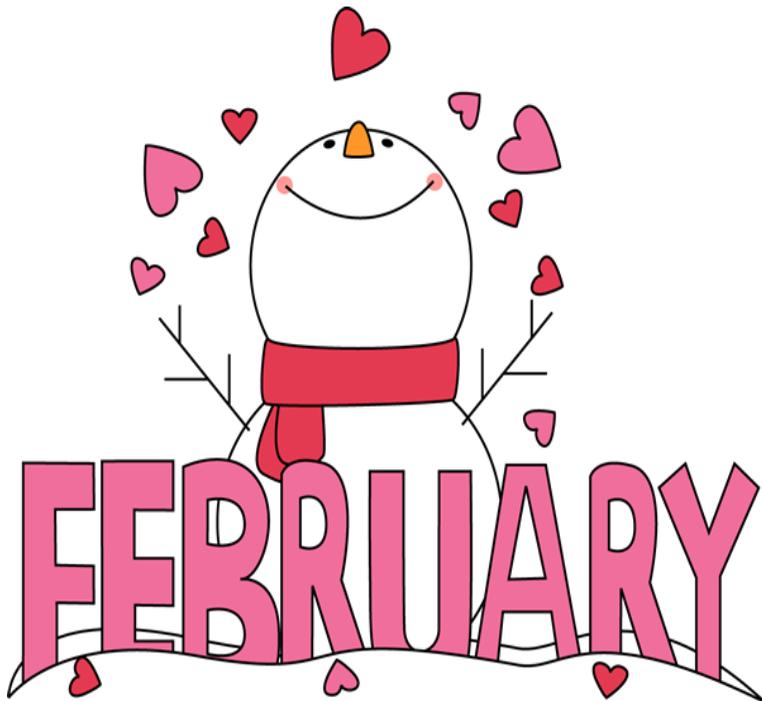
Who: Anyone and everyone is welcome



We are hoping the weather will cooperate with us so we can fish right on the ice. Please eat lunch ahead of time and bring your own snacks and drinks. We are also looking for adults and extra fishing gear. Not everyone attending will have their own pole. Sign up on the bulletin board in front of the lift if interested in attending, helping, or lending equipment. Thank you



To All Of Our Youth Born In



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

February 7

Mite Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service

February 14/ Communion

Dimes For Missions

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service

February 21

Youth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service

February 28/ Communion

Food Shelf Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service

Special Lenten Services

February 17, Ash Wednesday/Communion 6:30pm

February 24, Lenten 1 Worship 6:30pm



Pastor Breitbarth Office Hours

Tuesdays

February 2 -1:00-6:30

February 9-Pastor Steve on Vacation

February 16- 9:00-2:00

February 23-9:00-2:00

Wednesdays

February 3-9:00-5:00

February 10 Pastor Steve on Vacation

February 17-10:00-7:30

February 24-10:00-7:30

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event of a winter storm and worship services get cancelled, please see the policy and procedure so you can find out how to be notified.

- 1. Call the church office to listen to the recorded message at 218-326-5453.**
- 2. Visit the website at www.flcgr.org the announcement will be on the homepage.**
- 3. Check the Facebook page at “First Evangelical Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Grand Rapids Mn”**
- 4. Watch KBJR 6 TV- Duluth/Superior for an announcement**
- 5. An email will be sent out. If you are currently not receiving emails from the church, please contact Shirley to be added.**
- 6. A text message will be sent out if you join the “Remind” class code. “Remind” is an app found in the Apple Store or the Play Store. Once you have it downloaded you can join a class by entering in the code [@ha94hf](https://www.remind.com/join/h7ab86). If you wish not to have the app on your mobile device, you can still sign up to receive text messages by going to <https://www.remind.com/join/h7ab86>**





ADVANCE CARE PLANNING ONLINE CLASSES

What if a sudden illness or injury left you unable to speak for yourself? Who would you want to speak for you? What would you want them to know about your values and wishes?

Join us at one of our free online webinars for a thought-provoking conversation to help make your wishes known, as well as:

- learn vocabulary
- reflect on your values
- explore goals for treatment
- choose a healthcare agent
- take steps towards completing a healthcare directive

To register for one of the upcoming virtual classes, please visit our website:

www.essentiahealth.org

- Click on “Classes & Events”
- Select “Advance Care Planning”
- Click “Advance Care Planning Online Classes” and choose one of the upcoming classes:

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

9:30 AM- 10:30 AM

Monday, March 1, 2021

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

If you are unable to attend a virtual class but are interested in learning about advance care planning, please watch our pre-recorded webinar “It’s About the Conversation” at EssentiaHealth.org >Patients & Visitors >Advance Care Planning >Video Resources.

**For more information, please contact:
Wanda Paulsen, BA, RN 218-786-1310**



Issues, Etc.™

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

Dear Friend of **Issues, Etc.**,

Here is some sample copy for churches outside of St. Louis for the week of January 24.

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Conversion of Paul, The Book of Revelation, The New Testament Manuscripts, The Need for a Global Children's Rights Movement, Discussing Social Issues with Progressives and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Here is some sample copy for churches in greater St. Louis for the week of January 24.

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This information is updated weekly. (see link below)

issuesetc.org/support/

If you know of other pastors and secretaries to add to this weekly email list, please send their email addresses to lynn@issuesetc.org.

Thanks for your support!

Jeff Schwarz, Producer
Issues, Etc.

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2021

Present: Greg Robertson, Pastor Steve Breitbarth, Doug Carlson, Molly Goplin, Greg Taylor, Jennifer Flem, Dwight Kessler, Molly Bartel, Tom Lattimore, Les Flem, Jessica Pellinen, Linda Urevig
Call to order: Dwight K called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Steve led the devotion & prayer from 1Corinthians 12-All work together as one body.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with one addition to New Business (1. New Christmas Tree).

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in Packet/Greg R. Pastor Steve & Jennifer F. both commented on the Children’s Christmas Program and the excellent job Jessica did putting it together.
2. Board of Elders: Report in Packet/Les F. Doug C. questioned if we can have family ushers including women & youth.
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Report in Packet/Molly G.

4. Board of Stewardship: No Meeting/Doug C.
5. Board of Trustees: Report in Packet/Greg T. Doug C. asked a question about where snow could be piled, possibly by the flagpole. Greg stated that he can discuss this with Itasca Utilities.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: Greg T. stated that the committee met tonight to elect officers and look at the investment portfolio.
7. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Requests/Greg T.
8. Direction and Planning Committee: Greg T. stated that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet on February 7th after the 2nd service (12:30PM). It is imperative to have representation from each board and all who are interested should attend. They will meet for two hours every other Sunday for three meetings.

Family Ministry Program Director’s Report: Report in Packet/Jessica stated that she is very happy for everyone who has stepped up to help.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Steve stated that he is blessed to be part of First Lutheran. He has been giving private communion during office hours by appointment.

Confirmation is ongoing with some students on Zoom and others here. He is going to start alternating with class one week and a quiz the next. He is not sure how they are learning on Zoom.

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

YTD income 2020: \$281,036.50

YTD income 2019: \$302,040.31

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

As of: December 31, 2020

General Fund Chkg: \$49,130.22

Building Fund Chkg: \$1,186.90

Mortgage loan balance: \$65,479.66

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$81,188.96

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

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

1. Call Committee Update – Tom L. stated the committee was going to interview five Pastors. Two declined and three were interviewed. Two names will be brought to the congregation at the January 17th Special Meeting.
2. AV Committee Update – No Meeting
3. AV Upgrade Update – Tom L. stated that the upgrades have been completed. One item is on backorder and will be installed when it comes in.

4. Employee Handbook Approval – The committee had their final meeting. They will have a meeting with the three employees to go over the handbook.

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to give approval to the Employee Handbook.

New Business

1. New Christmas Tree – The trustees are looking at a 10-ft lighted tree for \$520.00.

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase the tree on the church credit card with payment possibly to be made from the Youth Tithe Funds.

Caring and Sharing – Pastor Steve stated that we are looking at showing the movie “In His Image” again.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig,
Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

February 2nd – Board Meetings 6:30PM
or as decided by each Board
February 9th – Council Meeting 5:30PM

February 7th – Strategic Planning
Meeting after second service (12:30PM)



Newsletter

***Please Have March 2021 Newsletter
Articles to Shirley
By February 15th.
Newsletter will be published and
Sent out on March 24th.***

