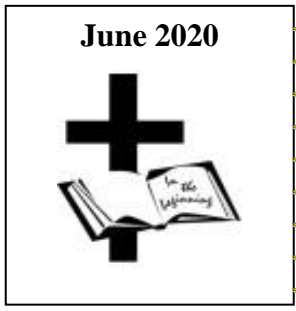


THE FIRST FRUITS

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



Some members may be asking, who is Pastor Steve Breitbarth? I will try to give you a little insight with this article.

I am the oldest of 5 children (3 brothers & one" blessed" sister) who were born and raised on a farm in south central Minnesota. I attended a one room elementary parochial school for eight years, attended Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN where I was blessed not only with a Christian education more importantly where I met and am blessed with my life-long partner wife, Janelle. I then attended Mankato State University (now Minnesota State University) and graduated with a Bachelor degree in Speech & Theater Arts, Janelle also graduated with a Bachelors Teaching Degree in Mathematics & Elementary Education. Janelle & I were married in 1972 at which time I managed a restaurant in the Metro area for a couple of years before the Lord

called us to the Seminary. I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN in 1980 and was called to be the pastor at Grace Lutheran in Chisholm for 35 years, retiring Oct. 1, 2015. While at the seminary I was a Certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) making ambulance calls along with driving a hearse. During our time in Chisholm, Janelle served as both the church organist and choir director. She was employed by the Chisholm School District as a Music Specialist in the Chisholm Elementary School for many years before becoming the High School Math Teacher from which she retired in 2016.

We have three grown sons and eight grandchildren scattered throughout the world. Our oldest Son along with his wife, 2 of our granddaughters and 1 of our grandsons live in Bloomington, MN. Our youngest son along with his wife and 2 grandsons & 1 granddaughter is a LCMS



Pastor in Stafford, VA. Our middle son along with his wife and two of our grandsons live and work in Incheon, South Korea.

I enjoy cooking, making wine and photography.

I have been a MN Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist for 31+ years and currently do counseling at the Fairview Mesaba Clinic in Hibbing on Mondays. I am a Synodical Disaster Response Chaplain along with being a local Police, Fire, Ambulance and Hospital volunteer Chaplain. Over the years I have attended 9 National Youth Gatherings and have served at two Gatherings as the Crisis Response Program Director for the Gathering. I have served and lectured for the St. Louis County Sexual Assault Program for 39 years.

My life experiences was God's way of preparing me to serve Him. As a Restaurant Manager for a couple of years I had close to 80 employees under the age of 18 which gave me skills to work with youth. As an EMT (and driving a hearse) God gave me the gift of empathy, compassion, crisis & disaster response and grief counseling/support.

Janelle & I look at our opportunity to serve at First Lutheran as a calling by God to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. I believe and live by Romans 8:28, "*we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*". Romans 8:26 adds more

to the meaning of verse 28, "*we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*".

I challenge each one of you to live your life in light of Romans 8:26 & 28 and life will be less stressful and less worrisome.

**In the Love of the Lord
Pastor Steve Breitbarth**



**So much for being our
Vacancy Pastor
You are appreciated.**



LIBRARY CORNER FOR JULY, 2020

OVER WHAT HILL? By Effie Leland Wilder at 813.54 Wil. A short novel (183 pages) about life in a retirement home. Stories about romance, writing careers at age 86, and different generations all done up in good humor and strong faith. The writer had lived in the Presbyterian Home of Summerville, South Carolina so many of her stories may have come from real life. A fun book to read. Reviewed by Darlene Baltus

DEMOLISHING SUPPOSED BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS Exploring Forty Alleged Contradictions by Ken Ham (and others) found at 239.23 Ham. Some of you may recognize Ken Ham as part of The Answers in Genesis series. From Genesis to Revelation the book brings out the questions and answers that refute it with Bible citations. There are many questions that are spoken by Christians and non-Christians alike. Some

thoughtful reading! Reviewed by Darlene Baltus

WHEN BAD CHRISTIANS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE by Dave Burchett found at 241.21 Bur. God loves you just the way you are but He refuses to leave you that way, a quote from Max Lucado. There are so many ideas presented; here are a few. Why do people leave the church? How do we reach these people before the decision is made? A church not relevant will not change lives. Kids pick up what they hear and see adults do. The church is composed of all levels of spiritual understanding, commitment and maturity. As we speak and act, who is our audience? We only have one chance to make a good first impression. It's never more important than for followers of Christ. How do we view "Christian products" such as Testamints breath mints, Jesus Saves air freshener, bumper stickers, T-shirts? Chick-Fil-A, a company that is closed on Sundays to allow employees to worship. It also supports missions, especially foster homes for children in the southeast. Where are we putting our retail dollars? Are you marketing Jesus by your life? Read and be reenergized into thinking of what we value and what our children see. Reviewed by Darlene Baltus

FENCED OFF – Loving your neighbor can be complicated. Found at Adult DVD Fen. A young white couple has just moved into their first house in a black neighborhood in Cincinnati. Their

new neighbor has just retired and is ready for life to slow down and shows little interest in giving the young man a warm welcome. This film shows how easy it is for relationships between races to get messed up by misunderstandings and confrontation. Doug and I watched it one evening during the turmoil of the week of May 25 and it brought home how fears and preconceived ideas about others who are different from us can lead to problems. Reviewed by Janie Carlson.

SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS

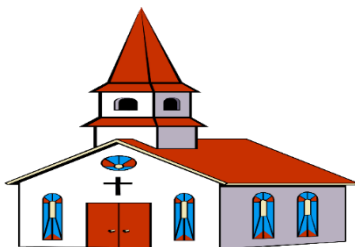
ME – found at Adult DVD Sam. Successful art dealer (played by Greg Kinnear) and his wife (played by Renee Zellweger) seemingly have the perfect life. But when their faith and family are tested, an unlikely bond with a homeless drifter leads them on a remarkable journey that forges an everlasting friendship. It shows how a simple act of kindness can change everything. It’s based on an inspirational true story. Reviewed by Janie Carlson.

HEALING THE HEARTBREAK OF

GRIEF by Peter James Flamming located at 242.4 Fla. The author tells us what steps to take in turning our grief experience into a healing experience. He closes every chapter by giving us a “This I can do today” and “This I can remember today” bit of advice. Remembering that God works in all things, past, present, and future. It is time not to forget the past, but to realize

that healing has taken place to get you where you are. It is written in the language of the layperson. Review coming from a magazine for church libraries. “Seeing someone reading a book you love is seeing a book recommending a person.” –





FIRST LUTHERAN WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JULY

July 5: 9:00a.m. Family Worship

July 12: 9:00a.m. Family Worship with Communion

July 19: 9:00a.m. Traditional Worship

July 26: 9:00a.m. Traditional with Communion

Pastor's Hours

TUESDAY'S

June 30: 11-4

July 14: 10:00-2:00

July 28: 10:00-2:00

WEDNESDAY'S

July 1: 10:30- 4:00

July 8: 9:00-4:00

July 15: 9:00-4:00

July 22: 9:00-4:00

July 29: 9:00-4:00



*Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July
Celebration*





To All Of Our Youth Born In





PARENTS ARE PRIMARY

When growing up, what spiritual values did your parents instill in you? Did you pray before meals, pray before bed, go to church every Sunday, daily Bible readings, or was it something else?

“Parents are the strongest influencer of faith, whether positive or negative.” Not the Sunday school teacher, not the pastor, not the youth worker, but the parents or guardians.

The last couple of years I have really reflected on my faith journey. I realized that if my parents did not force me to go to church every Sunday, I probably would not be where I am at today. Some things that were normal for me growing up was attending church every Sunday, no matter what. My Dad is a grain farmer and even he took Sunday mornings off to go to church. We would always go down to coffee after church and my friends and I would play, eventually I would go to their house or we would invite a friend over. That was our Sunday. We never prayed before meals, we never prayed before bed, we did not read the Bible together. But we went to church every Sunday. When we go together with my mom’s family we would pray before meals and give each other hugs before we said goodbye.

Without that foundation I would not be where I am at today. My parents showed me the value of going to church and not skipping when we did not feel like going. When I did have problems with my friends, my Mom would throw in

some scripture or tell me to pray about it.

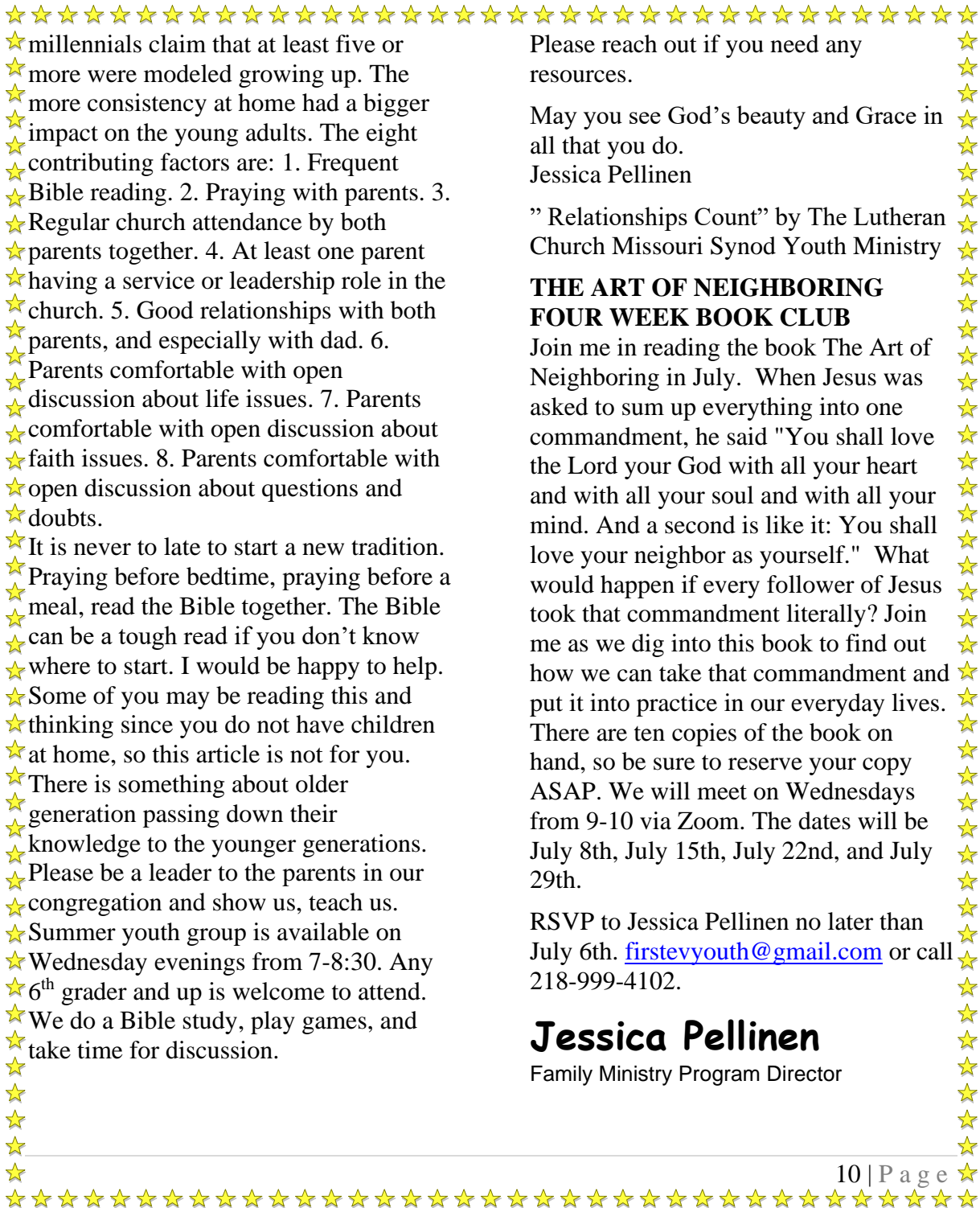
In 2017 the LCMS Youth Ministry did a survey to young adults. I know I have touched on this survey before, but there is such good information in it. There is an entire chapter in the book “Relationships Count” on the impact of parents and their child’s faith. Children follow by example. If they see their parents putting God first, they will learn to do that too. If they see that it is easy to skip church and not put the importance of church, the children will mimic that when they get older.

Today families are trying to balance the demands of both parents working, school, sports, activities, church ministries and so much more. Parents have to prioritize all of that. To some of us, that is easy, but to some it is not.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. This scripture teaching has not changed over the years. We must train up our children in which we want them to live when they grow up and leave the house. Children watch what we do. Even if it means that we must step out of our comfort zones to start to pray before a meal, you may fumble your way through for the first few times but that is okay.

There are eight factors that contribute to young adults staying active in the church that were modeled at home. More than two-thirds of the active LCMS





millennials claim that at least five or more were modeled growing up. The more consistency at home had a bigger impact on the young adults. The eight contributing factors are: 1. Frequent Bible reading. 2. Praying with parents. 3. Regular church attendance by both parents together. 4. At least one parent having a service or leadership role in the church. 5. Good relationships with both parents, and especially with dad. 6. Parents comfortable with open discussion about life issues. 7. Parents comfortable with open discussion about faith issues. 8. Parents comfortable with open discussion about questions and doubts.

It is never to late to start a new tradition. Praying before bedtime, praying before a meal, read the Bible together. The Bible can be a tough read if you don't know where to start. I would be happy to help. Some of you may be reading this and thinking since you do not have children at home, so this article is not for you. There is something about older generation passing down their knowledge to the younger generations. Please be a leader to the parents in our congregation and show us, teach us. Summer youth group is available on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30. Any 6th grader and up is welcome to attend. We do a Bible study, play games, and take time for discussion.

Please reach out if you need any resources.

May you see God's beauty and Grace in all that you do.
Jessica Pellinen

" Relationships Count" by The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Youth Ministry

**THE ART OF NEIGHBORING
FOUR WEEK BOOK CLUB**

Join me in reading the book The Art of Neighboring in July. When Jesus was asked to sum up everything into one commandment, he said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." What would happen if every follower of Jesus took that commandment literally? Join me as we dig into this book to find out how we can take that commandment and put it into practice in our everyday lives. There are ten copies of the book on hand, so be sure to reserve your copy ASAP. We will meet on Wednesdays from 9-10 via Zoom. The dates will be July 8th, July 15th, July 22nd, and July 29th.

RSVP to Jessica Pellinen no later than July 6th. firstteyouth@gmail.com or call 218-999-4102.

Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director



American Red Cross

Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

735 NE 1st Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Room Name: Fellowship Hall

Go to the website

[RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org)

To schedule a time to donate blood.

Or call the Office

At 999-4101

To schedule a time

**To save time, you also can go to the website, click [Donate Blood](#)
then under [Manage Donations](#) click [Start Rapid Pass](#) to fill out
the questionnaire.**

Hosted by

Shirley Mattfield

**27 Units of blood were collected at the last
drive.**



**GIVE BLOOD
SAVE LIFE**

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -
UNAPPROVED**

June 9, 2020

Present: Dwight Kessler, Tom Lattimore, Jessica Pellinen, Greg Taylor, Gary Rosin, Les Flem, Doug Carlson, Janie Carlson, Mary Buech, Jennifer Flem, Greg Robertson, Debbie Robertson, David Storrs, Linda Urevig
Call to order – Dwight K. called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Opening devotion and prayer – Dwight K. opened with prayer.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

***Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with the following changes made to the Agenda – Email from John Howrey was removed from Correspondence and a Release of Information email was added; Vacancy Pastor Update was deleted from Unfinished Business; the PPP Loan and Bible Study Using Zoom were deleted from New Business; Release of Information and Rain Gutters for the Garage were added to New Business.

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Greg R. Report in Packet
2. Board of Elders: Les F. Report in Packet
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Mary B. No Meeting

4. Board of Stewardship: Doug C. No Meeting. Will meet in July
5. Board of Trustees: Gary R. Report in Packet. Gary stated that the Board’s motion to install rain gutters was voted on and approved.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: Greg T. No Meeting
7. Wiebe Grant Committee: Greg T. No Requests
8. Direction and Planning Committee: Greg T. No Meeting. Greg stated that he had been looking at licensing information for a Day Care/Preschool with Jessica.

Family Ministry Program Director’s Report: Jessica P. Report in Packet
Pastor’s Report: No Report

Financial Secretary’s Report: Debbie R. Report in Packet

YTD income 2020: \$119,025.68
YTD income 2019: \$126,352.34

Treasurer’s Report: Jennifer F. Report in Packet

As of: May 31, 2020

General Fund Chkg: \$38,442.54

Building Fund Chkg: \$58,491.38

Mortgage loan balance: \$77,741.46

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$103,278.29

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

Correspondence – Email was received for Release of Information for Pastor Greg DeMuth.

Unfinished Business

COMING EVENTS

July 7th – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board
July 14th – Council Meeting 5:30PM



***Please Have August Newsletter
Articles to Shirley
By July 15th.***



all about aging!

We are committed to providing essential services for older adults in Itasca County, particularly in the midst of uncertainty.



In-Home Care

Customized care for in the home: light housekeeping, meals, personal cares.



NEW! Rx Delivery

Available in Itasca County
Non-contact deliveries.



Assisted Transportation

For essential medical appointments



Grocery Shopping & Delivery

Non-contact deliveries in Itasca County.

- **Caregiver Support Groups** held online via zoom conferencing, join in the discussion from the comfort of your own home.
- **NEW! Fabric Mask Distribution** for individual community members.
- **Health & Wellness Classes** held online via zoom conferencing, join in the activities from the comfort of your own home.
- **Home Visitor Program** assists clients with paperwork, questions, referrals and resources.
- **Lawn Care & Snow Removal** provides lawn mowing and snow removal for older adults.
- **Telephone Reassurance calls** connect with isolated older adults or family caregivers.
- **Volunteer Engagement** connects volunteers of all ages to address community needs.



Contact us today if you or a loved one needs assistance.

218-999-9233

ecircle@eldercircle.org

Empowering older adults to maintain active living and healthy independence



PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Caring for Women, Men and Families

June 18, 2020

It is so awesome to be able to meet in our church buildings for corporate worship again, isn't it? Here at New Beginnings we are also happy we can begin the process to open up to clients by appointment again. Even though we were unable to open our doors to clients last month we were able to provide services to 17 individual clients. These services included 33 COVID Care packs, 0 Car Seat education (we will resume offering this service June 23rd), 7 Earn While You Learn online classes, 0 Pac-n-play (we will also resume offering Pac-n-play on June 23rd), 1 SIDS education, 15 boutique and used clothing visits for necessary infant and child care items and clothing during May. You have made our ability to help mothers and families in our area receive much needed help during this time and for that we are so grateful!! We wish you could see their smiling faces.

As the annual Baby Bottle Drive comes to an end, please remember to mail in your donations or leave at your church for us to pick up. The

Baby Bottle drive is a huge part of our donated funds. We are here because of your generosity. Every donation is greatly appreciated! Our boutique is in need of wet wipes, boys and girl clothing 18 months to 2 years (especially boy clothes) Thank you so much for your generous support!

Remember to use the Amazon Smile Link when you shop to help support New Beginnings!

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

Please take a little time to keep us in your prayer this month. We depend on God leading and keeping us.

“Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

Amanda Jo Grovenburg, Executive Director 218-326-0404
www.newbeginningspregnancy.com

Kathy Metzger, Outreach Coordinator



★DRAWN TO THE CROSS

★"Be strong and courageous. Do
★not be frightened, and do not
★be dismayed, for the Lord
★your God is with you wherever
★you go."

★(Joshua 1:9b)

★
★As I am writing this for the
★newsletter, I am thinking if
★not for the covid-19 virus we
★would be gathering together
★for the MN North District
★LWML right here in Grand
★Rapids. I would have been
★wonderful being with the
★women of our zone and
★district. Even though we
★won't be gathering in Grand
★Rapids for the convention,
★the delegates will be
★conducting the necessary
★business via technology.

★Each district convention the
★delegates vote on the mission
★grants that have been
★submitted. Even though we
★won't be gathering in Grand
★Rapids for the convention,
★the delegates will be
★conducting the necessary
★business via technology. The
★mites we collect are used to
★meet these mission grants.
★As a reminder the first
★Sunday of each month is Mite
★Box Sunday. We will not be
★putting the mite box out like
★we normally would at this
★time. You can put your mites
★in the wooden box by the

★mailbox, which will be
★checked regularly, or you may
★keep them till our church is
★fully open. Please put your
★mites in a plastic bag if you
★don't have a mite box.

★
★As of this time LWML Iron
★Range Zone plans to have a
★fall rally. The date is set
★at the Iron Range Zone
★Executive Board meeting which
★is usually in August. No date
★has been set for the board
★meeting at this time.

★
★Women in mission
★Serve The Lord with Gladness
★Theresa Howrey

★
★"Be strong and courageous. Do
★not be frightened, and do not
★be dismayed, for the Lord
★your God is with you wherever
★you go."
★(Joshua 1:9b)

