



THE FIRST FRUITS

ist by proclaiming Christ crucified in the
nesota North District of the LCMS

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



*P*astor's Corner

There are growing hints in the air that spring and then summer will arrive in northern Minnesota after all is said and done. What a winter! As the weather turns we will all be getting out more and activities we can do without freezing or My advice: be safe and have fun. Let's not forget about our privilege of gathering to worship and study God's Word. There will be church services each week and we will maintain our weekly Bible study schedules.

I am looking forward to some "get-away" times in the months ahead as well. Our family is celebrating a high school and college graduation, a pending date for a grandson's wedding, a confirmation, and a couple of road trips to see parts of our great country we haven't seen before. Sue and I will also be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary with family this summer. We can remember back when people who made it 50 years were really old! It doesn't seem as ancient today.

There are some exciting things happening at church this summer. We just launched a brand new study of Acts on Wednesday mornings. We are also working our way through the Gospel of Luke Sundays. A highlight later this summer is when our youth go to Camp Bluewater for family camp. It was a smashing success last year. This is not only for the youth group. On August 1st all of us are invited for the evening to the camp to share a Pot-less meal, cook-out and a family worship gathering by the lake afterwards. What a relaxing time together we had last year and it would be great to see even more of you enjoy it this year.

Vacation Bible School will be offered June 17-21. We had more students

last year than anticipated. We are hoping to improve on that this year – not only with

June, 2019



Inside this Issue

Pastor's Corner	1-3
Sunday School.....	3
Library Corner.....	4
Family Camp	5-6
Blood Drive.....	6

more user-friendly
enjoying the
slipping on the ice.

more students, but with more participation and interaction between staff and families. Please pray for this to be an important building block for future growth for First Lutheran and for the Kingdom of God.

In July Jessica is taking Tijanna Latimore and Abbie Serfling to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, joining thousands of Christian teens to learn more and grow into their faith more deeply. These gatherings have been highly inspirational for the participants. We look forward to their report back to the congregation. They will be gone July 10-15. Keep them in your prayers, please.

At our special meeting on May 5th our voters approved a significant project we will undertake in July. Chairman Tom Latimore gave a very informative presentation on the proposed audio-visual project before us. This will include a much-needed replacement of our sound system which has been failing us frequently in the past year. A professional team of technicians will install a state-of-the-art system that will last us well into the future. In addition, we will have the capability to project on large TV screens our hymns, songs, prayers, scriptures, liturgies, and announcements. This will greatly reduce the number of pages in our weekly bulletin and we will be “hands-free.” I am looking forward to being able to interject more visual aids in presenting sermons. This involves more of our senses and it is more in tune with how the younger generations view things and communicate. For the older members, did I mention that

we would not have to hold hymnals or turn the multiple pages of our bulletins? I know this does not sound important to some of you, but just wait until you experience the difference. I guarantee it will turn whatever frowns there are out there into smiles (unless you absolutely refuse to admit that you like it).

A bit later in the year and into next year we will also be repairing and upgrading our pipe organ. It has served well for many years and this will give us even better use for decades to come.

We might add that much of the money is already available for these two major projects. We want to invite anyone so inclined to help with completing the financial end of these upgrades to give donations as memorials or outright gifts. Simply designate on an envelope your wishes. Your help to complete the tasks is greatly appreciated.



Special Offering!

This July the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod is meeting in convention, as we do every

three years. Officials are elected, policies are crafted, and issues are discussed to make sure that our church body is going in the same direction. Two of the most crucial issues we face is the lack of funding to send missionaries to various parts of the world and the recruitment and training of men for the work of pastoral ministry.

In conjunction with the convention this year a special offering is being gathered to bring in additional funding for these two glaring needs. Would you be interested in helping with this? We have a generous gift from Doris MacDonald of \$3,000. Any gifts – up to \$3,000 – will be matched by Doris' contribution. We will be gathering donations between now and mid-August for these matching funds. Please mark your gift as: Synodical Offering. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

In a related matter – we just learned that our sister congregations at Grace, Marble and Mt. Olive in Bovey were assigned a seminary graduate. He and his young family should be arriving in June. More details to follow.

PASTOR ZEIGE

.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School, Release Time and Confirmation have ended until fall. However our students continue to need our prayers that they remain faithful in their relationship with our Lord and Savior. We pray they are involved in our VBS ministry and any other opportunities to grow in their faith.

VBS is fast approaching, what a wonderful opportunity to reach out to all of our children in our own congregation and community with the Good News of Jesus.

There is always something for everyone to do in this ministry--prayers, financial support, baked goods, and help in many areas.

As we continue to plan for our Christian Education for the fall, please prayerfully and thoughtfully consider how you can be an active member of this ministry--teachers, substitutes, crafts helpers etc. are always needed.

For more info or any questions, please call me. 218-999-7408

*In Christ,
Mary Buech
Sunday School Superintendent.*

LIBRARY CORNER:

*Library Volunteers: Janie Carlson, Sheila Cline,
Darlene Baltus*



THE GIFT OF LOVE:

One Woman's Journey to Save a Life by Amy Clipston found at 92 Cli. Already an accomplished novelist, Clipston applies her gifts to nonfiction,

telling her husband's struggle with kidney disease. Joe received from his brother a transplanted kidney that his body eventually rejected. Now what? This book has had good reviews; don't miss this one!

HOW SWEET THE SOUND BY Amy

K. Sorrells found in FIC Sor. To outside observers, the Harlan family appears to be the perfect Southern family. However, long-held secrets and dysfunctional family relations finally force everyone to confront an incident. Three generations of Harlans come together as they face their mistakes. Be prepared to be emotionally gripped and spiritually empowered.

A MARRIAGE IN MIDDLEBURY by

Anita Higman found at 813.54. What if the man you've remembered and still loved for nearly 20 years returns to your hometown with his finance – and asks you to cater their wedding? This novel balances humor, mystery, and romance to produce an intriguing story targeted toward women. It is delightfully entertaining and spiritually uplifting.

A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE by Leighann McCoy

found at 248.843. Where is God's voice when life is a house of cards tossed by the wind? The author is battling cancer at the time she wrote this book. She addresses the situations where God's promises fail to line up with reality. By creatively retelling familiar Bible stories, she explains that God allows hardship in order to enable us to grow. This book is a Bible study, autobiography and devotional all in one.

GOD OF THE UNDERDOGS by Matt

Keller found at 248.86. Keller says a person's inability, not perfection, makes an individual an underdog worth using. By using clear and entertaining language, Keller masterfully intertwines his unbelievable testimony with popular Bible characters' lives to add a modern quality to age-old underdog stories. He captures readers with poignant anecdotes and humorous storytelling.

THE WAITING: THE TRUE STORY OF A LOST CHILD by Suzanne Fisher

found at 813.6. This is book #2 of a series of 3 books. **THE WAITING** brings 3 generations of this most unusual family together over the course of a century in a story of faith that triumphs, forgiveness that sets us free, and love that never forgets. The other books are #1 **THE CHOICE** and #3 **THE SEARCH** which many of you have already read. My recommendation is to read all of them in order!! This book received the Christian Inspirational Award.



Family Camp

What a wonderful opportunity we have to bring our youth out to Camp Fire, MN Camp Bluewater again this summer from July 30 – August 2nd! It was such a fun time last year and the youth really grew closer to each other and closer to God. This year we have so much in store for the kids, I can't wait to share it with you!

The National Youth Gathering's theme this year is all about the Psalms. ***Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*** We are bringing this theme into Family Camp. Working through some of the Psalms together they will learn how to seek God and draw comfort from Him in times of trouble and doubt.

The lesson themes are: 1. What's cool and Amazing about the Psalms, 2. Psalms for Times of Trouble, 3. Psalms for Guidance or Times of Doubt and 4. Psalms for Knowing God Better.

Who can attend family camp? Any youth that is a member or a relative of a member of First Lutheran Church. This will be a first come first serve basis as we

only have so many beds. Parents are welcome to stay! There is no age limit as long as your child feels comfortable staying away from you.

We understand that there are activities and other camps going on the same time, as long as your child has a ride to and from and we are aware of when they are getting picked up and dropped off, we are very flexible. The safety of the children is our main concern. The adults that will be chaperoning have experience with the camp and with youth, your children are in good hands.

The youth have been graciously blessed with a large donation that has been used to rent the facilities the last two years. Plus, with different groups bringing out food we are able to keep the cost per person down to only \$25! This cost will cover all the craft and activity supplies. If this creates a hardship for anyone, we do have scholarship funds available. We keep all scholarships confidential, contact me with any questions.

The activities that are available are swimming, canoeing, fishing, basketball, volleyball, yard games, crafts, Bible Study, songs around the fire, hiking and so much more!

We would like to invite the congregation out on August 1st at 5:00 for a pot-bless with a lakeside service from Pastor. Hotdogs and hamburgers are provided by the trustees (thank you), so please bring yourself and a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the three-ring binder.

If any group of people are interested in providing a meal for the youth while out at Camp Bluewater, please sign up in the three-ring binder. It was so wonderful to see all the different people out there for breakfast, lunch and dinner helping. The kids will help with cleanup! By providing this service, we are able to keep the chaperons supervising the children.

I would appreciate your prayers for the week of camp, the time prepping and planning leading up to camp, for those that are thinking about helping with meals, and the chaperones. We wouldn't be able to do this without those prayers and your support!

If you have any questions about Family Camp, please don't hesitate to ask!

Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director



JULY
"FIRST FRUITS"
ARTICLES

July "First Fruits" items are
Due by JUNE 15th.

**ALL ARTICLES NEED TO BE
SUBMITTED TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE**



Blood Drive

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thursday, June 27th

3:00p.m.-6:00pm

Sign up: www.mbc.org

or call Shirley at

326-5453



Sponsor Code 1974

◀ May	~ June 2019 ~					July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 For those who take pictures to keep the memory of VBS alive
2 For the Mission Team and their preparations	3 For the people served through the Mission Project	4 For Early Childhood Leaders and the Planning Team	5 For the Crafts Teams	6 For the Team Leaders	7 For all the people who serve in quiet, but essential ways at VBS	8 That kids find out about VBS and come to learn about Jesus!
9 That parents would transport kids to VBS AND volunteer to help!	10 For wisdom for the placement of kids in Teams	11 Thankfulness for the freedom to have VBS!	12 For kids who don't know Jesus to come with a friend	13 For the kids' witness as they invite friends to VBS	14 For good weather for all the sessions of VBS	15 For final preparations
16 God's blessing on those commissioned to serve in VBS in our worship service	17 For a great first day of VBS	18 Thankfulness for a safe and blessed first session	19 For great problem-solving skills when they are needed during VBS	20 For extra stamina for adults and kids in VBS	21 For a great closing and picnic to end our VBS	22 For the people cleaning up and putting away after VBS
23 That our VBS proclaimed God's Word clearly	24 For everyone as they transition back to life after VBS, full of Good News to tell!	25 For the VBS leadership as they review this year's VBS and plan for next year's	26 For inspiration for more outreach into our community.	27 For rest and relaxation for all our VBS staff	28 For all who were a part of VBS, that they live as God's forgiven and redeemed children	29 For our church staff and all the support they gave VBS
30 For God's continued blessings for our First family.	Notes:					

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -
UNAPPROVED
MAY 14, 2019

Present: Tom Lattimore, Gary Rosin, Jessica Pellinen, Greg Taylor, Dwight Kessler, Ann Hauser, Les Flem, Jennifer Flem, Pastor Zeige, Doug Carlson, and mary Buech

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Zeige led us in a devotion and prayer from Romans 8:14. The spirit of sonship which includes both men and women. We all have a willingness to be led by the Spirit. When we are led by the Spirit, we are harmonized with the Holy Spirit to listen to what He wants and not what we want. We need to separate our wants to what the Holy Spirit wants.

1. Approval of Agenda with the added new business items.
2. Approval of Minutes
***Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Agenda and Minutes.

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in packet. Ann H. – Board of Ed are working towards VBS. Board of Youth is working on Camp Bluewater and National Youth Gathering. They will be having a float in the Tall Timber Days Parade on August 4th.
2. Board of Elders: Report in packet. Les F. – Neil Grunke wants to come and do a talk and have a door offering for the Alaska Mission Trip. The board will work on what works in his schedule.

3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Report in packet. Mary B. – May 19th is the free will donation bake sale to benefit New beginnings and Grace House.
4. Board of Stewardship: No Meeting. Doug C. – They are looking for more board members as this is Jim H. last year. There were a few discrepancies in a few deposits. The counter sheet matched the deposit but didn't match the envelopes.
5. Board of Trustees: Report in packet. Gary R. – Windows in the sanctuary are wanting to be brought back up as a board member isn't happy with the decision. Council already voted on it and if the trustees want to bring it up, they need to have another option before bringing it back to the council. The council decision stands.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: Greg T.- They met to discuss funds available for the media update. They would need to dissolve the Media Trust Fund account before they can use that money. Right now, it is set up to only use the interest on the account. They are suggesting we take a loan out for the media to allow time to move funds and set up a fundraiser. Moved to new business.
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. Pastor reported his communion visits are up as there are more shut-ins.

Financial Secretary's Report: Report in packet. Doug C. reported that we are ahead of our budget for the second month in a row.

YTD income 2019: \$103,838.64 YTD income 2018: \$100,035.84

Treasurer's Report: Report in packet. Jennifer F. reported the Board of Trustees budget is over this past month because they paid Gary R. for the removal of snow that was approved in previous meeting.

As of: March 31, 2019

General Fund Chkg: \$37,973.58

Building Fund Chkg: \$49,048.57

Mortgage loan balance: \$26,220.02

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$282,308.61

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

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

- 1. New Media Update** – Tom has been in contact with Erik, they are working on the contract. We do need 75% down and the contract signed before they can move forward. Tom has also formed a moving forward committee that includes Tom L., Jessica P., Tim K., Les F., David S., and Gary R. Gary is working on building the desk in the choir loft. David will be welding the brackets for the cameras to hang.
- 2. Personnel Manual Update** – The update is done. The committee (Greg Taylor, Dwight Kessler, Jennifer Flem, Les Flem, Tom Lattimore) has reviewed the update. They are currently making the changes and will

send to Shirley to resend out to the committee for final review. Then be brought to the council for approval.

- 3. Capital Project Updates** – Summer of 2019 Completion Date. Garage will be starting any day now. The windows in the sanctuary had to be redone. It is still within budget.
- 4. Constitution Update** – Waiting to hear from the District, hopefully in June.
- 5. Church Building Usage Schedule Update** – See new business.
- 7. Outside Building Cameras Update** – Greg T. contacted the company that we have our current system and he is waiting on a call back. He inquired about a wireless system.

New Business

- 1. National Youth Gathering Transportation** – Jessica P., reported that she cannot transport any persons in her personal vehicle while on the clock for church. She brought this up to the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees. Gary R. has found that if the Church rents a vehicle that everyone would be covered. They are looking into this further and other options.
- 2. Guidelines for Fellowship Hall** – Trustees talked and came to conclusion only members and events that directly benefit members can use the church. Trustees will look into a form and system that Shirley can implement. Several people have called to reserve the church and she can't give them an answer without the direction of the Trustees.
- 3. *****A motion was made to move \$32,000 of Evelyn Salmela donation to the organ fund, seconded. Motion passed.

4. *** A motion was made to move half of Doris MacDonald's \$3,000 donation to organ fund and half to the media fund, seconded. Discussion and all opposed. Motion did not pass.

*** A motion was made to use up to \$3,000 of Doris MacDonald's donation as a matching door offering for Synodical expenses for seminary education and support missionaries in field with any remainder money left to be split equally between organ fund and media fund, seconded. Motion passed.

5. Tom appointed Erik Karkela to the Board of Trustees to fill a vacancy.

6. Kitchen Air Conditioner – ** A motion was made to approve the bid from ASAP Heating and Cooling for \$2350, seconded. Motion passed.

7. Media Funds - *** A motion was made to borrow up to \$150,000.00 on the current mortgage to fund the AV system and organ repair, seconded. Motion passed

Caring and Sharing

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Pellinen, FMPD



COMING EVENTS

May 17th – Youth Group Bowling

May 19th – Last Day of Sunday School

June 4th – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

May 14th – Council Meeting 5:30PM