



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



Pastor's Corner

*“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.”*
(Philippians 4:8-9)

This month we traditionally set aside a day of thanksgiving in our nation. We do indeed live in a blessed land – God has been so good to us and it is our privilege to thank Him for His bounty. In this letter let me point out that we are not just citizens of a truly bountiful land. Above and beyond this we have been called by name by the Holy Spirit of God to be citizens of heaven temporarily living in this beautiful country.

As sons and daughters of God, redeemed by the blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to live by higher standards than those who do not follow Jesus. We are to walk by faith – not by sight. We are to see things differently than those who do not have a faith perspective. The greatest difference, of course, is that believing children of God will spend eternity in a vastly different place than those who choose not to put their trust in Jesus.

November, 2019



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In this temporal realm, however, the difference between us is in how we think, how we speak, and how we act toward others. When it comes to standards to live by, the worldly view is “whatever.” This usually means whatever is good for me, whatever I feel like doing, whatever I want. When it comes to our dealings with those who disagree with us, we do whatever we want because our opinion matters the most.

Walking by faith gives us a much different “whatever” to live by. It is based on whatever God provides, whatever God instills within us, whatever God grants us by His grace. Anyone can see the obvious. Anyone can be annoyed by what goes against our grain. Anyone can become angered by a difference of opinion. We are called by the Holy Spirit to look beyond the obvious and the outward.

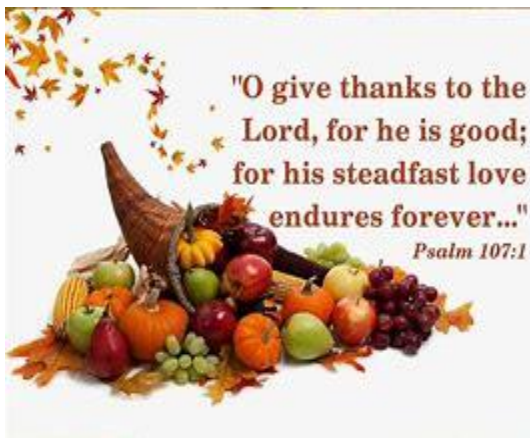
The Holy Spirit is our teacher who equips us to see whatever is honorable. Putting our faith into action trains us to look past what is our point of view to see whatever is based on God’s just standards. It also enables us to see whatever is pure – not stained by a self-centered preference. Let’s face it, even in church there are occasional flashes of our “ugly self,” but when the emotions subside, let’s look instead to whatever is lovely about those who beg to differ with us. This gives us the grace to focus on whatever is commendable in others.

All these traits are part of what it means to put Christian love into action. When the apostle Paul discussed the various gifts people are given within the church he recognized how good gifts can become divisive. Our gifts tend to give us a primary vantage point to see how things should be done. An equally valid, but different view, should not cause strife, but should complement the other. For all the possible misunderstandings that arise because we have differing gifts, Paul sums it up by saying, “Let me show you a still more excellent way” (I Cor. 12:31). Then he writes an entire chapter about love. We are to think about what this more excellent way is and take note of the qualities in others that are worthy of praise and generously dole out our thanksgivings to those who are worthy of our praise and thanks.

The reward for thinking about whatever is good is that the God of peace is with us. We are very used to hearing about the peace of God which passes understanding. That peace helps us to concentrate on Christ Jesus rather than the “what if’s” in life. This reward surpasses even the peace of God. The promise is that God, who is peace, is with us and dwelling in us.

Have a very good Thanksgiving Day, but even better, have a thankful life. Thank God for who He is. Thank Him for calling us to be His very own children. Thank Him for your brothers and sisters in Christ that you have the privilege of worshipping with regularly. **THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.**

PASTOR ZEIGE



Youth Ministry

The Holy Spirit has been hard at work with the youth this fall so far! Here is what we have been up to are looking forward to.

Release Time started in October and all 22 students in grades 3rd-5th have a prayer partner! Thank you, prayer partners! We had our first meet and greet on October 23rd where they were able to get to know their partner while eating a fun snack and making their journal that will be passed back and forth. Release time is a great opportunity for the kiddos to learn more about Jesus during school hours. The children get bused here to First Lutheran. The letter is sent home school-wide, parents have the choice on which church to send their child if they want them to participate. This year out of the total 29 students 13 of them are members of First Lutheran. The other 16 students either attend another church or don't attend at all.

The youth group have been busy practicing bells for the Christmas Program December 18th. Jennifer Flem is once again directing the bell choir. They are learning *Come, All Ye Shepherds*. The

practice schedule for November and December are as follows: November 3rd, 24th, December 8th and 15th.

Sunday school is well under way. The next youth Sunday will be on November 3rd due to MEA break in October. They are excited about this youth Sunday as they will be singing with the praise team and the congregation. So, get your singing voices ready!

There are a few family activities coming up and everyone is invited to attend. This isn't just for the youth. November 3rd will be around the town scavenger hunt while learning more about Joseph and his life. Walking tacos will be provided before we head out and a treat will be waiting for you when you return. Youth are welcome to come without their family, please let us know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

December 4th and 11th will be soup suppers before advent services. A sign-up sheet will be outside of the youth office. This is a great way to start saving for the National Youth Gathering or any youth event coming up. If you are interested in donating a soup, please sign up. One time we didn't have enough and another time we had way too much.

December 15th will be decorating Christmas cookies and delivering to the shut-ins. Bring your signing voice so we can sing Christmas songs to them. Anyone is welcomed to attend!

December 18th is the Christmas program at the 6:30 service.

Lord of Life Escape Room in January! Looking ahead the youth will put on an escape room. Participants will have 1 hour to solve the puzzles and riddles. "An elderly pastor has just passed away. His family is going through his study when they find a note from him sitting on his desk. In the note he writes his goodbye, but also reveals that he has hidden his original Bible from when he was in seminary somewhere in the room and his family must solve a series of puzzles and riddles to find it." January 2nd-5th. More information is to come out soon.

I just want to say thank you to those that work directly with the children in our church! You have no idea how big of an impact you are having on those children and their future! There may come a time in their life when they must make the choice about how their children will group up either going to church or not. Hopefully they will look back at the wonderful memories they had and will want to give that to their children.

Logan was just telling me a story about a boy that walked with her on the way to the church and on his way home after school last year. Logan told this boy where she was going, and he said he wished he could go to church. He then proceeded to tell her that his family doesn't believe in God, but he does believe that God created this world. He wanted to go to Sunday School, but his parents wouldn't let him. He walks by our church almost daily just wanting more.

I don't know about you, but that breaks my heart. How can we reach those children when they aren't even allowed to come to the church? But.... what if we teach our youth how to talk to those children about Jesus? Sunday School, Release Time, Youth Group, VBS, Family Camp are all opportunities to teach our youth.

It's November and a wonderful time to remember all the things we are thankful for. I am thankful for our church family and how we come together to make each other stronger. May God bless you with all good things this month.

Colossians 3:15 *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

Blessings to you and your family,
Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director

MEN'S CLUB VENISON FEED

December 2nd @ 5:00p.m.
Donations Of Venison Welcomed



DECEMBER "FIRST FRUITS" ARTICLES

December "First Fruits" items are
Due by November 15th.

**ALL ARTICLES NEED TO BE
EMAILED TO
Debbie.Robertson@hotmail.com**



LL THE WOMEN of First Lutheran are invited to an Advent Celebration at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th. We'll sing some Christmas carols, enjoy fellowship, indulge in a Christmas treat and have a brief society meeting to talk about the 2020 LWML District Convention that will be in Grand Rapids next June. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE – Sunday, December 8th

The women of the congregation are having a Christmas bake sale December 8th after both services. Cookies, breads, pies, jams, jellies, candy, etc. will be available for purchase. The bake sale is a free will donation. This is one of our fund raisers to help support mission grants. Quilts will also be sold for missions. Please mark your calendar for this event! Bakers – Please package your items and bring them to the church either Saturday, December 7th between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm or the morning of December 8th. Thank you for supporting LWML mission grants!

LWML News

Thank you. Our “Cookies for Coins” was very successful. The free will donations were \$474.32. These monies will be sent to LWML Minnesota North District as mites to be used to support our mission grants.

Thank you to everyone who baked cookies ,bought cookies and donated coins. **Working together to Share the Love of Jesus.**

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS MITE BOX SUNDAY.

As of September 17,2019 -\$366.27 has been collected for Mites.

Serve the Lord with Gladness
First Lutheran Women in Mission

PASTOR NOMINATIONS- If anyone in the congregation would like to nominate a pastor to the Synod to be our next pastor, please grab a form from the table in front of Shirley's office and fill it out in complete. Once you have it complete, please put it in the Congregational President's mail box, we will then submit these to the Synod for consideration. All Nominations must be received by Sunday November 10, 2019.

Thank you Tom Lattimore-
Congregational President

PASTOR'S CALL COMMITTEE- If you have interest in serving on the call committee, please let me know by Wednesday November 6, 2019, I will then develop my recommendations for members of the committee and present it to the Church Council for approval at the regular November council meeting. Thank you Tom Lattimore- Congregational President



HONOR YOUR MILITARY HERO.

Make an ornament for our Hero Tree! Once again we will do the Hero Tree. The tree will be set up Sunday November 3. Veteran's Day is Monday November 11. The white lights on the tree are a symbol of those who have lost their lives defending our freedoms, the yellow ribbon is used as a symbol of solidarity with someone who is far from home, and an expression of hope that they will return safely and soon. We encourage you to place a handmade ornament with a picture, name, and military information on the tree and/or write a memoir about them. There will be materials available to design your own. We hope to take a picture with our Veteran's and Sunday School children on Sunday November 10. Contact Sue Nelson @ suzan.nelson@gmail.com for any questions.

THE BOARD OF MISSIONS: has designated that the Thanksgiving Day Offerings will be donated to our area Food Bank. They continue to help more and more families with the necessary food and other items which are badly needed. Continue to also pray for these families. Thanks Mary Buech

Thanksgiving Eve Services November

27th

@ 6:30p.m.



SWEDISH MEATBALL DINNER: Is being held on Wednesday Nov. 6th 4:30p.m.-6:00p.m. at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church 620 4th Street Bovey MN. Adults:(13 and over) \$8.00, Children (5-12) \$4.00, 4 and under Free. Hope to see you there.



639987 www.fotosearch.com

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -
UNAPPROVED
OCTOBER 8, 2019

Present: Tom Lattimore, Gary Rosin, Deb Robertson, Doug Carlson, Ed Ames, Molly Goplin, Ann Hauser, Pastor Zeige, Jessica Pellinen, Erik Karkela, Les Flem, Jennifer Flem, Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor Zeige led us in devotion and prayer from Revelations 12:10. The Church will prevail over the gates of hell. We are to be A Light – A testimony – Be the Church –Overcome – Remain steadfast.

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 (1. Custodian; 2. Boards; 3. Boy Scouts; 4. Framing Time Line Poster; 5. Internet; 6. Mini Blinds) 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: Report in Packet. Les F.

3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Report in Packet. Molly G. stated that there is a need for more members.
4. Board of Stewardship: Report in Packet. Doug C.
5. Board of Trustees: Report in Packet. Gary R.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No Meeting
7. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Requests
8. Direction and Planning Committee: No Meeting

Family Ministry Program Director’s Report: Report in Packet. Jessica noted that the Facebook posts were down considerably in September from August but contributes that to the Garage Sale Ad in August.

Pastor’s Report: Report in Packet
Financial Secretary’s Report: Report in Packet. Deb R. stated our YTD giving is over our budget.

YTD income 2019: \$ 226,349.71

YTD income 2018: \$219,871.88

Treasurer’s Report: Report in Packet.

Jennifer F. noted that the Synodical Convention contributions of \$1,675.00 will be matched with funds from Doris MacDonald.

As of: September 30, 2019

General Fund Chkg: \$33,492.15

Building Fund Chkg: \$49,075.57

Mortgage loan balance: \$111,150.06

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$231,247.67

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

Correspondence – None Unfinished Business

1. New Media Update – Tom L. stated that the system is up and running. We are still learning. Some lighting issues are being worked on. All the hard work is appreciated. The final bill to AVE of \$54,000.00 is more than is in the Media Fund.

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend to the congregation to use the Securities AM Media Fund (current balance \$97,670.54) to pay the AVE bills and put the remainder against the mortgage balance after all bills have been paid. Congregation would have to approve this.

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay what we can from the Media Fund but leave \$10,000.00 in the fund for future needs.

2. Capital Projects Update – Gary R. Capital Expense /Media Accounts report is attached to the packet. The garage windows, finishing work in the Sacristy and Altar should be done next week. The garage costs are higher because of cement work, landscaping and fill. We still have a credit from the original garage.

3. 2020 Budget – The proposed budget is attached to the packet.

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the proposed budget and present it to the congregation.

The Trustees Proposed Capital Budget will be put together before the November Council Meeting.

4. Pastor’s Retirement Update – The pre-call meeting with District President Fondow will be October 22nd. Matt Pellinen will lead the call committee.

5. Moving Printer Update

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to move the printer back to the small work room.

New Business

1. Custodian – Brad will be gone for eight weeks after his surgery or until he has a note from his doctor that he is 100% able to work. The Board of Trustees will take over the custodian duties during that time.

2. Board Members – Nominations are needed for board members.

3. Cub Scouts – They are currently meeting at St. Andrews but the available space is not meeting their needs.

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to let the Cub Scouts use our church through the end of the year and re-evaluate their use of our facility at that time.

4. Framing Time Line Poster

*******Motion was made, seconded and passed to frame or put a backing on the

Time Line Poster in an amount up to \$100.00 to be paid from Thrivent Funds.

5. Internet – Jessica is having internet problems on her computer and there is no wireless internet in the youth room. It was decided to have Paul Bunyan evaluate the internet system in the Church.

6. Mini Blinds

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase two mini blinds for the sacristy in the amount to \$115.00 to be paid from Thrivent Funds.

Caring and Sharing

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8PM

Pastor Zeige closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig,
Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

October 22nd – Pre-Call Meeting with District President Fondow

October 24th – Pot Bless Meal 5PM
Movie (He Leadeth Me)

6PM

October 27th – Pot Bless Meal followed by Congregation Meeting after Second Service

November 3rd – Youth Sunday Second Service

November 5th – Board Meetings 6:30PM
or as decided by each Board

November 12th – Council Meeting
5:30PM