



*First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Grand Rapids, Mn*



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



Pastors Corner

For me the month of September reminds me of school, students & teachers. As a pastor it also has come to mean the start of fall programs (Bible Studies, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, etc.). First Lutheran is no exception to my experience and expectation of fall programs. I'm feeling some anxiety and frustration over the knowledge of knowing that there are so many opportunities for me to serve the Lord as a Pastor/educator at First Lutheran Church but not enough time to do so.

Many of you will recall me occasionally sharing some jokes from a Book, "101 Things to Do during a Dull Sermon". A true "Satan Sighting" is the fact that Satan gives each one of us, "101 reasons to stay away from Sunday morning Worship Services & the Study of God's Word". Jesus, Himself warns us in these words, "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves*". (Matthew 7:15)

God tells us that after the first Pentecost when thousands became believers in Christ, the early Christian church, "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*". (Acts 2:42) I believe that all four elements are necessary for healthy growth in faith; **the study of God's Word**, **Christian Fellowship**, **frequent use of the Lord's Supper** and the power of **prayer**.

The Apostle Paul goes on to remind us, "*faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ*" (Romans 10:17). He also adds, "*I fed you with milk, not solid food*" (1 Corinthians 3:2) St. Peter adds, "*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation*" (1 Peter 2:2)

The Dictionary defines Education as "the process of learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, beliefs and values". We are disciples of Jesus, please remember a disciple is defined as a "student, pupil or follower". As a Disciple of Jesus, are you making plans for growth in faith through the many opportunities offered here at First Lutheran? It's never too late to get more involved in Worship, Sunday Education and Bible Study.

Your Faithful Servant,

Pastor Steve Breitbarth



LIBRARY CORNER SEPTEMBER 2020

FOREVER FRIDAY by Timothy Lewis, 813.6 Lew. “Tim has masterfully woven a simple love story, intertwining the joy of new love, the challenge of enduring love, the hope of renewed love, and the joy of lasting love into a beautiful and complex tapestry. Not only does Tim tell a delightful story, he also inspires us all to renew our love and to deepen our relationships. **FOREVER FRIDAY** will make young lovers dance, old lovers smile, and everyone else who dreams of love strive for better Fridays.” “Every Friday, a postcard. Every Friday, a love poem. Every Friday, for sixty years.”

BEFORE I CALLED YOU MINE by Nicole Deese, 813.6 Dee. “With its unique right-love-wrong-timing premise, this is a novel that will keep readers ignoring their chores, reaching for their tissue boxes, and sighing with contentment. It’s fresh, soul-stirring, and romantic...”

STEAL AWAY HOME by Billy Coffey, 813.6 Cof. “During the course of one fateful night – his first game in the Major League – Billy Coffey’s main

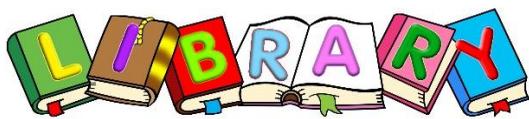
character, Paul Cross, is confronted by his childhood love, aspirations, and regrets. Baseball fans will love the behind-the-scenes peek into a night game in the Major Leagues, but even non-baseball fans will be pulled into the beauty and tension of Coffey’s writing, the lovely and tragic Blue Ridge Mountain settings, and his compelling characters who make both selfless and heartbreaking choices. This is a powerful story of grief, love, forgiveness, and holy mystery...”

CHARACTER SKETCHES – FROM THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATED IN THE WORLD OF NATURE 241 Ins. This over-sized book contains animal stories that have a biblical base. “Beautiful book, very intentionally written. Great for family devotions and discussion.”

MIRACLE AT THE HIGHER GROUNDS CAFÉ by Max Lucado, 813.54 Luc. “Step inside the Higher Grounds Café, a place brimming with hope, a heaping helping of comfort food, and a direct line to heaven. Where faith lives, all things are possible, for a family, a community, and one woman who wasn’t sure she had the courage to believe again.” – Lisa Wingate, bestselling author.

SHADOWS OF HOPE by Georgiana Daniels, 813.6 Dan. “What if...you struggled with infertility but

unknowingly befriended your husband's pregnant mistress? What if...the woman you were seeing behind your wife's back gets pregnant, threatening your job and marriage? What if...your boyfriend never told you he was married, and you discover you're pregnant?" "When their lives collide, the two women must face the ultimate test of their faith and choose how to move forward as they live in the shadows of hope."



ONE MINUTE AFTER YOU DIE – A PREVIEW OF YOUR FINAL DESTINATION by Erwin W. Lutzer,

236.2 Lut. "One minute after you slip behind the parted curtain, you will either be enjoying a personal welcome from Christ or catching your first glimpse of gloom as you have never known it. Either way, your future will be irrevocably fixed and eternally unchangeable." "Lutzer marvels that many people spend more time planning a trip to Europe than they do preparing for their eternal home...he urges us to study what the Bible has to say so we might comfort believers and warn unbelievers about the eternity that awaits them."

NOT FORSAKEN by Louie Giglio, 231.1 Gig. "Pastor Louie Giglio invites us to understand the character of God in a life-changing way: as a perfect Father

who wants you to live under the waterfall of His blessing. You see, God is not the bigger version of your earthly dad, He is the perfect version of your earthly dad. And He's inviting you to walk in freedom as His loved son or daughter."

A CAPTAIN FOR LAURA ROSE by

Stephanie Grace Whitson, FIC Whi. "Laura has lost everything she loves; and now she is also about to lose her home, a steamboat called the Laura Rose. Her only hope is to become a licensed pilot; but, as a woman living in 1863 that is easier said than done... Whitson does an excellent job of incorporating spiritual themes of trust, obedience, faith, love, and sacrifice with Bible verses without getting too preachy... This story is mainly geared toward young women, but older teens who admire self-confident females will find this book captivating as well. Mature themes are present but not graphically described."

NO DISTANCE TOO FAR, a Home to

Blessing Book 2, by Lauraine Snelling, 813.54 Sne. "Astrid Bjorklund wants to use her medical training to serve God and feels that He might be leading her in the direction of missionary service. Smarting from a misunderstanding with Joshua Landsverk, the young man she thought she loved, she heads south to a missionary training school, hoping to eventually use her skills in some remote outpost in Africa... When she is called home to help in a family medical crisis, a

door of opportunity opens for her unexpectedly. Perhaps the “mission field” God intends for her is not exactly what she imagined...If she follows God’s call, will love pass her by?” I see that many of our readers have read book 1: **MEASURE OF MERCY** and I’m pretty sure they’ll want to read this one too! – Janie

To our treasured gentle readers: Please note that the books donated to the library in 2020 are now being shelved in our new book shelf section. On top of the card catalogue are books received in late 2019 and that haven’t been widely read. Another donation from our library AngelZ has been received and will be processed and shelved this fall. We’re so thankful to them and to everyone who donates books to our library. Our records show that the following numbers of books were signed out so far this year: January 41, February 44, March 32, April 15, May 8, June 10, July 18 books and a total of 31 DVDs were checked out through July. – Your church librarians: Darlene Baltus, Shela Cline and Janie Carlson

When I’ve had too much reality, I open a book.

GREETINGS TO ALL FAMILIES!

The past few months have certainly been different and difficult for all of us. How powerful and comforting to hear that God’s will was, is, and will always be

done on earth as it is in heaven. We walk by faith, and not by fear.

Family Worship and Christian Education are more important now more than ever. The Elders are now planning to begin two worship services, with Sunday School and Bible Class between services on Sunday September 20th. We will also begin Sunday School so our children will again have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with our Lord and Savior. We will provide this in a safe setting for our children and staff.

We are in need of teachers for our preschoolers and those in grades 1-3. Please prayerfully consider this as a way to share the love of Jesus. If you work on some weekends, we can find ways of team teaching. Remember God’s command was made to all of us, not some, not most, but ALL to go into the world and make disciples. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me (999-7408) or Jessica at church.

Our VBS camp was an awesome day at Camp Blue Water! Many families in our community were able to be a part of this worship experience. Again, thank you all—youth and adults who helped in this important ministry this summer, now more than ever before.

A very special thanks to Jessica and Matt for all the time and effort to make this ministry a reality – for both VBS Camp and the week of family camp.

They are greatly appreciated.

***In Christ,
Mary Buech
SS Superintendent***



**The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – September 2020**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit

themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full

forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.



THIS YEAR HAS BEEN, let us just say, an interesting year so far. We have been through a lot. We all have experienced this pandemic differently. It is the same storm, but we are all in different boats experiencing different waves. One thing has remained constant in all of this, Jesus.

In June I thought for sure that we were going to decide not to have Vacation Bible Camp or Family Camp in August. I asked the board of Education and the board of youth to give it until July to see how the pandemic and laws were at that time. A week before the July board meeting I called for another creative planning session for VBC and two other people were the only ones that showed up. God bless them because out of that conversation we said yes we can make it work. Without their support and dedication to youth ministry that day and many prayers from several people, we would not have done what we did. We went for it and God is good. We had 15 youth attend family camp. 27 youth attended Vacation Bible Camp 15 miles north of town. Over half of them do not attend our church. God provided a beautiful day with sun, clouds, and a breeze. We were able to provide the space and the opportunity and God provided the people. He knew who needed to be there. I received a message from one of the children’s mom that said this was exactly what her daughter needed. Her spirits have been down, and

this put a smile on her face and a boost in her life.

God knew a year ago what obstacles we were going to be facing. Having this opportunity out at Camp Fire Camp Bluewater was definitely God's plan. Having VBC in the church would have created too many obstacles and we most likely would have just cancelled it. Since we were planning on being outside anyways, this worked out perfect.

It was not always smooth sailing for us planning this. Sunday night at check-in I found out that a couple of the youth that I had planned on being leaders had to be gone every morning. Okay, no problem we will figure this out. Sure enough God was on our side and found someone to step up. She told us even after saying yes that the devil was after her. Telling her she would not be prepared as it is only two days away. He was trying to get in her head. She prayed, and God listened and the next morning she was able to dive into the material and was more than prepared for VBC.

I had asked the music leader to teach a class and she said that doing the music was going to be enough. I thought that each group could do their own music so we could do without someone leading the music, which is why I asked her to teach. At first I was bummed, but completely understood. Boy am I glad that God told her to say no. She did an absolutely amazing job with the kids teaching them the songs and the actions.

Wednesday morning came around and I was panicking that we were not ready. Matt looked at me and said, "Don't let Satan take your happiness." Boy was he right. I was allowing Satan to be in control and not trust God that it was all going to work out. We really paid attention to God and Satan that day. Watching God at work was so amazing, I wish everyone could have experienced it.

I want to personally thank the adults that stepped up to help that day: Mary Buech, Greg Robertson, Molly Bartel, Corrin Hultman, Heidi Clairmont, Sue Thorson, Shirley Mattfield, Gary Rosin, Pastor Steve Breitbarth, Brad Bensen and Matt Pellinen. Those children would not have heard the gospel that day if it were not for you taking the time out of your busy lives to be there.

I also want to thank all the youth leaders: Laine Spangler, Annika Spangler, Kate Clairmont, JoAnna Wahl, Daimon Hill, Chase Pellinen, Caleb Angell, Brayden Shaw and Austin Pellinen. You listened to God and shared his love with the children. Helping that day has shown you how to be a leader, how to share the Gospel, and overall how to be a better Christian. It has been an absolute pleasure watching you grow in your faith.

Those of you that donated money to go towards the food, it was so helpful! Thank you Dwight Kessler for giving his Thrivent Action Team card for the

picnic! Thank you Tim Kilpatrick for your donation of firewood and everyone who made bars.

This is why I do what I do. This is why I LOVE what I do. We get to make a difference in the children's lives. The most important thing in this world is Jesus. If we do not have Jesus, we have nothing. There are so many children and adults out there that do not know Jesus or have a relationship with him. What if you were able to change someone's life by sharing the love of Jesus with them? Wouldn't it be rewarding? God loves us so much and that news is worth sharing. Since this year has given us some setbacks and because some people are not able to be around children, we only have one Sunday School teacher. I really

want to thank those other teachers that are unable to teach this year, I am sure that decision was not made lightly. They have been a blessing to the children, and we are hoping to find someone just as dedicated as they are to take their classes.

Being a Sunday School teacher is so rewarding. These children need someone to share the stories of the Bible with them, especially when they are with their peers. Please pray that at least two people will step up to this rewarding selfless position. You will not have to do it alone; God is with you and I will help you with anything you need.

*God's Blessings,
Jessica Pellinen
Family Ministry Program Director*



THANK YOU to everyone that donated to the youth garage sale! Your donations brought in over \$1500 to the youth. They are graciously thankful.

PLEASE PRAY FOR RELEASE TIME! We don't know what this school year will look like, please pray that we are still able to teach children during school hours. Most of the children that attend do not have a church home and this is their only religious education.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

To All Of Our Youth Born In



FIRST LUTHERAN WORSHIP SERVICES FOR AUGUST

September 6

9:00a.m. Family Worship

September 13 Communion

9:00a.m. Traditional Worship

**10:30 Confirmation Parents Meeting with
Pastor Breitbarth**

September 20

8:00a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30a.m. Family Worship

September 27 Communion

8:00a.m. Traditional

9:00 Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Family Worship

Pastor Breitbarth Hours

September Office Hours:

NO OFFICE HOURS SEPTEMBER 1-5

Tuesdays (10 am - 2:30 pm):

September 8
September 15
September 22
September 29

Wednesdays (9:00 am-4:00 pm):

September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

“Sharing the Love of Jesus”
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
AUGUST 11, 2020

Present: Tom Lattimore, Gary Rosin,
Greg Taylor, Mary Buech, Doug
Carlson, Greg Robertson, Debbie
Robertson, Molly Goplin, Steve Goplin,
Linda Urevig

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

Opening devotion and prayer – Steve G.
led the opening prayer.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

***Motion was made, seconded and
approved to accept the Consent Agenda
with additions to New Business (2. AV
Upgrades; 3. Elevator Repairs; 4.
Sidewalk Concrete)

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education &
Youth: No Meeting – Greg R. stated
that the Garage Sale is scheduled for
Friday, August 21st and Saturday,
August 22nd. It will be held in the
Church Fellowship Hall.
2. Board of Elders: Report in Packet –
Steve G.
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions:
No Meeting – Molly G. & Mary B.
4. Board of Stewardship: No Meeting –
Doug C. stated that the last two
Sundays in October will be
designated for Stewardship

5. Board of Trustees: Report in Packet
– Gary R.
6. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No
Meeting – Greg T.
7. Wiebe Grant Committee: No
Requests – Greg T
8. Direction and Planning Committee:
No Meeting – Greg T. stated that he
will be working with Pastor
Breitbarth on the Sexual Harassment
Policy

Family Ministry Program Director’s
Report: No Report

Pastor’s Report: Report in Packet

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

YTD income 2020: \$168,646.56

YTD income 2019: \$174,469.85

Treasurer’s Report: Report in Packet
As of: July 31,2020

General Fund Chkg: \$48,297.53

Building Fund Chkg: \$36,732.46

Mortgage loan balance: \$76,154.79

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$94,221.75

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

Correspondence

1. Letter from Shirley in Packet –
Referred to Elders
- Unfinished Business

1. Call Committee Update – Tom L. stated that the committee is working through the new pastors’ information.
2. AV Committee Update – No Update
3. Weather Cancellation of Church Services – September Completion Date – No Update
4. Archival Fire Proof Cabinets Update – August Completion Date (Email from Jennifer will be included with the August Agenda in packet) – Trustees will be looking at possible moisture issues in Choir Room before decisions are made.
5. Organ Repair Update – Organ is playable. Trumpets will be added in two weeks.

New Business

1. October Meeting Date (Boards start working on 2021 Budget) – October 18th after the second service was set for the Congregation Meeting.
2. AV Upgrades – Add new speaker in upper Narthex; Device to hook into a DVD player to be able to play DVDs on our screens; Add a device for Livestreaming; Remote access port for diagnostic work to be done remotely; Video operators sound control box; WIFI access point; In Lower Narthex reconfigure control pad; Hook up from back of main TV to Shirley’s computer for messages; Misc. supplies; Warranty

work that needs to be done; \$700 credit back for equipment exchange

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to move forward with the above list of upgrades in the amount of \$5,500.00 from available funds.

3. Elevator Repairs – There were three bids for the elevator repairs and the lowest one was in the amount of \$35,445.00 from ThyssenKrupp Elevator for the installation of a new elevator jack. Half of the payment (\$17,722.00) would be due at the time the contract was signed and the other half would be due when the work is finished.

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the bid from ThyssenKrupp Elevator in the amount of \$35,445.00 to be paid from available funds.

4. Sidewalk Concrete – The trustees recommended that the bill for concrete work (sidewalk, elevator repair & interior walls) in the amount of \$1,644.29 be paid to Holets Construction.

***Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay Holets Construction for work in the amount of \$1,644.29 from available funds.

Caring and Sharing

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM
The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig,
Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

September 1st – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

September 8th – Council Meeting 5:30PM



***Please Have October Newsletter
Articles to Shirley
By September 15th.***



Newsletter