Faith Talk!

News from Faith Lutheran Church of Becker, MN

Volume 24, Number 4 April, 2021

Celebrating the Easter Season at Faith

During the past few weeks as part of our Wednesday night Lenten services, we have been discovering the ways in which we can experience Lent through the everyday objects around us. Thanks to Jill J. Duffield's book "Lent in Plain Sight" we have been reminded of the ordinary things Jesus would have encountered in His daily life or on his way to Jerusalem…

dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes and oil.

These items, the telling of Jesus final days and the meaningful messages from Pastor Yolanda have helped us recognize that God is often at work through the ordinary. It has given us all time to pause and reflect so that we can hear His quiet voice at a time when we need it the most.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, we will continue to journey with Christ to the cross and then witness His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Join us as we see how such things as coats, towels, thorns and stones can be powerful reminders of how we see Christ in our lives today.

These Holy Week Services are available **in person** or online via **Facebook** or **YouTube…**

Palm Sunday, March 28th -- Coats

- Celebrate with palms during the in-person worship service or available for pick up prior to the Sunday service

Maundy Thursday, April 1st -- Towels

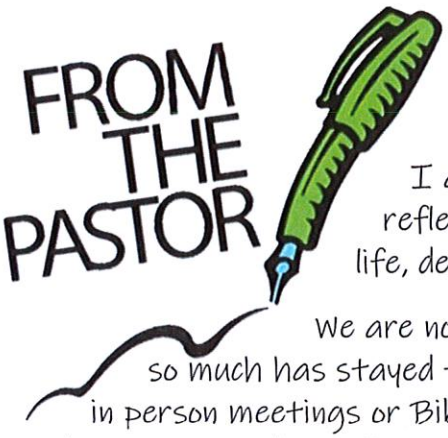
- First Communion for 4th and 5th graders

Good Friday, April 2nd -- Thorns

- Tom Keller will be singing: "Watch the Lamb"

Easter Sunday, April 5th -- Stones

- In-person worship (with masks on) will again include congregational singing and responses!



Dear Faith-Full Ones:

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

I am so excited that the Easter Season is upon us. It is a time to reflect on the immeasurable kindness that God has heaped upon us in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We are now one full year into the COVID pandemic. So much has changed and so much has stayed the same. Death came to us in the form of closed church buildings, no in person meetings or Bible Studies, children home from school and away from friends, sports, and activities and the illness and/or death of beloved family members, friends, and neighbors.

We have grieved our losses deeply and we have trusted deeply in the God of the resurrection.

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This God of the resurrection, specializes in conquering sin, death, and the grave and bringing about glorious new beginnings. The springtime of new hope is upon us, as we are beginning to get our COVID vaccines, go back to work, school, and extracurricular activities, and even return to the church as we feel ready.

On **Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, at 9:30am**, we will celebrate a homecoming at FLC. You are invited to return to the sanctuary, with your masks on, to worship our Risen Savior. You will be encouraged to quietly sing out your praise and respond to readings as you are led by the Holy Spirit. It is going to be a joyous occasion for us all!

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In the event that we exceed capacity in our sanctuary, do not worry! We have prepared overflow rooms in the Fellowship and Educational halls. There are now screens on the walls and chairs ready for you. Of course, if you decide to continue to worship at home, you are welcome to do so on Facebook Live or YouTube.

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Early in my tenure at FLC, I said, ***"Our best days are still ahead."*** I still believe that with my whole heart. While some things have changed, others have remained the same. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit still loves us unconditionally. Grace upon grace is still ours through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are still called, as Children of the Most High God, to love our neighbors, as ourselves. It makes me positively giddy that God has allowed me to fall deeper in love with God, the FLC church family, and the city of Becker. I'm sure you have as well.

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

Special Thanks to:

- ☺ Usher and Altar Care teams, working hard on Sunday mornings keeping everyone safe
- ☺ March assistant ministers
- ☺ The Worship Team each Sunday in March
- ☺ The Home Visitation team for calling those without internet access
- ☺ Our Facility Care Team for faithfully maintain the church building and grounds!

Need Prayers?

The prayer chain at Faith Lutheran Church is called **"Faith Whisperers"**. When you need or know of someone that needs to be placed on the prayer chain there are several ways you can do that:

- Contact the church office in person or e-mail
- faith@faithlutheran-becker.org or 763-261-5751
- Talk with Pastor Yolonda directly
- Place a request through Gwen Dunteman at 763-614-7458, Gwen will start the prayer chain

Blessings on your Birthday!

Apr 01	Alyssa Krenz	Apr 16	Julie Brandt
Apr 03	Douglas Cook	Apr 17	Jaclynn Welker
Apr 03	Hailey Hamacher	Apr 17	Kelsey Berthiaume
Apr 03	Marilyn Myrlie	Apr 17	Peggy Hickman
Apr 05	Kathryn Baker	Apr 18	Gertrude Sakry
Apr 05	Ruby Blakeney	Apr 19	Kaidyn Pederson
Apr 07	Calvin Denson-Lehman	Apr 19	Ryan Broich
Apr 08	Annika Boe	Apr 19	Sari Gosch
Apr 08	Levi Rhodes	Apr 21	Alivia Mlenek
Apr 09	Marlen Whaley	Apr 22	Angelina Scheele
Apr 10	AnnaMarie Simonsmeier	Apr 22	Colton Johannes
Apr 10	Katelyn Kollar	Apr 23	Abigail Johnson
Apr 10	Susan Doering	Apr 23	Holden Hubbard
Apr 11	Everett Henderson	Apr 24	Judith Bowatz
Apr 11	Griffin Gosch	Apr 25	Chris Harmoning
Apr 13	Dawn Reiners	Apr 26	Denlan Harmoning
Apr 13	Joshua Ihrke	Apr 26	Mark Schleif
Apr 14	James Free	Apr 27	Leah Heurung
Apr 14	Janice Wilke	Apr 28	Andrew Person
Apr 14	Whitney Wacholz	Apr 28	Jennifer Gleisner
Apr 15	Cole Anderson	Apr 28	Kari Bjerga
Apr 16	Becky Graning	Apr 28	Terry Neill
Apr 16	Dylan Skalak	Apr 29	Kaitlyn Woehrle

Baptism Anniversaries

Apr 1	Jennifer Harmoning	Apr 18	Dylan Skalak
Apr 3	Steven Wynia	Apr 20	Wanda Russin
Apr 3	Ted Benson	Apr 21	Sam Hintermeister
Apr 4	Eric Seavert	Apr 22	Jennifer Konerza
Apr 4	Robert Anderson	Apr 23	Mason Nevala
Apr 6	Owen Kuha	Apr 23	Matthew Miller
Apr 8	Adam Golembeck	Apr 23	Rodney Sievert
Apr 8	Kelsey Larson	Apr 24	Amanda Krenz
Apr 8	Matthew Cichy	Apr 24	John Kealy
Apr 9	Tamara Sable	Apr 24	Terri Bristlin-Johnston
Apr 11	Avery Roles	Apr 25	Hayden Harmoning
Apr 11	Margaret Boe	Apr 25	Shannon Sydow
Apr 11	Roman Austing	Apr 26	Brooks Berning
Apr 12	Lori Keller	Apr 26	Gabrielle Schrader
Apr 12	Staza Pany	Apr 26	Jakob Edling
Apr 13	Carter Tatge	Apr 26	Reese Gosch
Apr 13	Devynn Cox	Apr 27	Gretchen Graftaas
Apr 13	Jeffrey Martin	Apr 27	Nathan Sydow
Apr 13	Tucker Tatge	Apr 28	Nora Rosendahl
Apr 15	AnnaMarie Simonsmeier	Apr 29	Brayden Mlenek
Apr 15	Eric Graftaas	Apr 29	Cole Sherwood
Apr 17	Matthew Anderson	Apr 30	Kayla Brandt
Apr 17	Patti Haag	Apr 30	Lauren Veldman
Apr 18	Blaine Heurung	Apr 30	McKenna Anderson

Sharing Our Faith...

Thank you for sharing your blessings!

We know that we have been blessed to be a blessing and this Lenten season you have graciously opened your hearts to generously share those blessing with others in need in our community. ***You*** have helped make a difference in the lives of the children and youth who are experiencing hunger and/or homelessness with the outpouring of much needed supplies for ***The Pathways 4 Youth, Becker Public Schools, and Becker Backpack Buddies*** programs.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Blessed to be a blessing…

Opportunities to Share!

As you may know, FLC passed an ambitious 2021 budget in our January Annual Meeting! We are thrilled about the opportunity to hire new staff, support additional custodial hours to keep you healthy, and to further extend our mission and outreach programs into the Becker community and beyond.

If you are not currently sharing your financial gifts through *Simply Giving*, we invite you to visit www.tinyurl.com/FLCgives and set up an account there utilizing your email address and a password. Thereafter, you will be able to set up a safe, electronic, and recurrent financial gift to your church.

Update Your Giving

If you are **currently** giving through FLC, and would like to increase your charitable gifts, you may do so in one of the following ways.

- Call Donna at 763-261-5751
- Email Donna at faith@faithlutheran-becker.org
- Set up an account via *Simply Giving* utilizing your email and establishing a password.

  If we **currently have an email on file for you**, you may visit www.tinyurl.com/FLCgives and enter your email address before selecting "Forgot Password." This will allow you to set up a password of your choosing and then amend your gift.

  If you **do not currently have an email on file with us**, you will not be found in the system. Should that happen, please call Donna and we will immediately get that set up for you.

We are excited that from the moment you establish a secure account with FLC, through *Simply Giving*, you will be able to increase your gift – or give additional gifts - ***at any time***, by signing in with your email and password.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Donna Brown, who stands ready to assist you!

We have been blessed, to be a blessing! We look forward to doing great things with our Great God, **TOGETHER!**

February, 2021 & Year-to-Date Financial Analysis

Month of February

General Fund	Actual	Budget	+ / (-) vs. Budget
Contributions	$ 16,782	$ 19,708	$ -2,926
Facility Use Income	$ 200	$ 65	$ 135
Other Income	$ 124	$ 569	$ -445
Total Income	$ 17,106	$ 20,342	$ -3,236
Expenses	$ 18,149	$ 22,020	$ 3,871
Net Income (Loss)	$ -1,043	$ -1,678	$ 635
Mortgage Fund	**Actual**	**Budget**	**vs. Budget**
Contributions	$ 6,574	$ 4,912	$ 1,662

Year-to-Date

General Fund	Actual	Budget	+ / (-) vs. Budget
Contributions	$ 31,553	$ 44,342	$ -12,789
Facility Use Income	$ 250	$ 147	$ 103
Other Income	$ 237	$ 1,280	$ -1,043
Total Income	$ 32,040	$ 45,769	$ -13,729
Expenses	$ 34,742	$ 44,039	$ 9,297
Net Income (Loss)	$ -2,702	$ 1,730	$ -4,432

Mortgage Fund Transactions & Balance Summary

Initial Mortgage Fund balance 1/1/2021	$ 30,504
2020 Mortgage Fund Contributions to-date	$ 11,287
Less total 2020 Mortgage Payments to-date	$ 10,642
Equals Mortgage Fund balance 1/31/2021	$ 31,149

Covid Hunger Grant

FLC is the grateful recipient of another grant from the SW MN Synod for the purposes of hunger relief related to COVID-19. This grant was made possible by the generosity of donors to the ELCA COVID-19 Fund Appeal and is meant to provide support for the food and household needs of our neighbors in the city of Becker.

FLC's Mission and Outreach, Hospitality, and Adult Education and Fellowship Teams will lead our efforts to identify families in need and to provide appropriate support. We are especially excited to provide Easter Food Baskets this year.

We know that these are challenging times for everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized in our community. If you – or someone you know – would benefit from some support, please contact us as soon as possible at faith@faithlutheran-becker.org. Thank you!

What Is A Vicar?

In the Lutheran Church a vicar is a seminary student who is studying to be a pastor. The vicar has the opportunity to integrate what they are learning in seminary with actual work in the field.

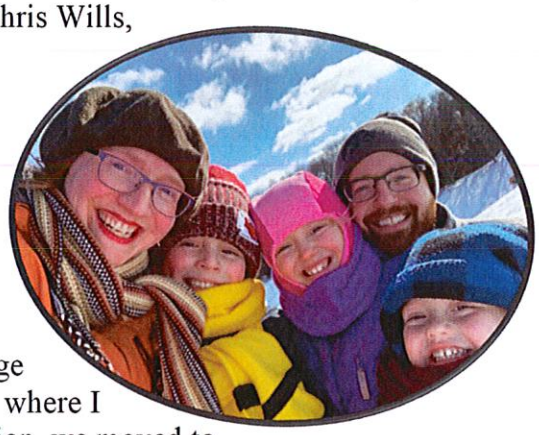
Here at FLC, we will be welcoming Vicar Molly, of Luther Seminary, at the end of June. She has matriculated in the MDivX program which is an "accelerated Master of Divinity program which prepares students to be agile leaders in Christian communities, building upon their gifts, talents, and ministry experience while offering the theological depth they need to live out their calling (www.tinyurl.com/LutherMdivX)."

Vicar Molly will serve with us part-time (approximately 20 hours per week) for the next two years and Pastor Yolanda will be her supervisor. She will be learning how to do things like research, write, and preach sermons, prepare and teach Bible studies, plan and lead worship services, lead children, youth, and family ministry opportunities, provide pastoral care and counseling, help manage finances, provide administrative oversight within a congregation, and lead mission and outreach activities in the community in order to share – and be – God's good news!

We are excited to be a part of Vicar Molly's formation as a pastor in the ELCA. We look forward to being patient with her as she learns with us in Becker. Let us all begin to pray for her - and her family - as we look forward to welcoming her with joy!

Meet Vicar Molly!

Hi, my name is Molly B. Wills. I currently live in Sartell, MN with my husband, Chris Wills, and our three beautiful children, Liam (11), Charlotte (9), and Theodore (4). I was born and raised in Centerville, IA, which is a town of about 8,000 people.



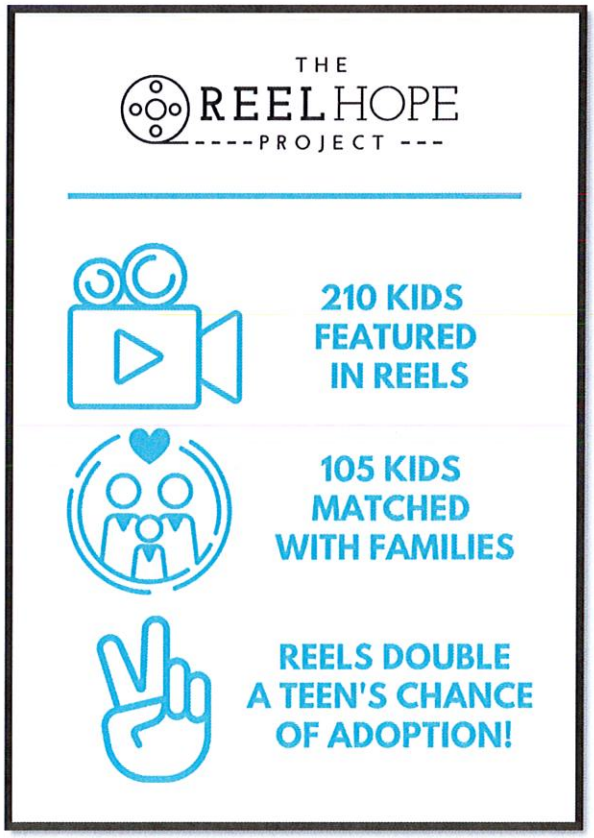
I attended St. Olaf College for undergrad and that is where I met Chris. After graduation, we moved to Oklahoma to pursue higher education. In 2010 we graduated! I earned a Master in Library and Information Studies and Chris attained his Juris Doctorate, becoming an attorney. Shortly thereafter, our first son was born. We lived and worked in Chickasha, Oklahoma until 2013, when Chris accepted a position at Rajkowski Hansmeier, Ltd law firm in St. Cloud, MN and we moved north.

From 2013 to 2016 I worked part-time at the Monticello Public Library. When our third child arrived, I became a substitute librarian so that I could be home with our children. Our family has many interests and hobbies some of which include reading, board games, art and faith!

In August 2020, after years of contemplating becoming a pastor, I finally decided to follow God's call and apply to seminary at Luther Seminary with the blessing of my family. I was blessed to be accepted as a candidate for ordained ministry by the SW MN Synod of the ELCA and accepted into Luther's MDivX program in January.

I am excited to be given the opportunity to work with and get to know the Faith Lutheran family. It will be an awesome adventure!

Peace to you,
Molly



S³ News

Welcome back, S³ youth! We are so excited to ***Study, Socialize and Serve*** with you for the rest of the academic year! During Lent, we gathered on Wednesdays, at 7pm, to meet Jesus in ordinary things like dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones.

Now we will gather for the remaining weeks to study what it means to be a Lutheran and why it even matters! We will talk about faith practices; when and how the Holy Spirit is at work; how you can identify your spiritual gifts and use them at church and in the neighborhood; unpack some of the social, political, and economic justice issues in our neighborhood, as we think about what Jesus may have to say to us about it all!

In addition to study, we will be playing games inside and out, doing community service projects, and making a difference in our world, as we continue to get to know one another as friends and spiritual siblings.

Please join us ***every Wednesday, at 6pm, in the Fellowship Hall***. Wear your mask, sanitize your hands, remember five bucks for pizza, pop, and chips (if you want it), and come celebrate Jesus with us. See you soon!

Parents/Guardians: please take a moment to sign up as adult volunteers for the rest of the year. All adults have been asked to volunteer at least three times in the academic year. Now is the time to visit our Sign-Up Genius at www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d49a9ae28a3fc1-scubed Thanks for your help and investment in your child's spiritual growth. God bless you!

If you are a high school student, **Grades 9-12**, you are invited to take part in our senior high youth ministry! We meet on the First and Third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. We are currently studying the fruit of the spirit -love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We have a lot of fun digging into the scripture, eating snacks, playing games, doing community service together, and applying scripture to our everyday lives. If you haven't yet joined us, we hope you will. See you soon!

Upcoming Gatherings

April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19

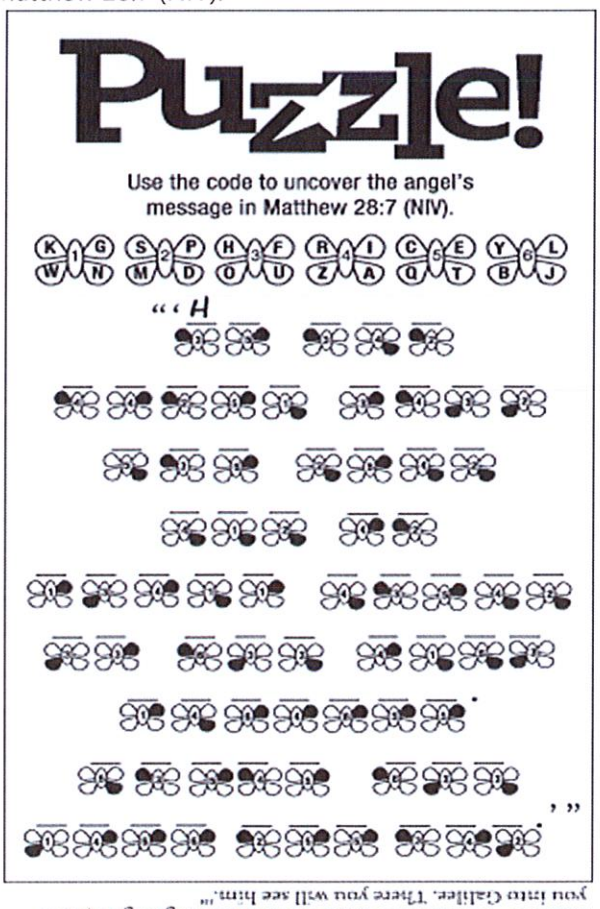
Sunday School

We will finish out the school year with the virtual model and plan to resume in person classes in September. In order to do this we are in need of volunteers to help teach or be a classroom helper. If this is something you feel called to do or you are curious and would like more information please reach out to Melissa Binnall or the church office.

VBS 2021

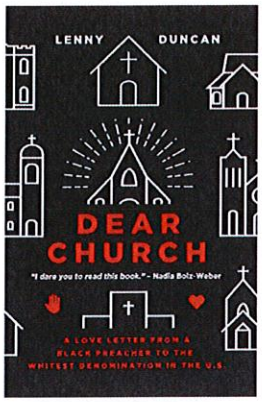
We plan to have Vacation Bible School in person this summer! Please join us for ***Rocky Railway July 25-29.*** We are so excited to see all of our youngest disciples back in the church for a week of fun. We will be exploring the Bible through music, stories, snacks, games, and worship. More information about registration and volunteer needs to come. For questions please contact Katie Meyer or the church office.

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



REDD Group invites you....

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Duncan



Our April book for Racial Equity Discussion and Deeds is Dear Church by Lenny Duncan. This ELCA ordained minister helps us recognize our church practices that are dominant in European culture and addresses ways in which we can open our worship to be more inclusive and diverse. This book is a perfect way to continue to make us aware of how our church culture has been operating under white privilege as it gives us some tools to step into a broader vision of the body of Christ!

Lutheran 101 Class

If you are an adult, or teenager, who would like to learn more about what it means to be a Lutheran, please email faith@faithlutheran-becker.org. If we have *at least five individuals* interested in the class, we will find a common time to meet, once per week, for six weeks (April 29-June 3).

We will study topics such as:

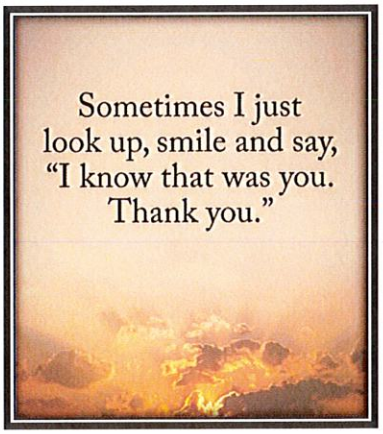
- **How did the Lutheran Church begin?** - The Origins of the Lutheran Church/Reformation
- **What are the Three Solas?** - Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone
- **Besides the Bible, what are our most important texts?** - Augsburg Confession/Book of Concord/Small Catechism
- **What is a sacrament and why does it matter?** - Sacramental Life (Means of Grace)
- **What are our key theological concepts?** - Law and Gospel, Theology of the Cross, Simultaneously Saint and Sinner
- **What does it mean to be called by God?** Vocation/Missional Church Theology

UPDATE...

FROM COVID RESPONSE TEAM

The FLC Covid Response Team met Thursday, March 11, and the FLC Church Council voted in support of the following COVID procedures:

1. We will continue to take the names and phone numbers of all people entering the building for large gatherings for contact tracing. Let's all remember to wear our masks and sanitize our hands upon entry.
2. On Sunday mornings, congregants may enter through our front doors and exit out of whatever door they feel comfortable, to include our two side doors and front doors.
3. The front doors of FLC will be unlocked during office hours. Upon entry, the doorbell will chime. Donna will ensure that all of our guests are masked, and hands sanitized, prior to entry into the FLC office space.
4. If a funeral is hosted at FLC, and the guest list is less than 25% capacity, then food can be catered in by a professional company.
5. Starting EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, congregants will be encouraged to respond and sing (quietly) behind their masks during worship.
6. There will be no easter breakfast again this year. We appreciate your support of our college fund!



Church Council Officers

Mike Doering
President (1/22)
763-262-4790

Ruth Johnson
Vice President (1/22)
320-260-9022

Staza Pany
Treasurer (1/23)
763-261-5814

Kathy Neill
Secretary (1/22)
763-262-6245

At Large Members

Melissa Binnall (1/23)
701-212-3799

Gwen Dunteman (1/22)
763-614-7458

Sandy Engdahl *(1/22)*
320-333-8784

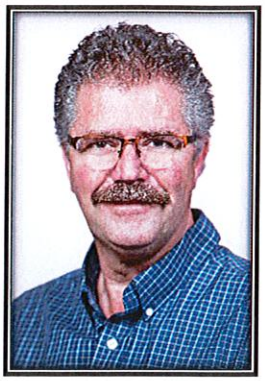
James Hintermeister *(1/23)*
612-670-7066

Kayla Meyer *(1/22)*
(Youth Representative)

Nathan Oliver *(1/23)*
320-336-9618

Death & Taxes

By Rev. Keith Pearson, ELCA Foundation



Benjamin Franklin is famously quoted for having written, *"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."* It is a somewhat cynical sentiment many of us share. We begrudgingly acknowledge that both are undesirable, but unavoidable. As Easter people, Christians have cause to be a bit less cynical. And since Easter and the annual tax season are always so close together, perhaps we should consider both death and taxes.

Easter shows us that death is not an ending but a gateway to a life that has no end. It is the culmination of our baptism and the promise of the resurrection we have in Christ Jesus. We strive to live long and fruitful lives as God intends, but when we come to the end we trust that death does not have the final say. Furthermore we acknowledge our responsibility (in life and in death) to look out for the lives of our neighbors, doing our best to assure they too have long and fruitful lives, as free as possible from torment and suffering.

So as a matter of faith we should embrace and enjoy life, but not fear death.

Taxes, although no one's favorite, are necessary for life this side of God's final kingdom. They are part of what we ask for in the Lord's Prayer when we say, "...give us this day our daily bread." According to Luther's description of "daily bread" in the Small Catechism we need more than just food and drink, clothing and shelter, etc. we also need "upright and faithful rulers" and "good government." And those things have a price tag.

So as a matter of faith we should not begrudge paying taxes, but do our best to see that they do an adequate job of protecting and preserving our life and the lives of our neighbors.

As a Gift Planner I help you make plans for gifts that honor the lifetime of work it took to accumulate what is given. It is even possible that your planned gift can be made in such a way that it lasts beyond your lifetime. Admittedly part of what these plans accomplish is the avoidance of some taxes. But I don't believe this is contrary to our responsibility to providing "daily bread" for our use and for he needs of our neighbors. No, I believe the tax laws that allow such plans are intended to acknowledge the good work of many non-profit organizations. I believe they are meant to encourage you to use these tools to help in the work of caring for the lives of others.

I believe a good estate plan is actually a faithful expression of our Christian view of both death and taxes. It is our final testimony about our faith, and it is our final act of love toward our family, loved ones and our unknown neighbors. We may not be able to avoid death or taxes completely, but we can make the most of both.

Keith Pearson is the ELCA Foundation's Regional Gift Planner in Western Minnesota. His services are available at no charge to those interested in leaving legacy gifts to local congregations, other ministries of the ELCA, and to charitable causes important to them. He can be reached at 612-718-4197 or keith.pearson@elca.org.

Ministry Opportunities

FLC is looking for volunteers willing to serve in the following capacities. In all cases, you will be trained for your new ministry and appreciated for your good work! If you are willing to serve, please call the church office or email faith@faithlutheran-becker.org.

- **Altar Care**
  These ministers are responsible for greeting people as they arrive on Sunday morning, taking down their names and phone numbers, and Holy Communion setup, distribution, and cleanup
- **Technology**
  These ministers are responsible for sitting in the sound booth on Sunday morning and facilitating audio, video, and projection of our services both in the sanctuary and via FB Live
- **Home Visitation Team**
  Are you looking for a new ministry opportunity at FLC? We **are currently recruiting for Home Visitation Ministers.** Your responsibilities will include praying for and/or calling our sick and shut-in members, who are mostly elders. You will also be tasked with ensuring that they receive communion one time per month generally by porch delivery during COVID. Once more of us are immunized, we will look forward to visiting our beloved members, in their homes, one time per month.
- **Covid Response Team**
  FLC is currently recruiting for a few new members to our COVID Response Team. This team is responsible for crafting policy and procedure for FLC's response to COVID. If you have any particular expertise in medicine, public policy, city government, infectious disease, or the like, we would love to have you join us approximately 1x p/month.
- **Volunteer Grant Writer**
  FLC is looking for one - or more - ***volunteer grant writers!*** It has come to our attention that there are many organizations that are excited to help fund mission and outreach programs within churches. FLC would like the opportunity to share our ministry with those entities to access additional dollars for the work of our congregation. **Qualifications:** Experience writing successful grants. Willingness to volunteer at least 3-5 hours p/week. Self-starter possessing high proficiency with Microsoft products. Excellent written and oral communication skills. Competence to identify, cultivate, solicit, and manage new grants for FLC.

Dear partner in ministry,

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

As a companion in caring for individuals in your congregation and community, you know the dedicated support that caregivers provide day in and day out for their loved ones. You also may be aware of the worry and strain that accompanies caregiving. That's why I am happy to pass along news about a new service from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) that helps caregivers build peace of mind by working with them to develop a plan for any potential situation when they could no longer care for their loved ones.

LSS' Emergency Care Planning Service works directly with caregivers and their families to thoroughly assess their needs and create a comprehensive plan that meets those needs. Through a generous grant, LSS offers this Emergency Care Planning service ***temporarily at no cost.***

Carol Huesman of Detroit Lakes started assisting her husband, Ken, with daily tasks in 2018 as his physical abilities started to decline from Pulmonary Fibrosis, a lung disease he was diagnosed with three years earlier that started to affect his ability to breath. Last February, Carol, Ken and their two adult sons met with Laura Hawk, regional coordinator with LSS Caregiver and Companion Service, to develop a plan for Ken's care if Carol suddenly became unable to provide care.

Ken passed away in April of 2020, but Carol said having a plan for his care offered peace of mind as they planned for his increasing needs. "It was reassuring that I wouldn't have to go over how to care for Ken with everyone in our circle," Carol said. "Laura made a document with all of the information they'd need that we kept right on our fridge."

Creating these plans can also help older adults stay in their home during a temporary emergency, such as their caregiver staying in the hospital. "It's planning for an emergency, but ultimately, creating a roadmap for when your loved one transitions into a new phase of their life when they need more care," Laura said. "Planning empowers the caregiver and entire family with information and choices that include ways to keep loved ones at home."

Through Emergency Planning Service, LSS works with caregivers and their families to answer questions such as: Who would care for my loved one if something happened to me? What tasks would that care involve? What resources are available in my community to support my family in providing care?

"Help is out there, but as a caregiver, you have to be willing to reach out and ask for it," Carol said. "I know that it helped my husband a lot. He didn't feel like we were on our own. We had just a great amount of support and caring people."

Again, this Emergency Care Planning service is ***temporarily available at no cost.*** Caregivers can get connected by calling **1.800.488.4146** or visit the Emergency Care Planning service webpage. Thank you for all the ways you extend the love of Christ to all our neighbors.

In Christ,

Pastor Julie Wright

The Rev. Julie Wright
Director of Church Partnerships and Volunteerism

P.S.: If anyone you know needs additional support during this time, **LSS is here to help**. Please visit lssmn.org/services to learn about services available in your community.

Now, then, and the future. We all have had the experience of living in the now and the then, but what keeps questions before us is the future. This is probably truer today than in the past. The speed of change in the technical world leaves many questions before us.

Where we live in the United States and our occupation has much to do with acceptance with new technology. The big city coastal regions have garnered the upper hand in adapting to new technology. This would seem natural because the larger part of the United States population lives in these regions.

The outstate people, those areas not in the seven-county area around Minneapolis and St. Paul, would agree the heavier populated get more attention. However, farming has been affected in technology advances in modern farming equipment.

One item used by everyone is the telephone. Some of you could write a short history of the telephone just from your own personal experience.

One of our residents at Shepherd of Grace, Myrt, tells about her family owning a small rural telephone company. She was given the job by her family as an operator. This entailed plugging in connections for people calling a number. A sidebar to this experience was an order from her mother not to be a "rubber neck".

Think about what happens to phone technology. We now have personal phones to carry with us. In fact, phones are so prevalent and addictive we preciously and flagrantly display them publicly.

This instrument is not just a phone but a "gizmo" with a telephone capacity as part of its features. These features might include various electronic games, sending printed messages, controlling life's temperature, and locks in your house. Your house is not the only thing included but locking and starting your car. There are other features and more to come.

Technology has brought many ideas to the forefront for good, or changes in relationships. As an example, a number of years ago biological science discovered DNA. This gene theory developed new skills for law enforcement to solve crimes, current and as well as past unsolved crimes. This helped wrongly convicted people to find a new life after being released from jail.

DNA has also created a new business by encouraging people to find out their ancestry. It has become a fascination to some people and an emotional experience upon finding a "skeleton in the closet". Eleven percent of those investigating their ancestry found a biological parent to be other than ones that raised them. Thus, new families were created.

Challenges are best faced through prayer asking guidance from God.

College Scholarships...
Available at Faith

Faith Lutheran Church continues an exciting opportunity of assisting our youth in receiving a higher education. The purpose of setting up a college scholarship fund is to:

- Support our youth in further Christian education
- Assist our students with their financial package
- Encourage our youth to grow in faith and wisdom in service to God and humankind.

The guidelines:

1. Applicants must be baptized and confirmed, and currently members of Faith Lutheran Church.
2. Applicants must be accepted at/or enrolled as a full-time student at an ELCA (or similar Christian) college or university on the list approved by the council and scholarship committee.
3. The participating colleges may match these funds.
4. The scholarship committee, dependent upon the available funds and the number of applicants determines amounts awarded.
5. Monies will be divided equally among students who apply and meet criteria.
6. Applications are available in the church office and are due by May 1, 2021.
7. An interview may be required.
8. Transcripts may be required.
9. Scholarships will be awarded upon proof of enrollment and Scholarship will be awarded annually.
10. Non-ELCA College – the student attending these colleges must provide the mission statement, curriculum, and other information requested by the committee.

If you are interested in applying, applications are available on our website*:* www.faithlutheran-becker.org or in the church office.

Anyone interested in donating to the scholarship fund may do so by designating the monies by May 1, 2021. Your support of our youth and their higher education is greatly appreciated!

April is…

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Taken from CDC website on violence prevention

Risk factors are those characteristics linked with child abuse and neglect, but they may or may not be the direct cause. A combination of individual, relational, community, and societal factors, contribute to the risk of child abuse and neglect. Although children are not responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, certain factors have been found to increase the risk of being abused or neglected.

Risk Factors:

- Children younger than 4 years of age
- Special needs that may increase caregiver burden
- Parental lack of understanding of children's needs, child development and parenting skills
- Parental history of child abuse and or neglect
- Substance abuse and/or mental health issues, including depression in the family
- Parental characteristics such as young age, low education, single parenthood, large number of dependents children, and low income
- Parental thoughts and emotions that tend to support or justify maltreatment behaviors
- Social isolation
- Family stress, separation or divorce, and violence, including intimate partner violence
- Parenting stress, poor parent-child relationships, and negative interactions
- Community violence
- Concentrated neighborhood disadvantage(e.g., high poverty, high unemployment rates, and high density of alcohol outlets, and poor social connections

Protective Factors:

- Supportive family environment and social networks
- Concrete support for basic needs
- Nurturing parenting skills
- Stable family relationships
- Household rules and child monitoring
- Parental employment
- Parental education
- Adequate housing
- Access to health care and social services
- Caring adults outside the family who can serve as role models or mentors
- Communities that support parents and take responsibility for preventing abuse.

See Child Abuse and Neglect Resources for more resources about child abuse and neglect prevention on the CDC website.

Parish Nurse
Patricia Seavert, RN BSN PHN

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 Worship with Holy Communion *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube* ***Maundy Thursday***	*2* 7:00 Worship *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube* ***Good Friday***	*3*
4 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube* ***Easter Sunday***	*5*	*6* 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Joyous Ringers	*7* 6:00 S^3 7:30 Sr High Youth	*8* 5:00 Council	*9*	*10*
11 9:30 Worship with Holy Baptism *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube*	*12*	*13* 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 Joyous Ringers	*14* 6:00 S^3	*15* Newsletter articles due in the office	*16*	*17* 2:00 4-H
18 9:30 Worship *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube*	*19*	*20* 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Joyous Ringers	*21* 6:00 S^3 7:30 Sr High Youth	*22*	*23*	*24*
25 9:30 Worship *Also via Face Book Live & YouTube*	*26*	*27* 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 Joyous Ringers	*28* 6:00 S^3	*29*	*30*	

Faith Lutheran Church

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POSTMASTER: Please deliver by March 27, 2021

Prepared especially for…

LIKE US ON facebook

Staff Email Addresses:

Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers	pastor.yolanda@faithlutheran-becker.org
Donna Brown, Office Administrator	donnab@faithlutheran-becker.org
Lynn Wilson, Financial Assistant	lynn.wilson@faithlutheran-becker.org
Sue Doering, Music Coordinator	skdoering@gmail.com
Pat Seavert, Parish Nurse	pkseavert@gmail.com
Sunday School	ss@faithlutheran-becker.org

Worship Schedule via FaceBook Live at www.facebook.com/faithlutheranstrong

April 1	7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion (1st Communion for 4th & 5th Grade)
April 2	7:00pm Good Friday Worship service
April 4	9:30am Easter Worship with Holy Communion
April 11	9:30am Worship with Holy Baptism
April 18	9:30am Worship
April 25	9:30am Worship

In person worship remains an option!
You are welcome to join us at FLC or continue to worship with services broadcast via Facebook Live and YouTube

Faith Lutheran Church Council
February 11, 2021 Meeting

Present: Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers, Kathy Neill, Sandy Engdahl, Sue Doering, Mike Doering, Donna Brown, Melissa Binnall, Kayla Meyer, Gwen Dunteman, Ruth Johnson, James Hintermeister, Staza Pany, Nathan Oliver

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Doering at 5:02 pm

I. Opening Prayer and Devotion – Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

Welcome to the new members of the council James Hintermeister, Staza Pany, Nathan Oliver, Kayla Meyer. We are excited and thankful that you have joined us we look forward to working with you.

Pat Seavert will be retiring April 30, 2021 as our parish nurse after 16 years at FLC. We express our deepest gratitude to her. She was a very caring and faithful servant to our congregation.

Training – Non-violent communication
Pastor Yolanda explained to the council about non-violent communication and how we do business and build relationships with one another. This makes for a healthier congregation and family. The book we use is called Non-Violent Communication and can be ordered on Amazon or your favorite bookstore.

The Non-Violent Communication process is: If you are having issues with someone you need go directly to that person you have a conflict with to set up a meeting to talk. If you get others involved this is call triangulation and that's not wanted.

Here are the four steps/questions you can use to help with this conversation:
The four steps are:

1. I notice that - blank
2. I feel like - blank
3. I need - blank
4. In the future will you please - blank

Pastors Report – new member training was held on January 28, 2021. They were received at Sunday worship on January 31, 2021. The new members are Marlene and Gus Olson and Paulii and Eric Temple. There are 2 other families doing the training and will be received at a later date.

Pastor Yolanda will be on vacation February 17-20, 2021. Contact church office for pastoral care in my absence.

Working with youth in crisis – Pastor Yolanda is working with a family who has a youth in crisis. This youth will do some of their community services at the church.

II. Agenda Review
   a. Agenda was reviewed and items added or changed as requested. Motion to approve the agenda by Kathy; seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

a. Motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes and Annual Meeting Minutes by Sandy; seconded by Melissa. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Review of January 2021 Financials

a. Review & Approval of Treasurer's Report
   i. The January General Fund income was ($1,660) vs. actual expenses.
   ii. The January Mortgage Fund income was ($467) vs. expenses.
   iii. Actual comparisons YTD with General Funds and Mortgage Funds combined:
      1. 2020: ($5,565)
      2. 2021: ($2,127)
   iv. General fund checking - $4,699
   v. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Ruth; seconded by Gwen. Motion carried.

January Budget/Actual giving concerns – Staza indicated offerings were down this month but we are doing fine. Pastor Yolanda thanked Staza for doing a great job putting together this month's report.

Discussed Simply Giving and increasing your pledge on-line. Donna can help you if you call or e-mail her until we get the web site fixed so the congregation can make changes themselves on-line. Pastor Yolanda will explain to the congregation on Sunday the changes that were made to the web site.

PPP Loan forgiveness – this loan has been received and has been forgiven.

V. Old Business

a. Gustavus Adolfus PACT grant
Sydne Hintermeister will be attending Gustavus Adolfus. Sydne asked Pastor Yolanda to fill out a letter of recommendation. Pastor Yolanda encouraged her to apply for FLC scholarship as well. We are so proud of her and wish her the very best.

VI. Mission Team Reports

a. Adult Education and Fellowship – Ruth Johnson
REDD is looking for meeting opportunities later in the Spring and some reading suggestions. The REDD group will finish reading White Fragility by Robin Deangelo. We are encouraging others to join the group. You do not need to be a member of FLC to join us! There will be on-line book discussions and opportunities to ask questions. Articles and more information will be put in the newsletter. A Facebook page has been set up and all are welcome to join. Zoom Bible study meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. check FLC Facebook page for the Zoom link.

b. Altar Care Team –
Communion – 1st Sunday of the month only.
This team sets up the Lord's table. Welcomes congregation members each Sunday and takes attendance along with phone numbers. Congregation members can volunteer to help with communion duties on the Welcome Table. Gwen Dunteman will be the liaison for this team.

c. Budget and Finance – Staza Pany
The budget and finance team had a meeting to review financial statements.

d. Facility Care – this team does maintenance work at the church. James Hintermeister will be the liaison for this team.

e. Children, Youth and Family Team
Current Sunday School plan – continue with virtual Sunday School.

Milestones – 1st Communion - date for 1st communion for our fourth graders is scheduled to be on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021. A class will be offered prior to the event which will be held on March 27, 2021 from 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

S3 current plan – Going very well!! All are welcome to come to the church for pizza, chip and pop on Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 pm. Lessons will be live streamed via our S3 Facebook page. These lessons will be recorded and available for review at your convenience. Please be advised that for us to hold in-person lessons we require six adult volunteers at least three times in the academic year. If we do not have the requisite number of volunteer class will be canceled on that particular date.

Senior High Youth - had a meeting on January 20, 2021 to see if this group will continue to meet. We have some leaders that do some of the activities, but we are still looking for a full-time leader. This month the senior high youth are studying Love, March will be Kindness, April is Patience, May will be Fruit of the Spirit. They meet the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The new structure includes a team of youth paired with an adult mentor to coordinate programming for one month (2 gatherings). Each month they will have a theme for discussion and activities. Adult mentors are needed.

f. Communication and Technology – goal of 100 subscribers has been achieved on our YouTube channel. Mike indicated the City of Becker is willing to give us a channel and we would pay an administrative fee. Mike will have more information about what equipment is needed and estimated cost at the next meeting. Nathan Oliver will be the liaison for this team.

g. Facility Review – Sandy Engdahl
Update on the office clean-up/painting/acquisition of furniture/wall hangings - working with Donna, Sue and Pastor Yolanda to get this project completed. Looking at painting, new desk, wall hangings and etc. Will update the council at the next meeting.

h. Home Visitation – Gwen Dunteman
Making call to those who don't have access to internet, updating the calling list. Pastor Yolanda and Gwen will have a meeting this week to review the list.

i. Hospitality Team – Kathy Neill

j. Mission and Outreach – Mike Doering and Pastor Yolanda
Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. until Easter. Baptism and weddings continue with proper protocols. REDD have a Facebook page you don't have to be a member to join all are welcome. Backpack buddies is in need donations of food and school supplies. Mental health and Suicide information is being posted on our Facebook page. The S3 group is doing some mission projects this month, they have sent cards to Monticello Care Center.

k. Mutual Ministry Team – this team meets with Pastor Yolanda to help her with self-care making sure she takes care herself. Team brings any issues/concerns from the congregation to Pastor Yolanda. Scheduling their third meeting. Team members: James Hintermeister, Jack Knothe, Dick Sowers, Karen Mowers, Linda Nevala and Ruth Johnson. Pastor Yolanda expressed her deepest gratitude to this team.

l. Music and Worship Team – Sue Doering
Received 3 flameless and 1 Christ candles. Pastor Yolanda expressed her thanks to Mike and Sue for designing the beautiful Christ candle. Many thanks for using your hands to do God's work.

Lenten services – Sermon theme with be "Lent in Plain Sight"
Pastor Yolanda will be preaching/teaching about how God comes to us in ordinary objects. The book "Lent in Plain Sight" can be ordered at your favorite book retailer, Amazon, or purchase on your Kindle. We will be meeting in the sanctuary or online for Lenten worship services.

Thank you to Grace Wynia for her inspired Art in Worship – many thanks to Grace for her amazing artwork. The painting will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall for everyone to enjoy.

Pastor Yolanda expressed her deepest gratitude to everyone who has helped lead us in worship services every Sunday.

m. Stewardship Team - 2 Grants
Pastor Yolanda wrote to the Eddy Foundation who has given money to FLC in the past. She shared the good news about our mission and outreach programs at FLC. They were so excited to be supportive of our good works that they send us a check for $2,000.

Pastor Yolanda received an e-mail form the Southwest MN Synod ELCA COVID-19 Fund Appeal, they are pleased that our SW MN Synod, ELCA will be sending FLC, a grant award of $1,250.00. We will need to send a summary report (no later than April 15) that includes how the funds were used, the estimated number of people served, and any stories and/or quotes from you or from people who have been impacted by this grant.

VII. New Business

a. Council Appointments to Mission Teams
Altar Care - Gwen Dunteman
Communication and Technology- Nathan Oliver
Facility Care – James Hintermeister
Mission and Outreach – Ruth Johnson

b. New hire job description – executive team had a Zoom meeting on February 8, 2021 to discuss and write a draft job description for the Office Associate. Discussed duties, hours, salary, requirements/experiences required for this position. The job posting will be posted on Facebook and in the Patriot newspaper. Council also discussed the draft job description. Motion was made by Kathy to approve the job description; seconded by Staza. Motion carried.

c. Endowment Meeting – Keith Pearson who is the Regional Gift Planner for Western Minnesota ELCA Foundation gave a presentation to the Executive Team on January 28, 2021. At the

present time we have no Endowment Fund at FLC. Our next steps will be to discuss with the council, put information about setting up an endowment fund in the newsletter, have Keith do a presentation to the congregation to educate and give them every opportunity to invest in their church. Keith would like to work with 4-5 congregation members to see if he could help them set up an Endowment Fund. Pastor Yolanda shared that there is a church in the area with the same size congregation that has a large Endowment Fund already set up.

d. Cancer Dinner – Monday, June 14, 2021 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Bev Knudson contacted Donna about having this event at the church. She requested the parking lot if COVID restrictions are still in place if not they will use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

e. New Members who have recently joined – we had two families join FLC on January 31, 2021. Welcome to Marlene and Gus Olson and Paulii and Eric Temple.

f. Backpack Buddies/Becker school – has an immediate need for snacks in the intermediate school. There is a huge need for school supplies. They are need large boxes of flavored cereal, crackers, small cereal bars, glue sticks, mechanical pencils, markers, crayons, notebooks. A team will be organized to see how we could use some of our grant money to purchase some of these items.

g. Yard Angels program – Faith in Action does community work. Last year FLC did clean up of 3 gardens in September and will plan to do it again in September 2021. They provide services like shoveling snow, spring clean-up, picking up medicine or groceries. The Youth group has one congregation member they will shovel her sidewalk each time it snows.

h. Chamber sponsorship – FLC will be partnered with a restaurant in Becker to provide $100.00 worth of lunches. Information will be passed out at FLC. FLC will be on the Chamber of Commerce web site. Motion was made by Ruth Johnson to use designated funds for the event; seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

i. Insurance Policy – slightly increase this year. Mike Doering will follow up with any outstanding issues with filing the paperwork.

j. Debit Card – Technology/Communication request for money - discussed getting debit card for Tom Keller for items he needs to purchase for the sound booth/communication equipment. It was discussed that a debit card was not the right solution. Gwen Dunteman suggested that maybe a pre-paid credit card would work better, we discussed and agreed. A motion was made by Sandy to purchase a pre-paid Visa card; seconded by Melissa. Motion carried.

k. Technology request for money – Tom Keller would like to purchase some equipment for the sound booth, communication/technology. The money has already been budgeted for in the 2021 budget. Mike Doering will tell him to go ahead and purchase these items.

l. E-mail communication – discussed when sending out e-mails not to tag other messages with your e-mail, we need to send out a new message each time.

m. Announcement Lu-Min – Ruth Johnson is on the board at Lu Min. Lu Min at St. Cloud State University will be seeking some partnerships with local congregations for financial support. The Synod is decreasing their contribution. There is a fundraiser happening at the end of the summer

and Pastor Yolanda will be getting information about it through the Great River conference.

n. Lenten Mission Project –Pathway 4 Youth is a partnership project of St. Cloud. Volunteers are needed to help homeless youth. Pathway 4 Youth features a food and hygiene pantry, access to clothing, medical professionals, showers, computer access, kitchen/dining area. Ruth Johnson will get a list of supplies and items that are needed.

VIII. Adjournment

a. Next meeting March 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
b. Motion to adjourn meeting by Sandy; seconded by Kayla at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried.