



# First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

## Indoor Worship – Temporary Guidelines

By Martin Oyos, Congregation President, and Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor



Over the last four months, we have developed some new, creative ways to share the gospel with each other and beyond the church walls out into

the world. However, the underlying question that we are most often asked is, “When will we be back to worship IN THE BUILDING?”

The Reopening Task Force has been meeting biweekly to assess and consider much information as a guideline to answering this question, and we are happy to announce we will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary the first weekend of August...with some changes.

Starting the weekend of August 1 and 2, we will offer weekly in-person worship services. A full one-hour service will be offered in the sanctuary Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. We will continue to offer Parking Lot Worship Services with communion each Sunday evening at 7 p.m., weather permitting.

Our top priority in resuming worship is to keep everyone safe and healthy. With that in mind, the following guidelines must be adhered to by all who attend worship. We know these changes will not feel like a “normal” worship service, but they are important as we care for each other as God’s people.

### Considerations for attending:

- If you are at increased risk, please continue to worship utilizing our media opportunities. We will continue to offer the live radio broadcast at 8 a.m. on 101.9 KELO-FM and the recorded video broadcast on KSFY television at 11 a.m. The service will also be available on our YouTube channel, accessed through our website at flcsf.org under the Media tab.
- If you or your children feel sick, please stay at home, monitor your symptoms, and seek medical attention if they worsen. For an updated list of COVID-19 symptoms, visit cdc.gov.

- If you have been directly exposed to someone who has COVID-19 within the last 14 days, please stay at home and self-isolate.
- If you do not feel comfortable coming to a worship service, we understand and encourage you to make the best decision for you and your family. Watch or listen to the worship service via one of the options above.
- The sanctuary will have seating for approximately 115 people. If we meet maximum attendance for a service, please plan to attend the Parking Lot Worship Service.
- No communion will be served during the services held inside the building for now, as this would require people to move around too much, increasing risk.
- No refreshments or fellowship time will occur inside the building. For those wanting to visit, please do so outside, and please maintain social distancing from other families. Greet one another with a wave rather than a hug or a handshake.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Baskets will be available at the exits for you to place your offering.



- Face masks required
- Minimum distancing of 6 feet from others
- Most worship materials not available
- No congregational singing, limited congregational speaking
- No nursery will be available

### If you plan to attend:

- Wear a properly fitted face mask at all times inside the building. Masks are proven to reduce the spread of the virus and are required by all those in attendance.
- Clean your hands at the hand sanitizing station available at the church entrance.
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between your household members and all others near you. • Use

- your home restroom before attending worship. Limited restrooms will be available as needed.
- Follow the direction of the ushers in seating and dismissal from the sanctuary to prevent crowding while entering and exiting. Note that every other pew will be taped off to provide adequate distancing.
- Use your mobile device to access readings and digital bulletins, and bring your Bible. Printed bulletins will be available if needed, but you are encouraged to follow the digital bulletin at flcsf.org/bulletins. Please take your bulletin with you when you leave and recycle it at home.
- Note that congregational singing will not be allowed, and congregational speaking will be minimized. Singing is one of the riskiest ways to spread aerosol and droplets containing the virus.

### Families with children:

- The nursery will not be open during worship services.
- A take-home children’s activity bag will be provided.
- Children will not be asked to come forward for the Children’s Message.
- If you know it will be challenging to keep your children occupied or if they will have a hard time staying in close proximity to your seated area, please consider attending the Sunday evening Parking Lot Worship Service or watching the service at home.

Our facility staff has done an excellent job of cleaning and sanitizing our facility and will continue to do so. Please limit yourself to specified rooms and restrooms to help prevent unknown spread in areas of our campus. There is no better way to care for your neighbor than by taking the recommended precautions until we are beyond this pandemic.

God’s grace to you all as we continue in these times of needing to be vigilant in preventing the spread of COVID-19, and receive the assurance that God has you in his care and that the promises found in Jesus Christ are for you always and forever! As we approach our first Sunday of indoor worship, may we approach it with humility, patience, and love for each other.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” John 13:34-35

## The Spirit Blows Where It Will (John 3:8)

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Outreach

*Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.*

This whimsical poem was written by poet Christina G. Rossetti and captures the essence of our wonder at the power of the wind. The apostle John writes in chapter three, “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

If you have tuned in to our FLC Today updates the last couple of weeks (this was written on July 15), you know I have had a certain challenge that I have spoken about. I generally do not watch much television, and I am especially not available much to watch the “news,” but during the restriction of this time of COVID, I have found myself watching more of the news, or finding myself reading more on social media. And to be honest, it is depressing—or is so completely infuriating. It is no wonder we are a people who suffer so much from blood pressure issues, anxiety, anger, depression, fear, division, and distrust. It is all that gets pumped into us each time we look outside of ourselves. More and more we find ourselves being knocked around by the posture and



Pastor Jeff recording FLC Today for July 14

attitude of the world, and often we become passionate about things we should not be focusing on and have become unpassionate about the things we should.

In my FLC Today update for Tuesday, July 14, I talked about the challenges of living under the immense effect of COVID that we all seem a little anxious, or even depressed, that we cannot live as we would want to. I admitted that for me, it takes twice as much energy or effort to do anything than it normally does or should.

But I also talked about the numerous posts, texts, emails, and even phone calls that express divisive assertions and attitudes towards others, even especially those in our own congregation.

See THE SPIRIT BLOWS WHERE IT WILL, page 2

### August Calendar

#### Ongoing

Saturdays	5 PM	Worship in the Sanctuary
Sundays	8 AM	Worship in the Sanctuary
	7 PM	Parking Lot Worship
Wednesdays	7:30-8:30 AM	Drive-thru Coffee & Prayer
	10 AM	Pastor’s Bible Study on Zoom
	12-2 PM	Drive-thru Communion
	4-6 PM	Drive-thru Communion

#### Special Events

Sat., Aug. 15	10 AM	Grieving with Grace Social Gathering, Laurel Oak Park, 3301 East 49th St.
Sun., Aug. 16	11 AM	Worship in the Park McKennan Park Band Shell (No Parking Lot Worship)
Tue., Aug. 18	2 PM	Author Shirley Swier Jones
Sat., Aug. 29	4-5 PM	Popsicles with Phone Buddies, FLC front lawn



Watch: *Made in God’s Image: An Online Prayer Vigil*  
<https://www.flcsf.org/podcasts#special>

## AROUND THE CHURCH



Continued from page 1

## The Spirit Blows Where It Will

I wonder, why we have come to this current state? When did a differing belief or opinion make someone stupid or a liar? Aren't we as Christians not all called to a common good as God's children, freed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, and encouraged to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly? Where in the Bible does it tell us to avoid listening to one another, to not respect one another, to tear each other down? You know, I teach the Bible for 7th grade confirmation, and somehow I have missed that part! Quite honestly, I think we have lost that ability in our current culture.

I also know that in spite of all of this negativism in our world, the Holy Spirit is still doing its work to make Christ known and even gives us a glimpse of that once in a while.

As most of you know, we as pastors, like you, have not been allowed into the hospitals or care facilities to visit since mid-March, but we still try to touch base with people in these situations by phone. Several weeks ago, a name of a gentleman appeared on our hospital list that I did not recognize. He was not listed as a member, and our church records showed he had not supported the church financially or communed in the last two years (by the way, these are the minimum requirements to maintain membership).

So, when I called this man, I did not know what to expect. But for your understanding, we are often asked to call on people in the hospital who are not regular attending members of our congregation. When this gentleman answered the phone, I introduced myself, and he immediately took off telling me all about what was going on with his health and in his life. He talked to me as if I was a long-lost friend with whom he needed to catch up. I finally got the chance to ask him why he had requested First Lutheran as his church to visit him, and his response was amazing to me.

He responded by saying "Why wouldn't I choose First Lutheran? You are my neighborhood church. I live just west of Minnesota Avenue, and I have attended your Block Party, and we bring our kids to your Trunk or Treat. Our kids attend Lowell Elementary, and you guys do a lot for our school, so when I came into the hospital and they asked me what church, of course I said First Lutheran."

Holy Spirit, do what you must...

I am often asked why we do what we do, and this situation is the fruit of why we do what we do. Church is different to many different people. The expectation that everyone who walks through our doors will do everything we do, the way we have always done it, is a crippling expectation.

But here is what I do know, that gentleman chose First Lutheran in his time of need because he felt welcome, respected, and safe being in our midst. He felt valued enough, that when he wants to let his kids experience something fun and fulfilling, First Lutheran is a place to experience that. He knew something deep down that allowed him to trust that we would be there for him when he needed us, and that trust emboldened him to ask us to reach out to him and pray for him when he needed it. Of course, I invited him to watch our worship on TV and invited him to bring his family to a Parking Lot Worship on a Sunday evening.

But above all, I thank God for sending his Holy Spirit to come and to go through this congregation even with all of our current challenges—to go out and make Jesus Christ known. Now that is the power that comes in the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God...AMEN



## WORSHIP IN THE PARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Join us for worship from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the McKennan Park band shell with Larry Olson and friends providing worship music.

- Please bring a lawn chair or blanket
- Masks recommended but not required
- Please observe social distancing

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for worship. In case of rain, worship will be canceled.

## FLC Staff Meeting Devotional

By Pastor John Christopherson, shared March 17, 2020



*"Beloved, let us [shower Christ's love upon] one another; for love is of God, and those who share this love are of God. ... In this the love of God is made manifest among us, that God sent his Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that*

*he [first] loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sin."* (I John 4:7, 9-10; RSV)

I John 4 reads like a Christian *midrash* upon the gospel of John. Look with me at v.9: *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."* Sound familiar? Yes! It's John 3:16. Basically stated, I John 4 offers us *ethical imperatives* based on the *theological indicatives* of John's gospel. Note all the imperatives: *"Beloved, let us love one another"* (v.7, 11); *"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God"* (v.15); *"He who loves God must love his brother or sister also"* (v.21). All of this because...look at the heart of it all in v.16: *"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him"* (cf. E. Jungel's *God as the Mystery of the World*, p. x).

So, the question before us in this time filled with fear and anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is: "How can we use the gifts of love that God has given us/ to better care for/ and be with/ those people in our lives who are suffering/ who are lonely/ who are broken/ who are grieving/ who are dying? How can we, just little ol' us, be used by our LORD to be present for others with the light and love of God into a second, third, fourth, fifth gift of love? *"Beloved, since God so loved us, let us so love one another."* (I John 4:11)

**Gift #1.** Perhaps the most overlooked. **The gift of listening.** As the folks on *Seinfeld* made famous, we're good at the "Yada, Yada," but listening takes a lot more work. And it's a lot more valuable. The American psychiatrist, M. Scott Peck, observes in his book, *The Road Less Traveled*: "One of the most overlooked gifts in our time is the gift of listening" (p.121). Now, I want you to think of your best friend in the world. What is one of the special qualities that person has? I'll betcha, for every one of us, it's that that person is interested in you. And listens. And is willing to listen. Wanting to know what you have to say. And to hear more. What a wonderful, loving gift this is.

Now think of those who are suffering. Who are frightened. Those especially who are highly vulnerable to the coronavirus. The fear weighing heavy on their hearts and minds. Those housebound. Those in our nursing homes. Those who struggle on a daily basis with incredible loneliness. Their spouse is gone. Family is far distant. How wonderful it is to have someone there—there even if simply on the other end of a phone call—"Thank you Pastor Katherine and Jordan for the

gift of Phone Buddies ministry." Just simply listening. Again, I think of Jesus, and I think of his listening to us. As Henri Nouwen used to say: *"Jesus is 'all ear'"* (*Making All Things New*, 68). And what is the basis of prayer if it is not that God will hear us? No matter when. No matter where. He's always there, as in James Taylor's song: *"Winter, spring, summer, or fall. All you've got to do is call. And I'll be there, yes I will."* *"Beloved, since God has so loved us, let us love one another"* (I John 4:11)

**Gift #2.** Did you hear it? Another gift, intimately related to that of listening is simply "being there" (Dasein) for the other. **The loving gift of presence.** Often, during my high school years in Madison, the phone would ring in the middle of the night at the parsonage. My father would answer. It was from the hospital. An emergency. Dad would walk past my bedroom on the way down the stairs and I'd ask: "What are you going to say?" "Just being there is most important," was his response. How true it is that we avoid people in pain because, "I don't know what to say." Hmm? Don't let that keep you from just allowing 'all mortal flesh to be quiet' (Ps. 46:10) and give the grieving friend "a hug," just the simple gift of your presence ... and er, at the same time do the math as to how we keep the social distancing. And ... this simple gift of presence, isn't this what Christmas is about: God coming to abide with us, Emmanuel, in the person of Jesus? *The gift of love, wrapped in the swaddling cloths of simple presence. "Beloved, since God has so loved us, let us love one another."* (I John 4:11)

**Gift #3.** Finally, how important it is that we commit ourselves to being a sacramental presence, a gift of sharing the gospel word as the church. For "people are the words by which God tells God's story" (E. Schillebeeckx; *Church*, xiii). Now, I think of my life connected with First Lutheran over these past 19 years. When someone in this family dies, it's been a wonder to see all the sandwiches, fruit salad, cakes, and the 10-gallon percolators of coffee (the third Lutheran sacrament?!). But **is it not the Word** that comes with these expressions of love that really brings it home to the heart? The words that are the *traveling companions*—that interpret "I'm sorry." "If there's anything I can do just give me a call." Or, "Please join us for supper this Friday. In the meantime, I'm praying for you."

Think again about the life of Jesus. Pick up the Bible and look at it with fresh eyes. What else is it? But one love letter after another. God trying in every conceivable way he can to let his people know: *"My children, I love you."* Who is Jesus but that Word of love made flesh, abiding among us still (John 1:14). What a love story! God's not stingy with his Word of love for us. And those of us here today have the opportunity to share this lavish gift of God's love in these simple expressions. *The loving gifts of Listening; of Simply Being Present, Being there; and Proclaiming the sacramental word that has its source'n sustaining power in Christ's first love. "Beloved, since God has so loved us, let us love one another."* (I John 4:11). And all God's people say: "AMEN."



## The Mission-Minded FLCW



Rummage sale shoppers at Jean Hoff's

Following the FLC guidelines of gathering, the First Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) are busy with their many talents. Donations are being handled as we are able. Garages were overflowing for Jean, Sharyl, and Kathy. So far, they have had garage sales that have brought in \$1,890.50. Elizabeth Wood and Brenda Roberts have sewed masks, pillows, aprons, fancy towels, pet items, and more. Offered at the garage sales, they sold well. We are working to handle more donations.

A large donation of 57 tubs came into the quilters. JoAnn Gibson and crew are sorting out dish towels, linens and material. From the hotel donations, JoAnn dyed pillowcases and Marcia Huffman matched the colors with other fabric at home and assembled 89 quilt tops so far! Many other quilters are also assembling them at home.

The picture is of a quilt top assembled by Delly Anderson in her home. With this global pandemic, quilts will be needed everywhere.

Lola Coon, a circle chair, calls, emails, and corresponds with her circle members on a monthly basis. All circle chairs, members, and leaders continue to keep in contact encouraging and helping one another and working on projects while enjoying the privacy of their homes. There have been some Zoom Bible studies and meetings, but all of us miss being together—both doing work and in fellowship.

As women of First Lutheran Church, we anticipate an informal gathering on August 6 at 10 a.m. in McKennan Park at the northeast shelter. This FLCW gathering will be a no food, bring-your-own water, social distancing event. Others are welcome to join us in our gathering!

## Lutheran Social Services Beginnings

By First Lutheran Church Women

Many historical events took place 100 years ago. The Lutheran Children's Home Finding Society of South Dakota had Articles of Incorporation made and entered into on October 6, 1920. Credit for the establishment of Lutheran Social Services in Sioux Falls has always been assigned to Ollie (Rev. Oliver) and Ida Bergeland. Located in the city of Sioux Falls, Dr. H. J. Glenn, then FLC Senior Pastor, was among the initial 13 board members. The corporation was under the supervision and control of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. With the purpose of caring for dependent children and providing rescue and maternity homes for women and children, this agency became well known and respected for that work. As FLC and LSS were interconnected, Ida Bergeland was one of the first three women to serve on the FLC Board of Deacons, along with Loretta Mundt (Dean of Women of Augustana College) and Janet Naessig.

Our own Nancy Olson, as a high school senior, was inspired to become a social worker when Ida Bergeland "planted" the seed in a speech to her Sunday school class about Christian Vocations. Nancy worked as a social worker at LSS from 1970 to 1986, primarily in the services to unwed mothers, foster care, adoptions, and with special projects that grew out of the agency's services and community needs. Her memories of the active, supportive tie with FLC and the agency are numerous, and, especially, with that received from the women of FLC. Teenage moms, "unwed mothers," living under the care of LSS were not permitted to attend public school and were offered an alternative school, at least for a time, at FLC. That marked yet another wonderful partnership between our First Lutheran Church and Lutheran Social Services. Later on, a new maternity home was built at 12th and Summit (known as Bertha Bragstad Hall). During the time that physical changes were being made on the LSS Headquarters building, a substitute place that met the public health requirements had to be found to prepare Meals on Wheels. Thanks to the women of the church, the First Lutheran Church kitchens satisfied that need.

With the advent of WWII, American Lutherans were made aware of 35,000 Lutheran Displaced Persons in Europe. These people were existing in miserable barracks in DP Camps, most unable to return to their homeland because of political and religious persecution,

according to a representative of the National Lutheran Council. The Lutheran Church became involved with these resettlements. Opportunities for their resettlement in South Dakota were looked at by the Lutheran Welfare Society of South Dakota. LSS used to require sponsors for the refugees to arrange furnished housing, transportation, help with living adjustments, etc. Beginning in the 1970s, Iola Oines, Sandra Looney, Nancy Olson, and Janet Naessig were some of the FLCW on the FLC Sponsorship Committee. Nancy Olson fondly recalls her family's Saturday morning grocery shopping experiences and ventures with the Chenn family. Despite their Scandinavian roots, their friendship even grew to their love of Chinese food. The Chenn and Chou families are still members of FLC. Cindy Chou started helping with the bazaar a few years ago. Last year, Cindy, her daughter Amy, and two of Amy's daughters helped with the lefse for the bazaar. That's three generations.

Over the years, the women of FLC helped to develop and fuel the efforts of the Lutheran Welfare Auxiliary, or, as known later, the Lutheran Resource Associates. That group did valuable fund raising for the programs of the agency. Nancy Olson, Gloria Simpson, and Janet Naessig, one time serving as president, recalled the annual style shows and luncheons, silent auctions, dinners, and entertainment that raised funds for all kinds of needs, including books and anything to benefit clients. Even more importantly, they expanded our church and community understanding of the needs in the community and the services provided by this agency.

All of this points to the tremendous involvement First Lutheran Church and its women have had in Lutheran Social Services since its beginnings. In 2019, Jamie Lennon of LSS spoke at a monthly WELCA event to help keep us astride of the many facets of Lutheran Social Services today. The South Dakota State Synodical WELCA is looking to raise support of LSS in the amount of \$75,000 by the end January 2021. It is quite a challenge for all of us.

(Jamie Lennon of LSS and others named were most helpful in obtaining this info, and Pastor Jeff Backer will provide more info in coming articles. Elsewhere on this page or in a subsequent issue is an account as printed in "The First Lutheran," Volume III, No.1 of a first resettlement experience as described above.)



The Mikelis Skuja family, formerly of Latvia and now of Revillo, S.D., the first displaced persons to arrive in South Dakota from Europe, were visitors at First Lutheran Church, Sunday, December 12. They were brought to this country by the Lutheran Resettlement Service. In the group with them are Dr. Glenn and Pastor Swanson.

Reprinted from "The First Lutheran" published January 1, 1949

### Lutheran Resettlement Service of South Dakota Begun

Those of us who attended services of First Lutheran on Sunday morning, December 12, were privileged to meet Mr. and Mrs. Mikelia Skuja and their two sons, Ivar and Janis. Our hearts were touched as we learned that these Lutheran brethren had been forced to flee from their home in Latvia before the advance of the Bolshevik terror. For four years, they have been homeless, living on meagre rations in camps for Displaced Persons in Germany. Mrs. Skuja suffered the tragedy of seeing her sister and family shipped into Siberia by the Bolshevik, and her eyes still show the sorrow through which she has passed. Another sister and husband are still in a DP Camp in Germany, and it is the hope of the Skujas that they may help these relatives and other friends find resettlement in free America.

The Skuja family came to America under the Lutheran Resettlement Service working with the Lutheran World Federation, and they were sponsored by a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Revillo, South Dakota. He is currently employed in an implement shop there. They appreciate having a little home of their own once more, as well as an opportunity to earn an honest living and become active in the church that means so much to them and has followed them even through the hardships of war and life in the Displaced Persons camps.

The Lutheran Resettlement Service of South Dakota is carried on by the Lutheran Welfare Society, with its office at 327 South Duluth Avenue. A committee of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Welfare Society, with chairman Rev. Oliver Bergeland, Volga, has been active in planning the resettlement program, and the work up to this time has been carried on by Bertha J. Bragstad, executive of Lutheran Welfare, who is also secretary of the committee. On January 1, Miss Samilena Rasmussen, who was a member of First Lutheran and known to many of us as owner of The Book Nook in Sioux Falls, will assume the position of social worker for the Lutheran Resettlement Service under the Lutheran Welfare Society and will have her office at 327 South Duluth Avenue.

Much interest is being shown in the resettlement of Displaced Persons in South Dakota, and many job and housing offers are being received. These people have suffered much, but faith in God and in the church of their fathers has sustained them. These Delayed Pilgrims (DPs) once again are seeking freedom and opportunity on the shores of America.

—reported by Bertha Bragstad"

## CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY



### Drive-Thru Communion at FLC

Wednesdays, 12-2 and 4-6 p.m.

On Wednesdays members and friends of First Lutheran Church are encouraged to stop by the church from 12 to 2 p.m. or 4 to 6 p.m. for Drive-Thru Communion. In the parking lot, you'll be greeted by a staff member or volunteer from First Lutheran, and then you'll drive up to one of our designated altars where a pastor will greet you and share the sacrament while you remain in your vehicle. Each Drive-Thru Communion experience will last approximately 5-10 minutes—or longer if there is a line! As we get started with this program, we encourage you to visit the drive-thru just once per month.

Holy Communion is also available to those who participate in our Parking Lot Worship Services this summer and is always available to home bound members upon request.

If you have questions about Drive-Thru Communion, please contact the church office at (605) 336-3734 or email Donna Jahr at [djahr@flcsf.org](mailto:djahr@flcsf.org).

### Popsicles with Phone Buddies

Saturday, August 29  
4 p.m. – FLC Front Lawn



The Phone Buddies of First Lutheran Church are invited to join us on the front lawn of the church for a little socially distant fun. We'll provide the popsicles; you provide a lawn chair! Those with mobility issues will be offered "valet service" and assistance with their lawn chair. Because many of our Phone Buddies are immuno-compromised, we encourage masks at this event. All Lead Buddies, Receiver Buddies, and those interested in our program are invited to attend! More info will be announced soon.

### Phone Buddies Ministry Continues at FLC

Phone Buddies is a ministry of First Lutheran Church connecting caring friends by phone. Phone Buddies meet three times a week by phone sharing conversation, concerns, devotion, and prayer together. The devotional and prayer content are delivered by e-mail from First Lutheran Church three times a week. Since the ministry's inception on March 16, we've recruited 65 buddies into the program from First Lutheran Church! We also have a mailing list of people who receive our content for personal use. We are always looking for new buddies to be matched together! To learn more, visit [flcsf.org/phonebuddies](http://flcsf.org/phonebuddies), or contact Kristy Zuraff at [kzuraff@flcsf.org](mailto:kzuraff@flcsf.org) or 605-336-1983 ext. 225.

Read more Care and Health Ministries news on page 6

### Grieving with Grace Social Gathering Saturday, August 15, 10-11 a.m., Laurel Oak Park

Join us at the Laurel Oak Park picnic shelter on Saturday, August 15, for informal conversation and prayer with Pastor Katherine and others grieving the loss of a loved one. We'll provide donuts—please supply your own beverage! Laurel Oak Park is located at 3301 East 49th Street, near John Harris Elementary School. The picnic shelter is located directly next to the parking lot near the playground structures. Questions? Contact Pastor Katherine Olson at [kolson@flcsf.org](mailto:kolson@flcsf.org) or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.

We would also LOVE to send you a free copy of our grief book, whether or not you attend a meeting or social event. If you'd like a copy, please contact Pastor Katherine at the info above.



### Author Chat: Shirley Swier Jones "Remembering the Ride"

Tuesday, August 18, 2 p.m., on Zoom

Pastor Katherine Olson will lead a Zoom chat with author and long-time First Lutheran member, Shirley Swier Jones. Jones' new memoir, "Remembering the Ride," details her family's journey through a hereditary illness. Those who live with a hereditary illness, and those who love them, are particularly welcome to join us for this call as Shirley Jones shares her story.



#### Shirley Swier Jones Announces Book Release

First Lutheran member Shirley Swier Jones recently released a memoir entitled "Remembering the Ride: One Family's Journey through Hereditary Illness." "Vernon was twenty-one, handsome, fun loving and Christian, and he was stealing my heart," the author writes. "Thus began a love story that would evolve over the next twenty-three years through the blessing of five children and the sadness of living with a tragic, hereditary disease. That disease would continue to impact our family for more than fifty years. This story is a personal one. It is a story of deep sorrow mingled with the joy that comes from family, love, commitment, and faith."

Psychotherapist Norma Haan adds that the book is "a powerful account of the impact that chronic, long-term illness has on the entire family. This story will evoke deep compassion and understanding in the reader. Those in helping professions will gain insight into the needs of individuals and families who live with the day-to-day challenge of long-term illness and disease. This book holds your attention, and your heart, until the last page."

If you're interested in reading this touching memoir, physical copies of the book may be purchased locally at Crossroads, Zandbroz, and Barnes and Noble; or you can order online from Barnes and Noble or Amazon. If you prefer a signed copy of the book, order directly from Shirley by contacting her at 366-8791; copies are \$16. Finally, on August 18, Pastor Katherine will host a chat with Shirley Jones on Zoom—see the text box for more details! Anyone who's read the book or is interested in its content is welcome to attend!



#### Remembering those who passed in June:

- June 6 Vernell Johnson
- June 7 LeRoy Nevin
- June 12 Michael Rorge
- June 30 Barb Entringer and Gary Olson

Please remember to contact the church office, (605) 336-3734, if there is a change in address, phone number, or living situation for you or a family member. The First Lutheran Care Team works to stay in touch with our church family and that is difficult when contact information is incorrect.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



By: Suzy Schramm, Chair of Youth & Family Board



Greetings to you from the Youth & Family Staff and Board. As current chair of the Youth & Family Board, I am writing to let you know that while the building remains closed, we are still here. We continue to meet, minister, discuss, and plan.

I am so proud of the work that continues through these crazy times, and I want to take a minute to share some of what's been happening this summer:

- Virtual Scripture First
- Children's messages during worship
- Youth group via Zoom
- Youth group bonfires
- 4:12 Zoom gatherings and outdoor movie nights
- Middle school summer weekly Zoom gatherings
- FLC Today videos
- VBS, high school, milestone care packages delivered right to families' doorsteps
- Lord's Prayer treasure hunt outdoors at FLC
- Milestone ministry
- Summer high school bible study and small groups
- Monthly board meetings
- Preparation for the 2021 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis
- Planning and fundraising for future mission trips (Colombia, Peru, others)
- Updating various Facebook group pages (you should check them out to stay in the know)
- FAITH5™ videos of our FLC families

All of this could not happen without extraordinary teamwork—teamwork that is necessary especially during a time of constant change. At times, it's felt like we've

## Youth and Family News

had to work with only one hand, reserving our other hand to search for new ideas, for innovative ways to connect, for predicting and planning and wondering, or just simply using the other hand to stay afloat. It reminded me of a story from Nehemiah. As the wall around Jerusalem was being rebuilt, enemies of the Israelites would attack the workers as they worked. It took teamwork (some yielding weapons while others worked) and sometimes meant working with one hand while protecting their work with the other hand. For a more complete story, please read Nehemiah 4:15-23. I have chosen to focus on verse 17, which reads: "Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other."

Now obviously we don't need to yield weapons, and thankfully we have all of you supporting our work. But working hard with one hand while trying to plan and prepare for an unknown future that seems to change regularly with the other is frankly exhausting. You all know this, as the burdens we carry and those that challenge our work are affecting you, too. Figuring out how to move forward will prove to have complications and challenges, but with all of you and our fantastic Youth & Family staff, teamwork will be key. We will need your patience, your help in delivering supplies to families, your encouragement, your involvement, your time, and your prayers.

What can you do now to help?

- Thank the pastors and staff. Their arms are tired!
- Join our Facebook group (Scripture First Parents)
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel
- Stay tuned as we work to see what the fall will hold
- Continue to send your financial support
- Volunteer
- Pray



Above: The Tooley family hosts a Faith5 video sharing their highs and lows of the week.



Above: Oliver, Isla, and Finn Van Ruler receive a Virtual Scripture First delivery.  
 Left: Ella Ready shows her High School Campfire packet which includes a S'More - yum!



Above: Larry Olson leads music for the High School Campfire.



Left: Garret Leiseth punts during pool noodle games

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



### August Special Offering: Victoria Hospital; Jerusalem, Israel

By Jordan Brockhoff, Evangelism & Outreach Board

The August special offering envelope goes to support Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in Jerusalem. Augusta Victoria is located in East Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives and is the only hospital in the area providing radiation therapy for patients in the Palestinian territories. It is also the only facility in the West Bank providing pediatric kidney dialysis. In addition to these specialties, Augusta Victoria provides many other services not available in most hospitals in Palestine: Hematology and Bone Marrow transplantation Care Center; Surgical Care and Ear, Nose, Throat Center; the Diabetes Care Center; the Specialized Center for Child Care; and the Skilled nursing and Long-term Care Facility.

Augusta Victoria Hospital is a program operated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The LWF reported that funding to AVH has helped to maintain the Vocational training Program, teaching Palestinian youth



vocational skills in centers in Beit Hanina and Ramallah. AVH has also continued to work to fund its scholarship program, providing Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank access to higher education. In addition to its educational endeavors, AVH funding is also imperative for continued work on the Affordable Housing Project in Jerusalem. This is a growing mission in the planning and licensing stages in Beit Hanina.

In 2019, Augusta Victoria employed 450 people to work tirelessly in providing services otherwise not available to the region. Pr. Jeff was able to meet with the LWF International Director, Pr. Mark Brown, while he studied in Israel in 2017. Pr. Mark led Pr. Jeff in an in-depth tour and functional understanding of the AVH system of care. The First Lutheran group that would have traveled this year to Israel was set to also meet with the LWF staff, but that trip was postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Please consider supporting Augusta Victoria Hospital and the vital services they provide, particularly at a time when

hospitals in the region are at capacity. Your prayers for this vitally important ministry are always welcome.

Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have one, please visit [flcsf.org/give](https://flcsf.org/give) to donate online.

Another unique way that FLC supports the ministry of LWF to Augusta Victoria Hospital is through the sale of olive oil sold by the FLC Women each time they sell free-trade coffee. This high-quality olive oil is available any time for purchase by contacting the church. The cost of a 250 ml bottle is \$15.



Please consider supporting these unique ministries with your offering and by lifting them up through prayer. Your gift can be included in your special offering envelope that is included with your regular offering envelope, or you may write Special Offerings for Augusta Victoria Hospital on your check and mail to First Lutheran. You may also donate online by visiting [flcsf.org/give](https://flcsf.org/give). Thank you for your continued partnership in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**MISSION**

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus. (Matthew 22:34-40)
- We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- We are committed to welcome and minister to all people.
- We are committed to equipping people for ministry.
- We are committed to service in our community and world.
- We are committed to a ministry of relationship building.
- We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church.
- We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry.



**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sanctuary**  
**Sundays at 8 a.m., Sanctuary**  
**Sundays at 7 p.m., FLC Parking Lot**

**Media Ministries Broadcasts**  
 8 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (101.9)  
 11 a.m. KSFY (Sioux Falls), KPRY (Pierre) and KABY (Aberdeen)

**Visit us on social media:**

- youtube.com/flcsf
- facebook.com/flcsf
- @FirstLutheranSF
- @firstlutheransf

**First Word**

First Word is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It is distributed to members of the congregation and others upon request. Opinions expressed in First Word are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the First Lutheran Church congregation or staff. The editors of First Word reserve the right to edit submissions.

**Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of the month.** Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Communications Director, Jodi Hoyt, at [jhoyt@flcsf.org](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org). Reader feedback is always welcome.

First Word is available online to read or download by the first of every month at [flcsf.org/firstword](http://flcsf.org/firstword).

**CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY CONTINUED**



**First Lutheran GAP Team**



Invitations to GIVE, ACT, and PRAY abound at First Lutheran Church. First Lutheran GAP Team members are part of a dedicated email list, receiving notifications when special opportunities to GIVE, ACT, or PRAY arise. By signing up for the GIVE, ACT, or PRAY lists, you'll make sure you don't miss any important opportunities to partner in ministry with us. Learn more about these email lists through the GAP Team website: [www.flcsf.org/gapteam](http://www.flcsf.org/gapteam).



**Bearing the Burden**

Things can happen in life that are hard, and sometimes having a fuzzy little friend can help to alleviate some of the pain. Burden Bears are available for children and young adults. They are intended for young ones who are experiencing difficult times in their lives such as illness, loss of a family member, divorce, or other difficult life situations. They are meant to be given to anyone in need, by anyone. Bears can be obtained by contacting Pastor Katherine Olson at (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.

**NAMI – Walking to Reduce Stigma**

43.8 million Americans experience mental illness in a given year. In May, the First Lutheran Walkers gathered with others in our community to raise awareness about mental illness. By participating in the walk, they showed that no one suffering from mental illness does this alone. For the first time ever, the walk was held "virtually," with each participant walking on their own, due to concerns of COVID-19. Despite this challenge, the First Lutheran Walkers still raised over \$670 that will be used to provide support, education, and advocacy to individuals and families in our community who have been affected by mental illness. Thank you to all those who came to walk and donated to NAMI, and to our team captain, Jordan Stone pictured right.



**Council Highlights**

If church members wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Marilyn McNeill, Business Administrator, at 339-1983 ext. 236 or [mmcneill@flcsf.org](mailto:mmcneill@flcsf.org). Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

**June 25, 2020**

- The operating budget looks good. Boards have been watching their spending.
- HVAC has been paid down from \$1.4 million to \$723,082.
- Coffee and Prayer started back up the first week of June.
- The September 13 100th Anniversary Concert and November 1 100th Anniversary Worship have been postponed because of COVID-19. These will be rescheduled.
- The Reopen Task Force continues to meet to discuss the phases of reopening.
- Candidates are being interviewed for the Youth & Children's Minister position.
- A retirement reception for Marilyn will be held in July.
- The historical marker has been received. It will be placed this summer with a dedication at a later date. Thanks to Michael Kedik for his help with Adam Monson, Eagle Scout, to get this accomplished.
- The boards are continuing with their Ministry Planning.



**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Officers/Executive Committee**

- Martin Oyos . . . . . President
- Michael Paulson . . . . . Vice President
- Randy Eide . . . . . Treasurer
- Suzie Hernes . . . . . Secretary
- John Christopherson . . . . . Senior Pastor
- Michael Kedik . . . . . Member-at-Large
- Lenae Schwartz . . . . . Member-at-Large

**Council Representatives**

- Care & Health . . . . . Barney Brandenburg
- Education & Discipleship . . . . . Lindsey Olson
- Evangelism & Outreach . . . . . Colleen Kokenge
- Finance, Admin. & Property . . . . . Lyle Eidsness
- FLCW . . . . . Kathy Stelzer
- Foundation . . . . . Somer Anderson
- Stewardship & Giving . . . . . Birgit Peterson
- Welcome & Community . . . . . Deb Nelson
- Worship & Music . . . . . James Moore
- Youth & Family . . . . . Suzy Schramm

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY**

**Pastoral Staff**

- (203) Dr. John Christopherson . . . Senior Pastor
- (210) Rev. Lars Olson . . . . . Executive Pastor
- (209) Rev. Jeff Backer . . . . . Associate Pastor
- (214) Rev. Katherine Olson\* . . . Associate Pastor
- (202) Rev. Bob Chell\* . . . . . Visitation
- (202) Rev. David Houck\* . . . . . Visitation
- (202) Rev. Roger Noer\* . . . . . Visitation
- (202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg\* . . . . . Visitation
- (202) Rev. Dave Johnson . . . . . Emeritus

**Administration**

- (236) Marilyn McNeill . Business Administrator
- (211) Jody Bymers . . . . . Finance Administrator
- (202) Donna Jahr . . . . . Secretary to the Pastors
- (225) Kristy Zuraff\* . . Admin/PM Receptionist
- (201) Cleo Sorensen\* AM Receptionist/Secretary

**Care and Health Ministries**

- (202) Cheryl Satterlee\* . . Wedding Coordinator

**Media Ministry**

- (231) Jodi Hoyt . . . . . Director
- (213) Susan Bell . Communications Coordinator
- Kathy Hein\* . . . . . Broadcast Director
- Garrett Masters\* . . . . . Broadcast Director
- David Palmer\* . . . . . Broadcast Director
- Hons Oakland\* . . . . . Broadcast Director
- Tanner Wangsness\* . . . . . Broadcast Director

**Facilities**

- (201) Dave Wilson . . . . . Facility Manager
- Rick East . . . . . Custodian
- Jeff Hartnett . . . . . Custodian

**Worship and Music Ministries**

- (260) Zachary Brockhoff . . . Director/Organist, FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers Director
- (261) Shirley Barlow\* . . Administrative Assistant
- Larry Olson\* . . . . . Contemporary Worship
- Dr. Paul Nesheim\* . . . . . Adult Choir Director, Women's Choir Director
- Bonnie Lindgren\* . . . . . Carol Choir Director
- Donna Hamilton\* . . . . . Accompanist
- Sue Severson\* . . . . . Accompanist
- Mary Ryrholm\* . . . . . Agape Ringers Director
- Pam Sonnichsen\* . . . Instrumental Coordinator
- Marcia Kittelson . . . . . Organist Emerita

**Youth and Family Ministries**

- (204) Marnie Dahle Backer . . . . . Director
- (235) Elias Johnson-Youngquist . Youth Minister
- (228) Mark Nassen\* . . . . . Coordinator
- Karina Hackworth\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant
- Nancy Henrichsen\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant
- Irma Rodriguez Leon\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant
- Kris Stark\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant

( )=Direct dial phone extensions. If no extension is listed, please call the Director of the ministry area.  
 \* Part-time staff

- Main phone . . . . . (605) 336-3734
- Direct dial to extensions . . . . . (605) 339-1983
- Toll-free . . . . . (800) 425-9899
- Fax . . . . . (605) 336-8370
- Pastoral emergency . . . . . (605) 610-9431
- Custodian cell . . . . . (605) 351-8281
- Project CAR . . . . . (605) 332-2777

## FINANCIAL SERVICES



## June Gifts and Memorials

### Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Lois Boyce: Phyllis Day  
 Kathrine Clark: Steve & Doris Bushard  
 Eleanor Emmel: Randy Berger & Janna Emmel  
 Elisabeth Garn: Dorothy Grevlos

### Gifts to FLC Foundation for Youth & Family Ministry in memory of:

Gladys Halstenson: Betty Pfeifle

### Gifts to Care & Health Ministry in memory of:

Kathrine Clark: Mary Ann Hohman

### Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage Capital Campaign in memory of:

Elisabeth Garn: Ruth Werner

### Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage, Paraments in memory of:

Kathrine Clark: Jean Hoff  
 Gladys Halstenson: Jean Hoff  
 Jim Moore: Jean Hoff, Donna Jahr

### Gifts to Outreach Ministry, Lowell Project in memory of:

Eleanor Emmel: Jeffrey & Sarah Herbert

### Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of: Jim & Dorothy Christopherson's 65th Anniversary:

Sandra Pedersen

### Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Richard Aas: Garnette Aas  
 Jan Boettcher: Randy & Mary Arnold, Steve & Doris Bushard, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Thomas & Jane Fallon, H. L. Gunderson, Sandy Holleman, Dorothy Mikkelson, Mary Nicolai, Tracie Osthus, Timothy & Nancy Sawatzky, Joyce Sharp, LaVonne Wolf, Debra Ziemke  
 Lois Boyce: Mary Ann Hohman, Bill & Nancy Olson, Michael & Lois Rocklage, Mary Scarbrough Hunt  
 Leona Brose-Johnson: Steve & Marilyn Haddorf  
 Sue Brown: Bill & Nancy Olson  
 Kathrine Clark: Kristine Clark, Sandy Holleman, Marilyn Hult, Stephen Johnson, Elaine Moore, Mary Nicolai, Bill & Nancy Olson, Lois Peterson, Irene Rezac, Michael & Gloria Simpson, Kathy Stelzer, Donna Willadson, Sharyl Wolf  
 Darlene Colwill: Bill & Nancy Olson, Michael & Lois Rocklage  
 Eleanor Emmel: Jean Ahlers, Ken & Sonja Boen, Dorene Gaard, William Haugen, Sandy Holleman, Bruce & Linda Iwerks, Stephen Johnson, Bill & Nancy Olson, Eugene & Ruth Parker, Ronald & Martha Rossing

Gladys Halstenson: Roxanne Aronson, Rich & Donna Bowden, Bruce & Mary Boyd, Steve & Doris Bushard, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Bernardine Cunfiff, Mrs. John Dammer, Ron & Diane Egdorg, Marilyn Eikanger, Thomas & Mary Frederick, Marc & Janis Green, Germaine Halligan, Jeffrey & Sarah Herbert, Brian & Ann Herther, Orville Hill, Bob & Pamela Hille, Brent & Mary Ann Hohman, Doug & Rose Marie Hoiten, Sandy Holleman, Stephen Johnson, Bob, Dana, Jill, & Cory Knochenmus, Lucy Lindskov, James & Kathleen Lunder, Bruce & Dianne Mair, Dorothy Mikkelson, Marilyn Moseson, Barb Muchow, Carl & Janet Naessig, Mary Nicolai, Bill & Nancy Olson, Tracie Osthus, Mary Osthus, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Sandra Pedersen, Lois Peterson, Doris Purcell, Sharon Rehfeld, William & Peggy Reynolds, Marlys Schmidt & Family, Judi Schwerin, Michael & Gloria Simpson, Jill Steele, Gillas & Garnet Stern, Curtis & Barbara Strom, Robert & Marilyn Van Demark, Hazel Wek, Gerry & Susan Wingler

Emmerdell Lester: Irene Rezac

Jim Moore: Tom & Ginny Christopherson, Terry & Michelle Dickerson, Gary & Roberta Famestad, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Gregg & Julie Greenfield, Peter Hegg, Marjorie Krueger, Robert & Kristine O'Connell, Tracie Osthus, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Sandra Pedersen, Jon & Jeslyn Schmidt, Jon & Amy Sweeter, Robert & Marilyn Van Demark, James & Karri Wiederrich, Owen Wiese

Warner Muns: Jeffrey & Sarah Herbert, Mary Ann Hohman, Constance Muns, Pamela Olson, C. Lorraine Olson, Timothy & Leann Olson, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson

Pastor Leroy Nevin: Orrin & Karen Anderson, Robert & Karen Hemre, Hazel Wek

Steven C Peterson: Larry & Betty Olson  
 Mary Renli Miller: Mary Scarbrough Hunt  
 Luke Timmer: Stephen Johnson, Bill & Nancy Olson

### Gifts to the Music Ministry-Organ Fund in memory of:

Esther Hanson: Tonya Dallison, Richard & Judy Travis

### Gifts to Project Car in memory of:

Pastor Leroy Nevin: Carol Bormann, Joanne Dahmen Hagen, Jeanette Edman, Karen Hohman, Jon & Mary Hunter, Ruth Werner, Barbara Wiczorek

## Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

While we have been at home during COVID-19, those members of the congregation who made a pledge to the God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future capital campaign (before COVID-19), continue to fulfill their pledges.

In the month of June, we paid \$17,793 on the HVAC loan, bringing our new balance to \$705,289. This is absolutely amazing, especially considering only 120 families or individuals have made a pledge. The church has also received a few pledges from members who had attended meetings but didn't get their pledges in before the church went on lock-down.

My heart is filled with gratitude to those who made a pledge, fulfilling their commitment, and to all of you who have prayed for the campaign. Your continued prayers would be appreciated.



## MEDIA MINISTRY



### Thank You June Sponsors

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY, KPRY, and KABY in South Dakota; southwest Minnesota; northwest Iowa; and northeast Nebraska. The Sunday 8 a.m. worship service is broadcast on KELO-FM, 101.9.

**June 7:** Radio broadcast was sponsored by Howard and Lou Ann Paulson in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary on June 10. Television was sponsored by Ardeen and Cindy Mulder in honor of their 51st anniversary on June 14.

**June 14:** Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Albert and Esther Berdahl, who were married at First Lutheran on June 11, 1937, given by their family. Television was sponsored in memory of Muriel and Deborah Ekland by their family—Norm Ekland, Rob and Kari Ekland, and Rachel and Trey Lawson. The stream on YouTube was sponsored by Karen Pratt in loving memory of her parents, Vince and Naomi Pratt.

**June 21:** Radio was sponsored in loving memory of Doris Salem, who would have celebrated her 98th birthday on June 23, by her family. Closed captioning was sponsored in honor of Pastor Jim and Dorothy

Christopherson's 65th wedding anniversary by their children and grandchildren. Television was sponsored in memory of Don Hoek by friends and family. June 20 would have been his and Arlene's 62nd wedding anniversary. The YouTube stream was sponsored by Karen Pratt in loving memory of her parents, Vince and Naomi Pratt.

**June 28:** Radio was sponsored in honor of Stan and Sandy Christopherson's 50th wedding anniversary on June 27. Television was sponsored in memory of David and Susan Lankford by the earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation from their family and friends. David and Susan would have celebrated their anniversary on June 23. Closed captioning and the stream on YouTube were sponsored in honor of Pastor Jim and Dorothy Christopherson's 65th wedding anniversary by their children and grandchildren.

## Media Ministry Sponsorships available

Please consider sponsoring a radio broadcast (\$155), television broadcast (\$1300), closed captioning (\$150), or worship stream on YouTube (\$75). To learn how you can be a Media Ministry sponsor to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a special life event, please call the church at (605) 336-3734.

### August

**August 2:** *Radio sponsor needed.* Television, closed captioning, and the livestream are fully sponsored.  
**August 9:** *Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.  
**August 16:** *YouTube stream sponsor needed.* Radio, television, and closed captioning are fully sponsored.  
**August 23:** *Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.  
**August 30:** *Sponsors needed for radio, closed captioning and YouTube stream.* Television is fully sponsored.

### September

**September 6:** *Radio, closed captioning and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Television is fully sponsored.  
**September 13:** *Television, closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors are needed.* Radio is fully sponsored.  
**September 20:** *Sponsors needed for radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube stream.*  
**September 27:** *Sponsors needed for radio, closed captioning and YouTube stream.* Television is fully sponsored.

## Financial Update as of June 2020

### Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget	\$1,076,027
2020 Actual	\$1,067,027
2019 Actual	\$990,598

### Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget	\$1,102,449
2020 Actual	\$1,003,025
2019 Actual	\$1,067,309

YTD Net Profit/Loss .....\$64,123

Contract For Deed, Ideal .....\$171,797

HVAC System .....\$705,289

Worship Attendance – No worship services were held in the church in June.



## 100th Anniversary Update

# A Heritage of God's Grace

By Zachary Brockhoff, Director of Music



The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of many events welcoming back former pastors and musicians throughout 2020. Remaining events on the calendar, including the 100th Anniversary Concert and 100th Anniversary worship, were postponed by the church council in June.

Because of this, all 100th Anniversary events including guest pastors/musicians, the 100th Anniversary Concert, and the 100th Anniversary worship service will be rescheduled for 2021. As news around the pandemic is ever-evolving, plans will be made on a tentative basis. A complete schedule of 100th Anniversary events for 2021 will be made available to the congregation after all events are rescheduled.

### "Sing a [Truly New] Song to the Lord!" Fall Vocal Ensembles Postponed

For nearly 100 years, choirs and vocal ensembles at First Lutheran Church have provided First Lutheran Church and the Sioux Falls community a vital ministry to proclaim the Gospel.

This fall will look different than any other year. Due to the spread of COVID-19 and concerns around the safety of all singers, vocal ensembles will be postponed indefinitely this fall. Published reports by the American Choral Directors Association indicate the transmission of COVID-19 is greatly elevated when singing. Such a risk cannot be justified as we seek to care for all members of this community. As more research becomes available and the world moves closer to the possibility of a vaccine, we hope and pray this will change.

In place of gathering for regular rehearsals, the music staff at First Lutheran is working to build an online curriculum to begin September 2020 for all vocal ensembles. In some cases, these videos may be instructional. In others, full rehearsals will be provided. In all cases, we hope to remain connected throughout the fall with each member of the choir through these mediums.

Even in such strange times, all are invited to join in this [truly new] song to the Lord as we seek to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in new and exciting ways. Please contact Music Administrative Assistant Shirley Barlow for more information, sbarlow@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 261.

Additional information about vocal choirs and the possibility of handbell choirs will follow in the September edition of the First Word.

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Transom window in First Lutheran Narthex

## The "Real Presence" of Christ in the Lord's Supper

### Second in a series on Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor

*"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you ...'"* (I Cor. 11:23-24a; *RSV*. Emphasis added.)

Yesterday I received a letter from a woman in our congregation who spoke tenderly about how much she misses not only our gathering together in fellowship during worship, but also ... and please pay special attention here ... how much she especially misses "Christ's touch during communion." She's onto something here that's important to emphasize in our Lutheran understanding in this, our ongoing series on the Lord's Supper.

Based on Holy Scripture (which is always the *norming norm* for discerning matters of faith and life in the Lutheran Confessions) and especially Christ's words, "This is my body" (I Cor. 11:24; Matt. 26:26; Mk. 14:22; Luke 22:19), Martin Luther had to fight a two front battle during the Reformation. On the one hand (against the Papacy), he made it clear—again on the basis of Scripture—that the gift of the Lord's Supper is exactly that: it is our Lord's unconditional gift of grace and not some work or sacrifice that's either done by the priest/pastor or us. "The death Christ died he died to sin, once for all" (Rom. 6:10; cf. Heb. 10:10 and I Pet. 3:18; *RSV*. Emphasis added). On the other hand (against the Sacramentarians of his time such as Carlstadt, Zwingli, and Bucer), Luther made a stand at the *Marburg Colloquy* (Oct. 1529), much like he had at the *Diet of Worms* (April 1521), for the sake of the Gospel.

For there was increasing pressure from this reformed tradition that basically contended: The Lord's Supper is not a means of God's grace but merely a *sign* (i.e. "The gospel is not being proclaimed here."). It's just a ritual of remembrance (i.e. "It's only a piece of bread.") that speaks of our community in Christ, as a historic narrative.

To this, Luther said: "On the contrary! Christ said, 'This is my body' and so it is. Quit trying to philosophize or deconstruct this promised presence of his body and blood together with the bread and wine, or playing with 'What does 'is' mean?'" (Luther's use of synecdoche.) For Luther the bread *is* the body in an incomprehensible way. The union between the bread and the body cannot be expressed in terms of any philosophical theory (e.g. transubstantiation) or rational explanation (e.g. it's a sign, it's metaphorical). Rather, it's an object of faith, based solely on the words of Christ. Thus, Christ's Words of Institution "This is my body, given for you, for the forgiveness of sin" is the Gospel itself. "Indeed, for Luther, the real gift and fruit of the Lord's Supper is the forgiveness of sins"

(Sasse, *This Is My Body*, p.113). You cannot accept the words "This is my body" without believing also "which is given for you, for the forgiveness of sin." This is the great return of Luther to the New Testament, the return from the medieval mass and the empty signage of the sacramentarians to the communion of Jesus and the early church; the Lord's Supper is again understood as the Gospel itself, the gospel in action. And yes, we might say, it's at all times an "in-person sacrament"! (H. Sasse; *This Is My Body*, p.181-86). Listen in to Luther's commentary from his treatise entitled *The Adoration of the Sacrament* (1523):

*"Everything depends on these words [of Institution, as the Word of Christ enters the elements and consecrates them with his very presence]. Every Christian should and must know them and hold them fast. He must never let anyone take them away from him by any other kind of teaching, even though it were an angel from heaven [Gal. 1:8]. They are words of life and of salvation, so that whoever believes in them has all his sins forgiven through that faith; he is a child of life and has overcome death and hell. Language cannot express how great and mighty these words are, for they are the sum and substance of the whole Gospel. (Luther's Works 36:277; Cf. Denn dies Sakrament ist das Evangelium. Weimar Ausgabe, 11, 442, p.22f.)*

One concluding question: "So how can Christ, who has ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, be present here in this sacrament on earth, at the same time?" (e.g. Zwingli). Luther's response: "The body which you take and the word which you hear are Christ's who holds in his hand the entire world and everywhere. 'The right hand of God is everywhere'" (*Dextera Deo ubique est*—blowing both physics and metaphysics out of the water as well as the universe!). But there is an important point here. There is a big difference whether Christ's body is there or whether it is there for

you; whether it is there or whether you can find it. You can find it where Christ himself has promised he will be found, and that is in the sacrament' (*The Adoration of the Sacrament*). And if, this mystery is beyond the range of our logic, as all things are possible for God, then consider that we confess that Christ is at once divine and human. Yes, thank God for the Incarnation, which witnesses the good news of the Gospel that "the finite can bear the infinite" (Luther's affirmation here against Augustine as well as Calvin). And heaven and nature *sing*, not *sign*! And for our friend, whose tender letter came to the church yesterday, please see page 4 of this issue of *First Word*, visit our website, or call the church office for more information about our *Drive-thru Communion* offerings on Wednesdays.

In Christ,

j.r. christopherson

*"The body which you take and the word which you hear are Christ's who holds in his hand the entire world and everywhere."*

— Martin Luther