

First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church



Communion Practice?

A Three part Series on Holy Communion: An Introduction

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



Now some 40 years ago, while attending Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, I would often be invited by Dr. Al Rogness (former Senior Pastor of First Lutheran, 1951-1954, and later,

President of Luther Seminary) to go for a stroll through the woods of St. Anthony Park. As we sauntered along a path, we'd often compare notes on our interests in literature and music, or our common backgrounds with Augustana College, family life, and days spent out under a big blue Dakota sky.

On one such occasion, I recall Al talking about how he was working on a little book regarding the understanding of Communion (cited below). He talked about how different was our time from when he was growing up in Astoria, South Dakota. He recalled how during his boyhood and even high school years, his congregation only celebrated Communion once a year or perhaps on a festival Sunday. Also, in preparation for this sacred occasion, his family was required on the Saturday prior to spend time with the pastor for personal Confession and Forgiveness. How different, he observed, is "communion practice" in the churches today from that of the early 1900s. Today most congregations have Holy Communion at least once a month, say nothing of every Sunday.

Where communicants come as they do today, without private confession and perhaps little preparation—often unaware that there is Communion until they enter the church doors—does the Lord's Supper become so casual that its sacred or solemn character becomes lost? Or, will renewed accent on the Sacrament lead to a diminished concern for the preaching of the Word? Moreover, is there any longer a spirit of humility or repentance that we carry to the communion rail, upon hearing the sheer gift of God's promise in Christ's Words of Institution: "This is my body given for you, my blood shed for you, for the forgiveness of sin"? Or are we just going through the motions? Has it become but a common practice among us that we no longer "remember" the profound meaning of what is meant by Christ's "real presence" in this sacrament, or is it but a sign or symbol? Yes, what really is going on here? What about this matter, this meaning when we feel Christ's touch that comes into our hands and lips, "in, with, and under" the uncommonly common elements of bread and wine? "Listen," says Jesus. "Here I am." "Here I am, in this bread and wine." "Yes, here I am for you—forgiving your sin and promising new life, in my name." Family and friends of First Lutheran, to draw upon the words of the well-beloved hymn: "Are we lost in awe and wonder?" ("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW #631)

These were the lead-in types of questions that prompted Dr. Rogness to write his little



Transom window in First Lutheran Narthex

book, *The Table of the Lord* (1982). And I hope that over the next three months we will be prompted as well.

John Christopherson
Senior Pastor

Recommended reading:

Forde, Gerhard O. "The Lord's Supper as the Testament of Jesus" in *Word & World*, Vol. XVII, No.1. Winter 1997.

Forde, Gerhard O. *The Preached God: Proclamation in Word and Sacrament*. Eds. Mark C. Mattes and Steven D. Paulson (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007). See especially pp. 89-115.

Jenson, Robert W. "The Sacraments" in *Christian Dogmatics*. 2 vols., ed. Carl E. Braaten and Robert W. Jenson (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984).

Jenson, Robert W. *Visible Words: The Interpretation and Practice of Christian Sacraments*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979).

Luther, Martin. *The Small Catechism*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979). See pp. 26-29.

Luther, Martin. "Word and Sacrament" in *Luther's Works*. Vols. 35-38 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press).

Marty, Martin. *The Lord's Supper* (Expanded Edition). (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1997).

Paulson, Steven D. *Lutheran Theology*. (New York: T&T Clark International, 2011). See pp. 114-117.

Rogness, Alvin N. *Table of the Lord: Holy Communion in the Life of the Church*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing, 1982).

Sasse, Hermann. *This Is My Body: Luther's Contention for the Real Presence in the Sacrament of the Altar*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1959).

Devotion

By Ryan Hoffman, Education & Discipleship Board member



Cyrus (14), Braxton (10), Ryan, Korbin (5), Jackson (12), Lincoln (12), Grayson (1) and Celina

"For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." -Psalm 30:5

If there is one important aspect of "self-understanding" that I've come to better understand in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's this: the importance of strength. Whether that be the strength to withstand the ebb and flow of our daily lives constantly shifting from one norm to another, or if it's just deciding how much effort and strength I have left to put into my work for the day. In our house both my wife and I worked from home and attempted to care for a one-year-old; teach kindergarten; and help with 5th, 6th, and 8th grade homework. We kept up with the never-ending pile of dishes and laundry and tried (as best we could) to peel the kids from their electronic gadgets and replace them with Legos, cards, and board games. I feel for every parent who's been

thrown into this mess and every person whose lives have been uprooted by this pandemic.

That word, "uprooted," makes me think of our boys telling me a story about picking rock in planted fields. Now, it wasn't the size of the rocks that caught my attention (though I'm quite sure I could come up with a thousand analogies and stories to add to this one); rather, it was when I asked about what happens to the crops when they get driven over or stepped on ... I was worried for some odd reason. Lincoln told me, "It's no big deal. They just get run over or stepped on, but they come back no problem." As I heard him say that, I thought to myself: "Wow, what an analogy for our lives in this time." Because we're all like such crops that get stomped on or pulled at or like our ideas or plans that get squashed like the leaves of the little plantings. And yes, some of us get torn up more than others, but with a little time, some rain, and sunlight, we'll be back stronger than we were before. It's a growth in strength that will not leave us. It's a growth that we can draw upon with better wisdom that's been gained and can be drawn up in future decisions that we all need to make in life—especially those difficult ones.

Some might call our time a "crazy time," but I see it as a chance for renewal—a chance to find balance and comfort in

our homes and comfort within our own shifting routines—an adaptational process if you will. Throughout all of these trying and testing days, we remember as the song that reminds us that "God is watching us ... always watching us" (Bette Midler). But not only "from a distance," as the song lyric continues. The Bible reminds us that God is always with us (Psalm 23:4; 46:1-7, 10; Matthew 28:20) ... especially in the very thick of things, as we look to Christ and his cross. Yes, these are times when we especially feel like we've been run over or stepped on. But again, I believe that ours is a time in which we are also especially called by God to seek his strength and wisdom that will better serve a fuller sense of purpose and meaning in our lives. And watch it grow and bear fruit!

Perhaps we're given a somewhat rare opportunity in these "crazy times" to discover or find out what's truly important. Being able to find comfort and refuge in our shifting daily routines has been key. Our comfort (in our home) comes while breaking our daily bread and as we pray at night. It serves as a constant reminder that no matter how flippy floppy our days become, we can be grounded by God's Word. It's a word of comfort and guidance—a divine word—that comes "straight from the Book," that is, God's "living word" ... the Word that has the power, the strength, to give our troubled and anxious souls a sense of

calm and peace even in the midst of so much "noise."

Personally, I'm a country music guy. When I hear this word "noise," I can't help but think of Kenny Chesney's hit song "Noise." In this song he refers to the temporary insanities of this world as "noise," and a line from the song that sticks out for me is this: "Cardboard sign says the Lord is coming. Tick, tock. Tick, tock." It's something to consider through all of this crazy when there seems to be a "tick" but no "tock" ... that God still continues to dwell among us, even when so much worldly evidence would seem to point to the contrary.

Is God especially trying to use this time for "waking us up"? Waking us up to what is really important in life. Like spending more time in nurturing our faith, our family, and friends ... and our neighbor who is in need? Yes, God is indeed present in our lives, but perhaps he's stepping further into our day-to-day activities (perhaps even pulling on us a bit to grow?) and saying to each of us: "Here is how you got here, and here's where you can improve. Don't dread your days, but instead: take breaks, laugh, stop, and think about where you are and where you've been and what you want to see in the future."

We are all blessed in different ways, but our constant is: "the joy that comes in each new morning."

CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES



Marathon and Century Ride Challenge

By John Hegg, Care & Health Board



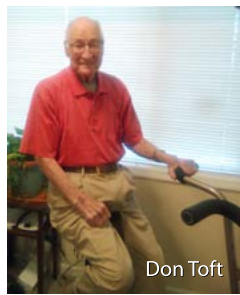
What a month it was! Seventy-six people made a commitment to run or walk a marathon of 26 miles or ride 100 miles on their bike from May 7 to May 27. Seventy-six people made the commitment to work on their physical and mental health during the pandemic month of May 2020.

It says in the book, *Walking with Abraham and Sarah*, that “both faith and healthy lifestyles are integral to the whole person.” We did work on the whole person as we made this special journey.

A drawing for awards from all who met the challenge will be held later this summer and, hopefully, we can gather some Sunday in the fall. Congratulations to all.

Some interesting results from this journey:

- Seventy people met the challenge!
- The oldest was Don Toft at 93, and the youngest was Annika Smith at 8, who both completed the 100-mile century bike ride.
- 179 marathons were walked or run, and 11 century rides were completed.
- Four people did both marathons and century rides including Howard Bich, Emil Knapp, Adam Monson, and Birgit Peterson.
- The top performer on this journey was 16-year-old Adam Monson who ran/walked six marathons and completed three century rides in 21 days.
- Besides Adam, other notable performances were (all numbers are marathons except for Wayne Carney): Randy Balster 4.1, Wayne Carney 2 century rides, Roger Coon 4, Terry Cosand 4.5, Byron Hammerstram 4, Terese Hammerstram 4, Judy Leslie 4.9, Beth Monson 5.5, Paul Monson 4.7, Tracie Osthus 4.6, Sandra Pedersen 4, Blake Stark 4, Kris Stark 4, Nicholas Stark 5, Jill Steel 4, Dave Wilson 5.4, and Pam Schroeder 6.3.



Don Toft



Annika Smith



Adam Monson

• Those meeting the challenge from the First Lutheran staff were Pastor John, Pastor Katherine, Jodi Hoyt, Jordan Stone, Heather Smith, and Dave Wilson.

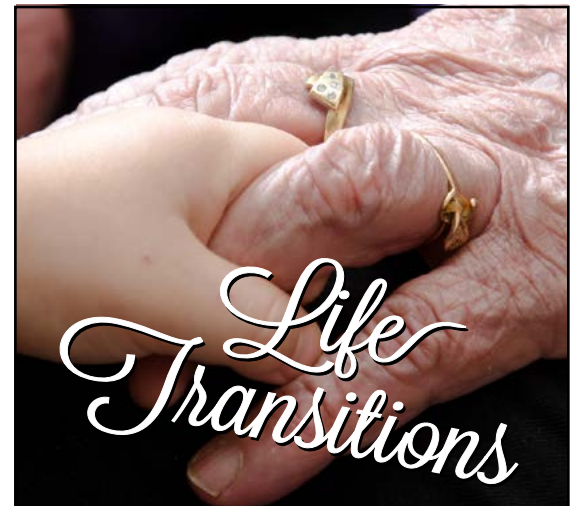
Some comments from those who participated:

- It got all of us moving.
- Great idea!!
- This was a real incentive and goal for me to reach.
- This was a fun challenge! It certainly boosted my incentive to kick it up a notch. I've never thought to translate my steps into miles into marathons.
- Needless to say, I took numerous trips up and down my hallway of my apartment building. I made over 400 trips up and down my apartment hallway.
- My goal is to keep it up for all times.
- Thanks for keeping us motivated.
- It's hard to realize that in three weeks, I could walk this many steps, and summer is just beginning.
- Exercise is so important for our mental and physical health, especially during this time being isolated.

Our “fun story” was discovering a turtle (about the size of a dinner plate) who was quite intent on crossing Veterans Hwy. (old Hwy. 11). He seemed safe at the time so we left him where he was. We thought we'd pick him up and move him to a safer place on our return walk. It took us about 30 minutes of walking before we reached the area where we'd last seen the turtle, and a car had pulled over. The driver was looking for him and not being sure of his intentions, we hesitated to tell him where our little friend was. We asked him if he was looking for the turtle, and he said yes, that he'd ridden by the turtle earlier on his bike and stopped to pick it up just before it was getting ready to walk onto the highway. He put it up in the grass where it would be safe until he could go home and get a pail to put it in. He was planning to take it to the valley across the highway where it might be safer. We showed him where the turtle was just as another couple on their bikes stopped and said, they too, had moved Mr. Turtle back to safety earlier, so they were glad someone else had taken the time to rescue it. We watched as the gentleman carried the turtle across the highway and gently placed him over the hill and toward the valley on the other side. It just shows the great kind of people there are—caring people who took time to look after a little turtle to keep him safe! With all the terrible news we hear about these days, I thought this gesture shows that there are still people with compassion for God's creation! So, John, thanks for the challenge, but I think I'm going to wait a few days before I start walking again! God bless you and continue to stay safe.

Christ in Our Home Devotional

Christ in Our Home for July, August, and September is now available. If you would like a regular or large-print copy mailed to you, please contact the church receptionist at 366-3734. “Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary” (augsbuorgfortress.org).



Baptisms

May 24 Henry Brockhoff, son of Zachary and Jordan Brockhoff

Deaths

May 9 Gladys Halstenson
May 14 Eleanor Emmel
May 18 Janyce Boettcher

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 the information in our database is incorrect or missing.

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 is 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, or contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.



Grieving with Grace continues on Zoom® July 11

By Katherine Olson, Associate Pastor



Grieving with Grace is a support group where adults learn about the grieving process and how to take care of themselves as they work through the grief of a loved one's death. Once



again in July, we will hold our meeting on Zoom for participant safety. We converse together about topics from the book *Understanding Your Grief*, written by noted grief expert Dr. Alan Wolfelt.

In July, our meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month due to the July 4th holiday. On Saturday, July 11th, the meeting takes place from 10-11 a.m. To join the meeting, visit zoom.us and enter the meeting code 87968309783 and password 531279 (or enter this information in the Zoom® app on your smartphone or tablet). If you'd rather join the meeting by phone, call 1-312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID and password when prompted.

We offer free books to all participants as well as anyone grieving the death of a loved one. To receive a copy, or if you have questions about the group, contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.

NAMI – Walking to Reduce Stigma



More than 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.

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

Media Ministries Broadcasts

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

 [youtube.com/flcsf](https://www.youtube.com/flcsf)

 [facebook.com/flcsf](https://www.facebook.com/flcsf)

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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 for publication the following month. Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Communications Director, Jodi Hoyt, at 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.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



WELCA Conducts Business New Way!

By Arlene Bich, WELCA Secretary



Due to the pandemic and the closure of the First Lutheran building, we have had to learn to communicate in a new way! No Zoom® meetings, but regular emailing by the Executive Officers with messages to all board members. We've even had "voting by email" with board members.

Those members without email were contacted for their votes. On May 16 we unanimously voted to donate \$500 each to the Pueblo de Dios Hispanic Ministry, and to the Liberian Ministry, from funds left from the 2019 Bazaar.

On June 8, the WELCA Board voted to approve re-scheduling the SD Women's Synodical Convention to June 24-26, 2021. Additionally, we voted to donate \$300 each to the Synodical and to the Crossroads Conference Gathering, both of which were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other committees have remained busy, bylaws updating continues, program planning for September 3, General meeting, and other "discussions" on future business, hoping it all takes place!



WELCA Purpose

By Kathy Stelzer, WELCA President



"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

– Purpose statement, Women of the ELCA

And along comes a pandemic. As First Lutheran Church Women, we miss our times of fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. We miss each other. The church's online opportunities, Phone Buddies ministry, and media ministries keep us connected and foster our personal responsibilities to grow in faith and support one another. Like the parable of the soils in Luke 8:15 NLT, "The seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest."

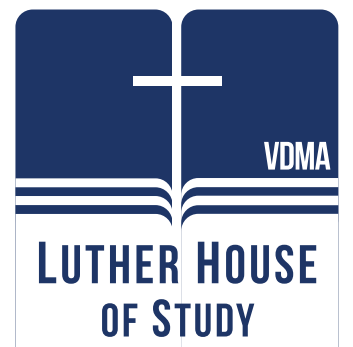
Yes, with patient endurance, we protect ourselves and others. Via e-mail, fund distributions have been made to the African and Hispanic ministries, as well as Meals from the Heart. However, meaningful time together is greatly missed. We have thoughts akin to the Orton family, the proprietors of the Vermont Country Store, when they said, "When tough times hit, our storekeepers didn't just take care of themselves, they did perhaps the best thing you can do during a crisis—turned their attention to the needs of others." Our hearts are there, too, but time will tell how this pandemic affects the FLCW in their ministry and mission actions.

As things reopen in a new way under the guidance of FLC and the SD Statewide Synodical WELCA Board, FLCW will renew our Purpose Commitment. Jesus taught us in John 15:5 NLT, "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." And for us, as Joshua said when he led the charge to enter the Promised Land, "Be strong and very courageous." Joshua 1:7.

Support for Luther House of Study

Many of you are familiar with Luther House of Study through classes or Bible Studies. They are now gaining importance in training and education of future pastors. Because of this expanded need, Rev. Dr. Steven Paulson has been added to their staff. This note is to remind the congregation that First Lutheran Church has committed \$50,000 per year for five years to Luther House of Study to support this staff addition.

Thank you to the many members who are supporting this ministry. A member of First Lutheran Church has issued a challenge to our members, matching up to \$10,000 to Luther House in order for us to meet our second year's commitment and have a jump start on next year's commitment. Contact the Finance Office at (605) 339-1983 ext. 211 to make a gift, or make a check to First Lutheran Church with Luther House (Paulson) in the memo line.



Council Highlights

If church members wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Mandie Wendt, Director of Administration, at 339-1983 ext. 236 or mmcneill@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

May 28, 2020

- Positive \$31,000 through April.
- Discussion around FLC support of Luther House of Study
- New member classes are being revamped for virtual attendance.
- LSS celebrates their 100th anniversary same time as FLC. They would like to do a project together.
- Isolation has been a real struggle during this time. Been doing some individual visits from a far to help with this.
- Deaths and funerals have been a challenge. Doing services often in the funeral home with live streaming.
- Thanks to the media team for their extraordinary efforts during this time.
- Discipleship series – has been very well viewed. Encouraged everyone to go take a look at the website and to engage in sharing those.
- Mandie Wendt introduced as Director of Administration, following Marilyn's retirement.
- Resignations – Heather Smith and Jordan Stone – June 10 there will be a drive by goodbye event
- Pastors, directors, and medical members of the church are on a reopening task force discussing reopening in stages.



Adventures in Christ that Last a Lifetime

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Director



Summertime at FLC is one of our favorite things about working in Youth & Family ministry. Summer is a time for Bible camps, mission trips, youth gatherings, and more—but not this summer. All our summer adventures have been canceled—crossed off the calendar—nipped in the bud. It makes us all sad; maybe

you're feeling a little sad too. What I love most about these adventures is the time with youth and adults away from the hustle and bustle of our usual lives. We slow down, take a long drive or airplane ride, and focus on each other and new relationships and experiences. We make memories, and most importantly, we see how God is alive and at work in other parts of our state and the world.

These COVID days have given us some of these things. We have certainly slowed down, and we have had time to reflect on past memories. We got to thinking about some of our amazing church members who have experienced these adventures in the last 20 years or so and let them reflect on summer adventures gone by... (My how they've grown! Does this make me old? I think it does!)

Elizabeth Atchison, Retina Surgeon at Ophthalmology Ltd.

Family: Ted Margarit (husband) and Andrew (4 months). I am involved as a cantor and women's choir member (though not currently because these are weird times), and I guess raising a child too (it's NEW!)?



Adventures:

2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Valley Fair like a million times (5?), Peru, Young Life camp (I think it was called Snow Wolf, but that didn't make sense given it was a summer camp), Swan Lake Holy Week Retreats.



The biggest gift that these trips give is a concentrated time with people who strive to live Christ-centered lives. Seeing how people incorporate putting their faith first in their every day and in the face of the inevitable stressful circumstances that come with travel is an invaluable experience, especially as an adolescent.

Sarah (Rasmussen) Skajewski: Stay-at-home-Mama/Photographer/all the things Skajewski Catering

Family: Nicholas, Harper (6), Etta (1), Daughter #3 due August, fur babies—Milton (dog) and Mosley (cat). 4:12 events and raising our kiddos to know, love, and serve God!



Adventures:

Camp Metigoshe, 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Philadelphia Mission Trip, Nicaragua.



One thing I remember vividly from camp was the three-minute shower rule. I remember at the time I was 100% NOT into it because I was a 6th grade girl and wanted a long

hot shower, but it was all about conservation, and it is something that I have carried with me ever since! I now know I am capable of getting clean in three minutes or less and that it's good for our earth to try and conserve our precious natural resources! Also, it makes me a dynamite camper woman!

It was incredible to be able to make connections with the youth in Nicaragua, and I am still in contact with Rene to this day. He has a 6-year-old son, so it is fun to occasionally talk about our similar-aged kiddos, see each other's updates on social media, watch and encourage each other's faith, and continue to get a glimpse into what life is like outside of my Sioux Falls bubble! Even all these years later, some of the connections that God has placed in my life still shine bright—and I am a better person for it!

Max Jensen: Senior Photo/Video Specialist at Sanford Health

Family: Maren, Carsten (7) Blakely (4). Currently, my wife Maren and I are raising our two children at FLC. They both attend Sunday morning Scripture First. Carsten just finished his 1st grade year of Carol Choir. It's awesome hearing him practice and seeing him at the front of church (before COVID happened).



Adventures:

2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, several Swan Lake Holy Week Retreats.

Thinking back I really remember the amount of freedom we were given. Our leaders trusted us in a new city and allowed us to do our thing. I remember our nightly devotion time or group time where we would talk about the day and pray for the upcoming days. It was nice having that fellowship among other people like me.

Kelsey (Aamlid) Heinert: USD Nursing Department

Family: Alex, Emily (2), and Kathryn (1). Currently, we are in the midst of raising two young babies, getting them to worship and milestone events.



Adventures:

Mission trips to New York and Nicaragua, the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, and the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans as an adult leader.



These are some of my favorite experiences from First Lutheran as a student and young adult. Each one guided me out of my comfort zone in different ways and inspired me to keep taking those steps. For instance, the mission trip to New York helped pique my interest in visiting Nicaragua later on, and it was my experience in Nicaragua that made me interested in studying abroad in college, which led to the desire to study international leadership and see more parts of the world.

More than anything, though, I learned that God is the same in Sioux Falls as He is in Managua as He is in New

York as He is in every corner of the globe, and nothing builds connection with others (from any part of the world) like the shared understanding that we are children of God. It was also extremely fun to get to know FLC leaders and fellow members in a different setting. The bonds built through these experiences are truly special!

Hilary (Haddorff) Olinger: Registered Nurse at Vance Thompson Vision

Family: Charles, Abigail (2.5), and Stella (6 months).

My husband and I are members of First Lutheran. We were married there in 2012. We enjoy the continued community we have in this place and worshipping with my parents on Sundays. I look forward to when our girls can go on trips just like I did and hear about and see how their faith blossoms.



Adventures:

Shetek, NeSoDak, Outlaw Ranch, Klein Ranch, Camp Metigoshe, mission trips to New York City and Nicaragua, 2006 ELCA Youth Gathering in San Antonio. I worked at Camp Metigoshe as a counselor in the summer of 2009.



Every summer I looked forward to the week I would get to spend away at summer camp or on a mission trip. These weeks were often the highlight of my whole summer. I loved the immersion in faith, the strengthening of my relationship with God, and the lifelong friendships I still maintain and cherish. I felt so close to God at those times. I would come home singing campfire songs with my heart and soul ignited. As I look back now, I can attribute many positive aspects of my life to those times spent on church youth trips and at camp. I value my faith, friendships with all kinds of people, travel, and the opportunity to learn from different people, cultures, and walks of life. I continue to sing campfire songs to my girls to this day.

Sadie Klemme: Registered Nurse at the Avera Free Clinic in Sioux Falls

Family: my parents, LeAnne and Kevin; brother, Drew. Currently, I am involved at FLC as a member of the Stewardship Board.

Adventures: Shetek; Camp Metigoshe; mission trips to New York, Peru, and Colombia; and 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

These mission trips, gatherings, and camps grew my passion for others and compassion.

These experiences made me want to continue serving others. This is what drives my passion as a nurse especially since I work with the uninsured population.





Photo Gallery



Sent in by Arlene Bich.
Left: Howard Bich and Frank Hansen are "Two Buddies on a Bench" and Joan Hansen admiring the spring flowers at McKennan Park.

Right: Pickleball partners, Howard Bich and Stan Christopherson (right court), return the ball to Kent Rolwing and Les Larson as John Hegg waits to rotate into play at the John Harris High School courts.



Left Jean Hoff delivers milk to the African Ministry.

Right: Mark Nassen prepares Scripture First packets for children who attend the Parking Lot services on Sunday nights.

Middle and far right: Blake & Missy Wilcoxon with baby Briggs, and Joe VenOsedel with Ethan and baby Callie, receive a Family Faith Kit delivery in preparation for a Zoom® Pre-Baptism Class with Marnie and Pastor Jeff.



Thanks to everyone who has sent in photos.
Keep sending us your photos!
Email them to media@flcsf.org or text them to 97000.

Sixth-Grade Confirmation Project



Eric Hernes Zooms® with our 6th graders and leads them through the building of the famous M&M® dispensers. The project is a huge highlight for the year!



Hailey Morriseau concentrates to fit her final piece on just right!



Brothers Lincoln Kirstein (red shirt) and Jackson Hoffman (blue shirt) work from home to assemble their M&M® dispensers and then proudly show off the finished product.



Carl Olson displays his fine carpentry skills and calls his a Skittles® Dispenser (Carl has a nut allergy - both candies work great!)

MEDIA MINISTRY



FINANCIAL SERVICES



Become a media Sponsor

Support First Lutheran in providing a weekly worship experience for people who are unable to attend worship in person. Sponsor a radio broadcast, television broadcast, or closed captioning in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special life event, or to the glory of God. Contact First Lutheran at (605) 336-3734.

Thank You May 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.

May 3: Radio was sponsored in memory of Albert and Stella Wold by Dick and Jeanne Wold. Television was sponsored in memory of Jake and Amelia Fritz and their son, Leonard Fritz, by family.

May 10: Radio was sponsored in memory of Harry and Lena Dooyema by their family. Television was sponsored in memory and honor of all mothers by the First Lutheran Church Women. Closed captioning was provided in loving celebration of the memory of Susan Lankford through a gift by her daughter Maren.

May 17: Television was sponsored by Lutheran Men in Mission in honor of all volunteers at First Lutheran Church. Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Don Hoek by his Rosendale family. The stream on YouTube was sponsored in memory of Don Hoek by his Rosendale family.

May 24: Radio was sponsored in memory of Erling and Clara Haugo, who would have celebrated their wedding anniversary on made possible by earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. The telecast was sponsored by the family of Howard Bich in honor of his 80th birthday on April 11 and in memory of parents, Herman and Frieda Bich and Peter and Anna Jessen, as well as siblings and extended family members who have passed away. To God be the glory for this life and the next! Closed captioning was given by members who are thankful for the First Lutheran Church family and pastors. Closed captioning is so important to make God's message accessible to all people, especially those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

May 31: Radio was given by Sandy Holleman in honor of all heroes during this COVID-19 quarantine. Television was sponsored in honor and blessing of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren by Grandma Barb.

Gifts and Memorials, May 2020

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

- Phyllis Bergland: Ruth Werner
- Jan Boettcher: Ruth Werner
- Lois Boyce: Judith Regan
- Milt Erickson: Dorothy Grevlos
- Gladys Halstenson: Dorothy Grevlos
- Madeline Houghton: Stephen Johnson

Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage, Capital Campaign, in honor of:

- Shad & Seri Carney: Wayne & Carol Carney

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

- Dorothy Austad: Larry & Marilyn Anderson
- Robert "Bob" Benson: Timothy Benson
- Jan Boettcher: Larry & Marilyn Anderson, Troy Coatsworth, Jake & Norma Hofer, Karen Lidel, Carl & Janet Naessig, Lois J. Peterson, Kathleen Stelzer, Hazel Wek
- Lois Boyce: Larry & Marilyn Anderson, Mary Birkeland, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Paul & Darlene Eidsness, Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Stephen Johnson, Roger & Bev Lamp, Thelma McElhaney, Cheryl Satterlee
- Darlene Colwill: Larry & Marilyn Colwill, Stephen Johnson
- Eleanor Emmel: Elaine Berg, Jim A. Carlson, Donald & Joyce Helberg, Jake & Norma Hofer, Michael & Erica Welu
- Milt Erickson: Larry & Marilyn Anderson
- Brother, Milt Erickson & Sister, Delores Erickson: Gene & Betty Erickson

- Gladys Halstenson: Larry & Marilyn Anderson, Jim & Sandy Fink, Frank & Joan Hansen, Donald & Joyce Helberg, Jake & Norma Hofer, Karen Hohman, Will & Joan Hurley, Arlene Johnson, Gordon & Marjorie Lyng, Thomas & Beth Ann Masterson, N. J & G. C. Ivers, Cheryl Satterlee, Brian & Pamela Whalen
- Don Hoek: Robin Burke, Phyllis Day, Rhonda & Scott Denney, Betty Evers, Jim & Sandy Fink, Ralph & Cindi Flohrs, Rex & Connie France, Mark & Denise Gisi, Mark & Mary Haagenson, Robert, Mary Lee, & Joni Hoek, Jeanette Hoek, Marian Hoek, Randy & Lori Hoek, Pat & Verlyn Johnson, Janice Julson, Jerome & Nina Marie Kappes, Dennis & Jane King, Vance & Jerri Matzke, Dorothy Mikkelsen, John & Darlene Nordman, Janis Outka, Jennifer Pearson, Irene Pearson, Bob & Marvie Petersen, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Charlie & Dawn Sandager, Dorita Skinner, Merlyn & Ardella Van Rosendale, Nancy Rosendale, Bonnie & Delwin Voelsch, Ruth Werner, Barb Wiczorek, Vida Wirt
- Madeline Houghton: Lillian Carlson, Family & Friends, Ed & Eunice Mansfield
- Jim Moore: Larry & Marilyn Anderson
- Werner Muns: Jake & Norma Hofer
- Julie Simko: Howard & Lou Ann Paulson
- Gifts to the Music Ministry in memory of:**
- Darlene Colwill: Judith Regan

New 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.

July

- July 5:** *Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.
- July 12:** *Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.
- July 19:** *YouTube stream sponsor needed.* Radio, television, and closed captioning are fully sponsored.
- July 26:** *Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.

August

- August 2:** *YouTube stream sponsor needed.* Radio, television, and closed captioning 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, television, closed captioning and YouTube stream.*

Thank you!

The custodial staff would like to offer a special thanks to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. With the dollars from a special 100-year gift to First Lutheran Church designated for property, we were able to purchase a new commercial vacuum cleaner. Though vacuum cleaners are certainly not glamorous by any account, they are an essential tool that custodians use every day to keep our facility looking nice for our congregation. Again, thank you so much for this special gift.

Financial Update as of May 2020

Total Revenue, year-to-date	
2020 Budget	\$917,541
2020 Actual	\$892,541
2019 Actual	\$821,798
Total Expenses, year-to-date	
2020 Budget	\$912,097
2020 Actual	\$823,747
2019 Actual	\$903,506
YTD Net Profit/Loss	\$68,795
Contract For Deed Ideal	\$177,284
HVAC System	\$724,082
Worship Attendance – No worship services were held in the church in May.	

Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

Though the Capital Campaign is on hiatus so no phone calls are being made to set up visits, money is still coming into the church. The great news to share today is that we are still making payments on the HVAC loan. As of June 1, the balance on the HVAC loan is \$724,082.

Thank you to those sending money for the campaign. I miss seeing all of you, but I'm loving FAITH5™, Holy Time, FLC Today, our worship service on TV, and knowing our Lord and Savior is with us. He blesses us every day.



God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future
First Lutheran Church
100th Anniversary Capital Campaign



EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



July Special Offering: FLC Seminary Students

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach



"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10: 14 (NIV)

Each July, the Evangelism and Outreach Board gives special

emphasis to recognizing our current seminary students. Our continual prayer is that the Holy Spirit would raise up good and faithful servants to go out into the world to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. And First Lutheran has been blessed. It is my understanding that FLC has sent more people through seminary than any other single congregation in the South Dakota Synod. As a part of that sending, the sponsoring congregation is also asked to help support the financial obligation of seminary and related expenses. FLC is blessed to currently have three sponsored students attending seminary, Elias Johnson-Youngquist, Abraham Gayetaye, and Adam Guthmiller. In addition, we have Mark Nassen, our Youth and Family coordinator, sponsored by Our Savior's Lutheran Church, as a part of our ministry staff. These four students attend seminary through the Kairos program of Luther House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary and Luther Seminary. Jordan Stone, our former Care and Health Coordinator, attends Luther Seminary. She is sponsored by her home congregation of Dell Rapids Lutheran Church. All five of these students are seeking their Master of Divinity degree and to be ordained to Word and Sacrament ministry.

One other update: Church on the Street mission developer and seminary student Rebel Hurd recently graduated from Luther Seminary with her M.Div. degree. She is finishing her required internship at St. John's American Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls and will be in assignment this fall to find out where she will be serving. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.



Mark Nassen



Jordan Stone



Rebel Hurd

Elias Johnson-Youngquist

Hey! I'm Elias Johnson-Youngquist, and I have been the youth minister at First Lutheran Church for almost three and a half years. I am currently wrapping up my third year of seminary at Sioux Falls Seminary with Luther House of Study and Luther Seminary.



This coming year I'll be tackling some hours of hospital and home visits as a part of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), a portion of my education that requires a certain number of pastoral care hours. Should that all go according to plan, I'll do an internship in the spring of 2021 and wrap up with my seminary education by 2022.

This summer, in lieu of going on some of the great trips we do with youth ministry that have been canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis, I'll be taking an intensive distance class through Luther Seminary (a requirement for my education) on the history of American Christianity.

My wife, Abby, and I live in an apartment downtown and have a baby due in October (as if fall wasn't busy enough). I am immensely grateful to receive First Lutheran's support and to be on staff here. It has been a great three years of working with FLC students and families, and I look forward to what the next year brings!

Abraham Gayetaye

Abraham has been a member of First Lutheran Church since January 2015, but his history with FLC started well before that. He currently serves as the mission developer/leader for First Lutheran African Ministries (FLAM). FLAM has been worshipping in their own space on north Kiwanis Avenue. Abraham's story is amazing!



Descending from Liberia, Africa, Abraham spent many years living as a refugee in other west African countries after civil war erupted in Liberia in 1989. Abraham lived in Sierra Leone, the Republic of Guinea, and finally Nigeria. In 2006, Abraham began his theological studies at Bethel Institute of Theology and Biblical Research in Nigeria. At that time, First Lutheran supported Abraham, and in 2009, he received his bachelor's degree in Theology. Starting in 2011, Abraham would come once each year to the United States to visit his family in Sioux Falls.

In the fall of 2014, the Ebola virus crisis broke out in Liberia, and Abraham was granted a protection visa to

stay in the U.S. During that time, he began to take on a leadership role in the evolving First Lutheran African Ministry. This led to his attending Sioux Falls Seminary and Luther House of Study through the newly emerging Kairos program, working toward a Master of Divinity degree and seeking ordination in the ELCA. Abraham was entranced as a pastoral candidate in the South Dakota Synod in 2016.

Adam Guthmiller

Family and friends of First Lutheran, I am confident I can say this for all of us: it has been quite a year. Late last spring I followed my wife Allison to Superior, Nebraska, as she accepted a nursing home administrator position at the local Good Samaritan Society there. She helped manage and direct the nursing facility, assisted living, and independent living facility while she was there. It was an exceptional task, which was made more exceptional in light of COVID-19. Thankfully, with this move, I was able to retain my position at the Good Samaritan Society corporate office by working from home in Superior.

The normal arrangement I have had in seminary—work for Good Samaritan and study with Luther House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary—was largely uninterrupted this last year. This is to say, I have had the benefit and blessing of continued learning this last year from Dr. Steve Paulson, Dr. Chris Croghan, Sarah Stenson, and the many students in my program. I also had the opportunity to start a weekly podcast, Scripture First, with the Luther House professors and members of First Lutheran, Mason Van Essen and Kiri Jacobsen.

This summer I will participate in an intensive Clinical Pastoral Education program in Omaha, Nebraska, at CHI Health. I will be in a trauma unit for the duration of my time here. I thank you for all your prayers and support, and I ask you to continue to pray for me this summer. The people of First Lutheran and the continued ministry of Jesus Christ are in my prayers.

Please prayerfully consider your financial support to these gifted individuals. Please mail your special offering to the church or indicate it with your online giving. Unless otherwise indicated, the proceeds from the special offering will be equally divided. In addition to your financial support, please pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to enlighten and call people into ministry. First Lutheran is blessed to support these seminarians being trained for pastoral ministry. Please keep them in your prayers for patience, wisdom, and the energy to endure. Thank you and God bless!

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Parking Lot Worship Services

Sundays, July 12, 19, 26; and August 9, 16, 23; 7-8 p.m.

On Sundays, June 14–28, First Lutheran hosted worship in the parking lot. Proper social distancing was requested and masks were strongly encouraged. These abbreviated services will continue to be offered throughout the summer in addition to Sunday morning broadcast worship. Services include both well-known hymns and contemporary music led by the FLC Worship band.



Please park in the east lots across Dakota Avenue, and bring a lawn chair to sit in the main parking lot. Parking in the back of the main lot will be available for those with mobility issues. *Please note: the building will not be open during the services, and restrooms will not be available.*

Everyone is welcome at any service. Please join us!

Volunteers are needed for these services. Sign up at flcsf.org

First Word
First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED