

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH + SAINT PETER

FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER, 2021



Pastor Bill's Message: *A Time of Thanksgiving*

Psalm 107 is noted for its beautiful expressions of thanksgiving. "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." The month of November is noted as a special time of Thanksgiving. Indeed, it is important for us to take time as individuals every day to express thanks to the Lord. It is also important for us as people of First Lutheran to say thank you for the good things happening in our congregation.

Our congregation is filled with talented people. We are thankful for talented pastors and teachers who are helping with our worship services since your interim pastor has had to adjust to half-time. Thanks to Steve Kidder, Ted Kunze, Bob Stenson, Mary Gaebler, and Garrett Paul for serving so well as supply pastors. And thanks to Emily, our Director of Music, our Bell Choir, and our Gustavus student musicians for their musical enhancements of our worship.

November is also a time to give thanks for all those precious and special people who impacted our lives and whom we remember on All Saints Sunday on November 7. And we can be grateful for special people who are considering becoming new members of our First Lutheran family on our New Member Sunday on November 14. (If you know of others

who might have an interest in joining our special congregation, let me know.)

We express a giant word of thanks to all our members who completed and submitted their "Estimate of Giving" cards – so important to our preparing for our mission activities in 2022. (If you haven't submitted your card yet, you can still do so!) We also express thanks for all who have completed their Time and Talent forms – so important in contributing to the life of our congregation. Following the approval by the Church council of the creation of the First Lutheran Church Legacy Society, we will be able to say thanks to and give special recognition to all our members who have placed First Lutheran in wills and estate plans and to encourage others to do so. These commitments will make a giant difference in the church's future.

Finally, we give special thanks to the dedicated work of our Call Committee as we look forward to a successful outcome for the next stage of pastoral service and leadership for this important part of God's kingdom. In this month of Thanksgiving, we say, O give thanks to the Lord--and to the people of First Lutheran!

-Pastor Bill

Council President Message

At its October meeting, the Church Council received a report from the Call Committee. The Call Committee requested a special meeting of the Council to meet with its recommended candidate for our settled pastor position. This meeting was scheduled to take place Sunday, October 24th. The Council also approved a request from the Director of Music for a three-month sabbatical leave from October 1, 2022 until January 1, 2023.

In other action, the Council approved the resignation of Kim Bovee, a proposed change in the "First Lutheran Church Legacy Society" guidelines, and a motion from the Congregation and Community Ministry and Social Justice committees to host an informational meeting concerning the support of an Afghan refugee family. Other interested organizations and congregations would be invited to attend the meeting that would be conducted by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. The Council also endorsed the idea of establishing a jigsaw puzzle exchange. Puzzles would be made available in the Gathering Space. Watch for details in the "Heartbeat."

Finally, the Council postponed a decision on extending the Boy Scout Charter until after a meeting with representatives from the Boy Scouts. If you have any questions concerning this report, feel free to contact me (507-382-8256 or wjk111@hickorytech.net). Also, the Council is still looking for volunteers to serve on the recently approved Technology Committee. Please contact me if you are interested. *-Bill Kautt, Council President*

Committee Update: *Social Justice*

The Social Justice and Congregation and Community Ministry committees are very interested in exploring how we can help Afghan refugees and evacuees being resettled in Minnesota after the end of the war in Afghanistan. With the help of Pastor Bill, we connected with Cait Duin, director of Refugee Services at Lutheran Social Services (LSS). LSS has a "Circle of Welcome" program that connects faith and community groups directly with Afghan refugee families that need help. As a sponsor we would work with a family for six months by providing financial support and activities coordinated by an LSS volunteer coordinator. One thing we were made aware of is that we would have to be a distant partner as Afghan families will only be relocated to Minneapolis and St. Cloud.

Our committees were granted approval from the Church Council on Tuesday, October 19th to host an informational meeting regarding a distant sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family through Lutheran Social Services (LSS). An LSS representative will be leading the meeting and we have invited several other religious organizations to attend in hopes that they would join us in becoming a sponsor. The meeting will be held sometime in early November. We will keep you up to date on this promising opportunity for our congregation to walk with an Afghan family as a friend and supporter.

-Mary Spear

EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR: CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

JOIN THE NLC THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE 36TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, THE EARTH ADORNED. CONCERTS WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH AT THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY IN MINNEAPOLIS, AND A VIRTUAL STREAM OF THE EVENT WILL BE AVAILABLE DECEMBER 10-12. SEE NLCA.COM FOR DETAILS.

LUTEFISK & MEATBALL SUPPER AT SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 6, 11AM-2PM (OR UNTIL GONE) \$13 PER MEAL DRIVE THROUGH. NO PRE-ORDERS
42869 COUNTY ROAD 52

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOV 14 ✓

NEW PASTORAL CANDIDATE

THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES A QUORUM OF 75 VOTING MEMBERS AND A FAVORABLE VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING AT A MEETING LEGALLY CALLED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

THE CONSTITUTION SPECIFICALLY FORBIDS VOTING BY PROXY OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 14. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

Youth & Family Faith OUT LOUD! Youth Group Kick-off

October was filled with mischief and mayhem at FLC! We hosted our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest as well as a community Trunk or Treat event! We are so glad to be gathering (with the guidance and safety protocol provided by our HAT team) again!

High School Youth Group Kick-Off

Wednesday, November 3rd!
This year we're trying something different and combining our HS Youth Group with Trinity Lutheran Church and Union Presbyterian Church! Join us as we kick off the year! Invite a friend to join you.

Details:

When: November 3rd from 7:30PM-8:30PM

Where: Gorman Park in St. Peter

Why: This is a great way for us to connect with other Christians in our community!

What to expect: We'll have a bonfire going with s'mores, games, and a time for check-ins and devotionals

Thanksgiving Pie/Flower Delivery: November 21st

Our Youth will be coordinating a pie and flower delivery for members who are unable to gather with their family over the Thanksgiving holiday. Please reach out to our office or Calleigh if there's someone specific you would like included in this service project.



Jr. High Youth Gathering: Saturday, November 20th

We are incredibly excited to announce that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board is hosting a 2021 Junior High Youth Gathering for our 6th-9th graders!



Looking Ahead

ELCA National Youth Gathering: July 24-28 in Minneapolis, MN
Open to Youth in 8th-12th grade, we invite you to join us next summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering held in Minneapolis! Interested in attending? Reach out to Calleigh for information on how to register!



Worship & Music OUT LOUD! *Sabbatical Approved*

Early in October, Patrick Fischer came to us from Indiana to begin Phase A work on our organ. He took much care to restore the action of the keys, and he replaced the lighting and the mirrors. [Mirrors? What's that about? Fun fact: there are two "rear-view" mirrors attached to the organ so that I can see the front of the church while facing away from everyone! One of the frames had split badly and was in danger of cracking and shattering everywhere. This has now been resolved.) Patrick will join us again after Thanksgiving to perform the final touches for Phase A work and tune the organ for the holiday season!

You may have noticed some gradual changes to the worship recordings. We are getting closer and are working very hard to continue improving the quality of these services! Thank you for your continued patience as we work out the kinks and acquire more equipment, and a special thank you to the volunteers helping us out. YOU can also help on Sunday mornings. Until we have enough cell phones, volunteer to let us use your smartphone during worship to be a "video feed" for our recording!

As you may have seen in the president's report, my sabbatical proposal for the fall of 2022 was approved at the October council meeting. I sincerely appreciate the Cantor's Call Committee of 2015 for including a "professional expectation" of sabbatical every seventh year of employment for their music director. I am grateful to the council for approving my proposal for three months of leave and to the many members of the congregation who wrote letters of support on my behalf. Thank you! I have been looking forward to this opportunity for growth and professional development for many years and have some exciting plans to share with you in future newsletters!

-Emily Bruflat, Director of Worship & Music

Music Director Office Hours: *Are you looking for Emily?*

Emily is best reached by cell phone at 651-472-1700 (during business hours) or by email at musicflcstp@gmail.com. Angela can also forward calls directly to Emily Monday-Thursday 507-934-3060. Emily works Sunday through Thursday each week. You can find her holding office hours at River Rock on Monday mornings if you would like to visit with her in person!

Christmas in Christ Chapel

Christmas in Christ Chapel 2021 is happening December 2-5, with the Saturday evening service being live streamed. This year's theme, "We Shall Go Forth Singing," places our stories of lament and meaning making among the stories of the Divine. Through the hope of the nativity, we journey to a place of inspiration and good courage, knitting ourselves back together in defiance of the forces that seek to tear us apart. Tickets go on sale on November 1. For more information or to order tickets, visit <https://gustavus.edu/events/ccc/>.



November Worship Info

Nov. 7: All Saints Sunday, Steve Kidder

Nov. 14: Pr. Bill (Congregational vote on new pastor following service)

Nov. 21: Christ the King, Garrett Paul

Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent/Communion, Pr. Bill

Holiday & End of Year Giving! *Many Options*

Holiday Vouchers!

The St. Peter Area Food shelf and the St. Peter Area Ministerial Association will again be providing grocery vouchers to needy families in our community over the holiday season.



Please make checks payable to **First Lutheran** with "Holiday Voucher" written in the memo line by December 15. The last time First Lutheran participated, \$1,800 was raised! Let's surpass this goal.

Stewardship Season Results

In September, the church office printed 320 Time & Talent/Volunteer Packets with **surveys** for members and friends of First Lutheran to participate in important church functions, committees, and ministries. In total 19 surveys were returned in paper form and 52 surveys were completed online. Thank you to all of you who took the time to renew your commitments and to sign up for something new!

The same number of **Estimate of Giving** cards were also mailed (320). Of these 84 were returned as of 10/26 with a total of \$245,300 in financial commitments. Many families chose to exceed their 2020 commitments. Thanks to all who have turned in their cards. Please continue sending them in so we can show a new pastor our commitment.

Offering Options

It is important for us to maintain our levels of offerings during this time when some members are still not able to worship in person. If you are unable to attend in person, please mail your offering to the church office. If you need help

getting set up with **Direct Giving** or **Tithe.ly** please contact Karen in the office. This is an easy way to avoid having to write checks.

End-of-Year Contributions

Please have your regular offerings and end-of-year contributions in by Friday, December 31 to see them reflected on your 2020 Contribution Statement.

Are You at Least 70 ½ Years Old?

Don't forget about the IRA Charitable Rollover. You can donate up to \$100,000 to charitable organizations **directly from your IRA** without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. Talk about a tax break! *Check with your financial advisor on how to make this type of donation.*

Become a member of the First Lutheran Legacy Society

There are many options to provide estate gifts to First Lutheran Church. The simplest means of supporting the ongoing work of First Lutheran Church in your estate plans is by including the church in your will. However, there are a variety of other means of doing so including:



- *Charitable Gift Annuities*
- *Charitable Remainder Trusts*
- *Naming First Lutheran Church as a beneficiary of your retirement plan life insurance policy, bank or brokerage account, donor advised fund, or other financial asset plans.*

Contact the church office for more information on becoming a member of the Legacy Society and find out how gifts can be earmarked.

CHURCH FINANCIALS AS OF 9/30/21

Income: 281,485

Expense: 289,826

(8,341)

KIDS WORSHIP @FLC TOO!

