

First Out Loud: Our Faith in Action

*"Let your light shine before others, so that
they may see your good works."*

Matthew 5:16

**First Lutheran Church
May 1, 2021
Newsletter Edition 5**



Pastor's Message:

Exciting Days Ahead: Something For All

As your Interim Pastor, I have discovered that the membership of First Lutheran is made up of a wide range of people in terms of interest, ages, technical abilities, work schedules, family obligations, and responses to how and where to worship. Thus, the challenge is to find a variety of ways and times to reach out to and serve all our people. And that is exactly what we are seeking to do, as represented by the worship schedule in the coming weeks.

On April 25 we began in person worship each Sunday morning at 10:00. Yet, we will also continue our virtual worship services via Facebook and St. Peter Public Access TV. We want our worship services to be available to all! On May 2 we will have in person worship for our Confirmands and their families, Godparents, mentors, and special friends. Yet we will also have our regular virtual worship. On Mother's Day, May 9 we have an in-person worship with a Baptism. On May 16 we will hold, for the first time, a Rogation Service. "Rogation" is an ancient traditional worship service to provide blessings for spring planting. On May 23 we will celebrate Pentecost and recognize a new recipient and former recipients of the Theodore Larson award for contributions in Christian education. On May 30, we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday. On all those Sundays we will continue our virtual service as well.

Then, something new, exciting, and different is coming in June to provide another worship option for the people of First Lutheran and the St. Peter community. On June 7, at 7:00 pm, we will begin weekly Monday Evening Services that will continue throughout the summer. These services, designed especially to meet the needs of people who are out of town on summer weekends, will be more informal, shorter in length, with musical contributions from a number of our members, and special involvement by children and our younger families. This initiative provides another strong sign that we will continue to seek to serve the wonderful God-given variety of our people.

Pastor Bill

FLC's Council President Message

At its April meeting, the Church Council decided to follow the recommendation of the Health Advisory Team (HAT) and begin the resumption of in-person worship on April 25, 2021. We will be following the guidelines recommended by the HAT (masking, social distancing, etc.) during these services. In person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The Council also added a minimum amount to the fiscal guidelines that were approved at its previous meeting, approved the nomination of Carol Solberg to the cemetery as the fifth Council appointed member, and approved a \$400 donation to the multi-church fund created to provide playground equipment for the Partners in Housing Union Street Place. The Council also approved the recommendation from the Worship and Arts Committee to hold a Monday Evening Service throughout this coming summer, beginning with the first service, June 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Finally, the Council discussed the development of the call committee (Please contact a member of the Council if you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone for the committee.) and discussed the first seven pages of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The Council decided to recess the meeting until Monday, April 26, when it will reconvene to finish its discussion on the final 6 pages of the MSP. Once the draft is finalized, it will be made available to the congregation for comment before final approval and submission to the Synod.

Bill Kautt, Council President

Celebrate FLC's 2021 Confirmation Class



Isaac Alger

Baptismal Date: 2-12-2006

Parents: Steve and Chelsea Alger

Godparents/Sponsors: Scott and Chelsea Alger

Mentor: Jim Neubauer

Memorized Scripture: Romans 4:5

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been any activity outdoors."



Christiaan Mark Hajos

Baptismal Date: 2-12-2006

Parents: Margaretha Kramer-Hajos and Jozsef Hajos

Godparents/Sponsors: Wichard Kramer

Mentor: Will Freiert

Memorized Scripture: Galatians 6:10

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was Last year's FLC sleep-over. I really enjoyed it because it was a mixture of games, a movie, doing good for the community, and learning from the Bible, and all along the way there was a very nice feeling inside me. I just had a lot of fun, and did some good."



Tate Joseph Olson

Baptismal Date: 4-16-2006

Parents: Mande and Travis Olson

Godparents/Sponsors: Stefanie Menning and Lorna Sandvick

Mentor: Stefanie Menning

Memorized Scripture: Matthew 17:20

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been very inclusive confirmation classes where I could always expect to learn something new."



Rylee Marie Stadick

Baptismal Date: 11-20-2005

Parents: Cory and Jessica Stadick

Godparents/Sponsors: Brian and Deneal Stadick

Mentor: Dawn Kienlen

Memorized Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

"One of my favorite memories at FLC thus far was attending Bible Camp the summer of 7th grade. I enjoyed the activities and getting to know other 7-9th grade confirmation students."



Hayden Stensrud

Baptismal Date: 2-5-2006

Parents: Adam and Jill Stensrud

Godparents/Sponsors: Brandon and Michelle Stensrud

Mentor: Brandon Stensrud

Memorized Scripture: Titus 2:7-8

"My favorite thing about belonging to FLC is using my skills to help and participate during services and projects."



Grace Louise Timm

Baptismal Date: 7-23-2006

Parents: Nancy and Jerry Timm

Godparents/Sponsors: Beth and Jeff Timm

Mentor: Nancy Thorkelson

Memorized Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-3

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the lock in last year."



Callie Louise Voeltz

Baptismal Date: 5-7-2006

Parents: Chris and Kris Voeltz

Godparents/Sponsors: Brian Haukoos and Alan Voeltz

Mentor: Michelle Doose

Memorized Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8

"My favorite thing about FLC thus far has been the program WOW, Worship on Wednesdays. I like the people I have spent time with at FLC. I have enjoyed getting to know and learn from Pastor Bill."

From the Cantor: Worshipping Out Loud and In Person!

Worship Plans for Spring!

There is a LOT going on this May in our worship, both in person and online. Here's a look into the highlights:

May 2: Confirmation Sunday

We celebrate our ninth graders and their public commitment to their faith! The regular online service will not include confirmation, but the Affirmation of Baptism part of in-person worship will be recorded and posted for later viewing.

May 9: GAC Musicians

Joining us on May 9th are two GAC students, senior Liza Johnson and sophomore Sophie Martinez, both of whom have been connected to FLC during part of their time in college. For both in-person and online worship, they will be offering a prelude and postlude!

May 16: Rogation Sunday

We give thanks for the growth and new life of spring on this day! Part of the service will include a blessing for farmers and gardeners of all stripes as the planting season gets underway, and weather permitting, this portion of worship will be outdoors.

May 23: Pentecost

The birthday of the church! We explore how the Spirit is alive and burning within us, guiding us as disciples and urging us to live our faith out loud! Our in-person worship will be extra special with handbell choir assisting live during worship for the first time in over a year!

May 30: Holy Trinity

We worship God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer on this very special day in the church!

Piano Update

The piano has returned! All of the repairs for our Baldwin grand piano have been completed, and the instrument is enjoying its brand-new components, complete with a special, protective cover for better humidity control. The instrument repairs were done in memory of Helen and Paul Baumgartner; be sure to check out the beautiful donated plaque that will hang by the piano!

Emily Bruflat, Cantor**Youth and Family Faith - Out Loud:****Here's what's going on in May:****Confirmation Tree Planting Project - Saturday, May 1st**

An idea created by our Confirmation classes and made into a reality! On May 1st our Confirmation students will plant nearly 100 trees on the eastside of First Lutheran Church's lot. This project is centered around teaching our youth to be good servants of both our church and community. We'd like to thank the City of St. Peter for their contributions to this project, as well as the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation Districts for their assistance and generous tree donations. We'd also like to give a special thank you to Miranda Bermes-Goller (former FLC Intern) who played a huge role in laying the groundwork for this special project.

Confirmation Sunday - Sunday, May 2nd

On Sunday, May 2nd we will be celebrating FLC's seven Confirmands. With the safety of all in mind and guidance from both our Health Advisory Team and Church Council, it has been decided that this special service will be held in-person, at First Lutheran Church, for solely our Confirmands and their families. This service will be recorded and posted at a later time on our Facebook page for the rest of our congregation and community to view and celebrate these special people. Check out our seven Confirmands featured above!

Rogation Sunday - Sunday, May 16th - *Sunday School and Congregational Flower Planting*

Join us on May 16th for our Rogation Sunday service! Following this service, we invite our Sunday School children to assist in the planting of flowers around our Bell Garden. Hope to see you there!

Theodore U. Larson Award For Distinguished Service In Christian Education***2020-21 Recipient Recognition Service - Sunday, May 23rd***

Join us on Sunday, May 23rd to recognize and celebrate this year's recipient of the *Theodore U. Larson Award for Distinguished Service In Christian Education*, Nancy Thorkelson! Nancy has dedicated many, many years of service to our education programs at First Lutheran. We have been so blessed with her dedication and service! Thank you Nancy!

Summer Programming Opportunities for Youth:

- **Shetek Lutheran Ministries Summer Programming - Registration is OPEN:**
 - **Confirmation Camp for 7-9th Graders (July 7th-9th)**

This is a wonderful overnight opportunity for your confirmation student. Register your child online at www.shetek.org, using our Group Code (code is: Firststp) to access our groups' registration and discount. Need more information? Reach out to Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com.
 - **Shetek's Day Camp at FLC for 1st-6th Graders (July 26th-29th)**

First Lutheran is partnering with Trinity Lutheran for this Day Camp. You can register your child www.shetek.org using our Group Code (code is: FIRSTDAY) to save your spot! Due to COVID-19 protocol there is limited space available, so don't wait to sign up! Need more information? Email Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com.
- **Week of Mission at Trinity Lutheran for Jr./Sr. High Students (July 5th-9th)**

With the pandemic making travel difficult, this summer FLC and TLC have created a mission trip within the St. Peter/Mankato area. This is an opportunity to give our youth a service-based experience that will also allow them to explore their faith individually and collectively. This week of service will connect youth with their community through intentional service based on the needs of the community. Interested in participating? Reach out to Calleigh for more information.
- **Trinity Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School (June 6th-10th)**

A fun opportunity for students entering K-5th grade! All registration will be happening through Trinity Lutheran. Interested in attending? Reach out to Calleigh for more information.

Calleigh Carlson, Director of Youth and Family Ministry



CONGRATULATIONS NANCY THORKELSON!

***Recipient of our 2020-21 Theodore U. Larson Award For Distinguished Service
In Christian Education***

"Nancy was nominated for this award because of her longtime service to our education programs, as well as her welcoming presence to the children and youth of First Lutheran. Over the years, she has been a Sunday School teacher and Confirmation Guide. She has followed several classes through their three years of Confirmation, and sometimes even taught them in Sunday School before that! She has been an official mentor to several youth during their Confirmation years as part of our Youth Mentoring Program. She has also served as an "unofficial" mentor through her involvement and interactions with many children and youth as part of an FLC small group, vacation church school and Confirmation camps.

Thank you Nancy! We have been blessed by your dedication and service."

We are inviting former recipients of this award to be recognized and thanked for their service as well."

Cindy Nadeau, Lifelong Learning Committee Chair

Health Advisory Committee:

We look forward to in person worship. Please call the church at 507 934-3060, if you have questions. Please continue to wear a mask when in public to reduce the spread of Covid Variants. Please sign up for vaccine anybody over the age of 16! Vaccine connector on the Minnesota Department of Health website has detailed information at <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/>

May Events, Information & Happenings:

Friday Forums: On the fourth Friday of the month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., the Social Justice committee hosts a Zoom forum around topics related to social justice in our community. Recent discussions touched on embracing diversity, food insecurity, and housing issues. May's forum concerns Reconciling in Christ and Gender Equity. In June the forum will focus on immigration and refugee issues. Please check our Facebook and webpages for more information and registration instructions.

Free Clinic Meals for Staff: Inreach/Outreach will continue to provide a light snack to the staff of the Free Clinic in St. Peter. You can sign up for a Thursday time slot using the following link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t3MXFKHmXCKHSjRB50FocQoflgA6xaWq/view?usp=drivesdk>

Prayer Chain To Get A Fresh Start: "The Inreach/Outreach committee would like to Invite all interested members to become part of a prayer chain. We have had a prayer chain in the past, but it has been inactive for some time. We will conduct our prayer chain by receiving requests through the church office. The office will notify our coordinator, Amy Pehrson, and requests will be sent out to all people on the prayer chain via email. If you do not use email but would like to be on the prayer chain, we can contact you about prayer requests by telephone. We will also offer a brief training for prayer chain volunteers. Please contact Amy Pehrson at amyrpehrson@gmail.com if you would like to be included on our prayer chain."

Fresh Produce for the St. Peter Area Foodshelf: With endowment funds and a donation from one of our members, the Social Justice Committee was able to purchase a CSA (community supported agriculture) share from Little Big Sky Farm for the 2021 farm season. Little Big Sky Farm is located in Henderson, MN and run by Jenny and Dan Kapernick. One of our committee members, Marily Kochsiek is the mother of Jenny. Every week a box of fresh produce grown on the farm will be donated to the St. Peter Area Foodshelf courtesy of First Lutheran and the Social Justice group

Road Work Hwy 99 Near Resurrection Cemetery: If you are travelling to the cemetery on Hwy 99, please be aware of construction work beginning in May. Mn DOT will be doing resurfacing and other work for several months from St. Peter to Nicollet. We've been informed that this project won't impact access to the cemetery.

First Lutheran will be open Mon-Thurs from 9 am to 3 pm. If you need to meet with someone please contact them directly to set up a date and time. We will have locations and boxes to drop off your offerings and Family Fresh receipts. If you desire some time (up to 1-hour) in the small chapel, please phone ahead so we can schedule and ensure sanitization of the chapel before and after. First Lutheran committees and groups can also begin meeting in the church. Again, please let us know the date and time so we can properly prepare the location. Lastly, we ask that everyone follow all COVID precautions and requirements.

Memorial Day, May 31st – Office is Closed

*"For just as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is also dead."*



Newsletter

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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