

# Heart beat

May 2019

**Inside**

<i>From the Pastor</i>	1
<i>Prayer Concerns</i>	2
<i>Calendar highlights</i>	3
<i>Cantor</i>	4
<i>Lifelong Learning</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	6-7
<i>YLT/Service List</i>	8
<i>Green</i>	9
<i>News and Notes</i>	10-11

You've all heard that "April showers bring May flowers". April snows seem to have the same effect. Upon returning to church after my post-Easter vacation, I was delighted to see the two bushes out front in full white bloom. Spring has arrived in time for the fifty days of Easter! New life is also blooming at First.

This month we welcome Allison Ellingson as our Director of Lifelong Learning. This position was created by combining the Christian Education Director position and the Youth Ministry Director position. Allison will bring her theological education and creativity to our educational programming at First. You'll find more information about Allison on page 5. We are looking forward to Allison joining the team on Monday, May 6!

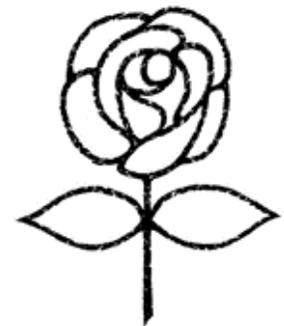
We have received word from Luther Seminary that we will be getting an intern in August. Miranda Joeegen was our first pick after interviews earlier this year. You can read about her on page 10.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the listening sessions we will be starting to have this month about the possibility of moving to one service on Sunday morning. Members of the congregation have been bending the ear of council members, expressing their interest in moving to one service year-round. We encourage you to participate in these listening sessions on May 12 and June 2. You will be asked what it would mean for you if we moved to one service on Sunday morning. For more information about this conversation, please look on page 4.



We are excited about the upcoming changes that the springtime is bringing at First. I am aware that change can sometimes bring anxiety. And as the Easter story reveals, it can also bring new life.

*Pastor Gwen*



# Prayer Concerns

**We are called to remember one another in prayer. The list below is for recent needs:**

- All those we continue to include in our personal prayer petitions

**We also ask for your continued prayers for the below listed people with long-term or chronic needs:**

- Marie Benson •Abigail Christenson (daughter of Kathryn Christenson) •Dorothy Eliason
- George Fasnacht (father of Vicki Demers) •Betty Gustafson •John Hall •Stephen Hilding
- Stuart Johnson •Wayne Johnson •Mike Jones (uncle of Pastor Gwen) •Joan Kudla (sister of Sue Peterson) •Lee Landgrebe •Elgene Lund •Tom Michels (son-in-law of Betty Gustafson)
- Dick Muesing •Tim Salmela (brother of Cheryl Kautt) •Cole Turritin •Bev Wetherill



**Family & Friends of those who have recently died:**

- Marolyn Kleinert •Nancy Roberts •Donald Gustafson •Grace Jacobs •Mary Dobie (Grandmother of Joey Dobie) •Doreen Pehrson

To request being on either our current or long term prayer lists (or to be taken off), please discuss with Pastor Gwen, contact the church office at 934-3060 or [flcstpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcstpoffice@gmail.com), or go to our website at [www.flcstp.org](http://www.flcstp.org) and click on the “Request Prayer” button on the homepage.

# Calendar Highlights for May

May 5

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Sunday  
with reception at 9:15 a.m.

May 12

10:30 a.m. Senior Blessing with  
special coffee hour at 9:15 a.m.

*What's happening  
this month at First  
Lutheran?*



May 19

Refugee Sunday  
Special First Forum at 9:30 a.m.

May 26

Shift to one worship service  
at 9:00 a.m.

# From the Cantor

## Holden Evening Prayer - Senior Night

Many of our high school seniors have been particularly involved with worship at FLC. In honor of this, we have invited the graduating class to participate in and/or attend a special service of Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:15. An all-time favorite meal (buffalo chicken sandwiches) will be served for dinner at 5:30. All are welcome to come for a night of community and worship at FLC!



## Listening Sessions - May 12 and June 2

After prompting from members of the congregation, the Worship and Arts Committee has discussed the idea of changing our Sunday morning schedule. The new schedule would include one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School/First Forum from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. We know that this would be a significant change, so we are wanting to get input from all of you. How would this proposed schedule impact you personally? We will have several opportunities for you to answer that question. Attend a listening session on Sunday, May 12th from 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. or Sunday, June 2nd at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room. There will also be an opportunity for you to offer a written response, in the event that you cannot attend one of the scheduled sessions. We want to hear from you!

## FLC Band - May 12

Have you played in the band yet? Whether you've played every time or haven't joined us yet, you are invited to come and check it out. All woodwind and brass players with at least two years of experience are welcome! We will rehearse on Sunday, May 5th at 9:30, and we will play for prelude at both services on Sunday, May 12th in honor of Good Shepherd Sunday, Mother's Day, and Senior Blessing Day.

## Assisting Ministers and Audio/Visual Techs

Do you have the gift of speaking comfortably in front of others? Perhaps you would make a great Assisting Minister. How about experience running video cameras and sound systems? The AV Team is for you! If you have an interest, Emily is looking for a few more volunteers - talk to her or email her at [musicflcstp@gmail.com](mailto:musicflcstp@gmail.com). Summer is the best time to start!

## Music for Missions - Save the Date!

On Sunday, June 16th, Ben Bruflat (Emily's brother) will be in town, and the two will present a trumpet and organ recital in the afternoon. More details will follow, but please plan to come and support our Music for Missions ministry!

## Rocks of Ages

At the end of March, FLC had about a half dozen members bring song books and lead sing-a-longs at Heritage Meadow, Ecumen, and Benedictine here in Saint Peter. We had such a fun time asking residents to request their favorite hymns and even meeting up with other FLC members at the various locations. We would love to do this again and involve even more of a group from our congregation - stay tuned for an opportunity in July!

# Lifelong Learning

First, please note the change in title of this page from “Christian Education” to “Lifelong Learning.” This month we welcome Allison Ellingson, who has her first day in the office on May 6th. Welcome to Allison!

## Allison Ellingson

Allison Ellingson received a B.A. from St. Olaf College in 2002, a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2007, and in 2015 earned an M.F.A. in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Originally from Chicago, Ellingson recently moved with her husband Neil Ellingson, pastor of The United Church of Mapleton, and their two children, Hans and Glory, to St. Peter to be closer to friends, family and nature.



Thanks to the committee who worked tirelessly throughout this entire hiring process. Members of the Director of Lifelong Learning search committee included: Tami Aune (from Staff Support), Laura Boomgaarden (from Christian Education), Megan Berglund (from Youth Leadership Team), Josh Drinkall (from Council), Jaden Neubauer (Youth), Anja Dulin (Youth), and Pastor Gwen Hermanson. Please pray for Allison as she begins her work here!

## **Adult Bible Study (9:30 a.m. Mondays)**

We will review the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday in the Conference Room:

**May 6:** Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelations 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

**May 13:** Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelations 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

**May 20:** Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelations 21:10,22-22:5, John 14:23-29

**May 27:** No adult study. Office closed due to Memorial Day.

## **First Forum/Fellowship**

Here's the schedule for First Forums/Fellowship Hour in May:

**May 5:** Confirmation Reception

**May 12:** Worship Listening Session

**May 19:** Affey Sigat will present as part of Refugee Sunday

**May 26:** *No First Forum*

**June 2:** Worship Listening Session

## **FLC Day Camp! June 24-27.**

Register now for Day Camp at FLC! Counselors from Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be at First Lutheran hosting this fun and rewarding experience. Days are filled with crafts, music, and activities to learn about God. The camp will be for children entering Kindergarten through Grade 7 in Fall 2019. FLC members and friends are welcome! Registration forms are in the Gathering Space or available online from the church website: [www.flcstp.org](http://www.flcstp.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
			1. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Sandwich 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m. (Sanctuary)
5. <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>  8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. FLC Band Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship with Confirmation 11:40 a.m. Bonse Aba Singers Rehearsal	6.  9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Welcoming Committee	7.	8.  9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
12. <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>  8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:45 a.m. Worship Conversation 10:30 a.m. Worship with Senior Blessing	13.  9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Christian Education Committee (GAC)	14.  2:00 p.m. Green Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Altar Guild Committee Meeting	15.  9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
19. <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>  <i>Refugee Sunday</i> 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Forum: Refugee Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:40 a.m. Bonse Abe Singers Rehearsal 11:45 a.m. Youth Leadership Team 5:30 p.m. Bonse Aba Potluck 7:30 p.m. Backpack Meeting	20.  9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	21.  7:00 p.m. Council	22.  9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
26. <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>  9:00 a.m. Worship with Baptism	27.  Office Closed (Memorial Day)	28.	29.  9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

**2019**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Men's Conversation Staff Meeting Supper (Buffalo Chicken es ) Fellowship Committee Faith Formation (Gr 5-6) Confirmation (Gr 7-8) Rehearsal (Gr 9) Holden Worship (Senior Night )	2.  10:00 a.m. Visitation 11:00 a.m. Funeral for Doreen Pehrson	3.	4.  9:30 a.m. Visitation 11:00 a.m. Funeral for Marolyn Kleinert
Men's Conversation Worship and Arts Committee Handbell Rehearsal	9.  8:00 a.m. Finance 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	10.	11. 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleaning
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Meeting Handbell Rehearsal	16.	17.  5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	18.  9:00 a.m. Mission Quilters 4:00 p.m. Wedding
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Meeting	23.	24.	25. 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilters
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Meeting	30.	31.	

# **Youth Leadership Team**

## **High School Senior Blessing – Sunday, May 12**

We will be honoring our high school graduates and their families with a special senior blessing and presentation of prayer shawls on Sunday, May 12 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us in celebrating with them during the Fellowship Hour at 9:30 a.m. with cake and a slideshow!

## **Looking ahead to Summer!**

Valleyfair: We are tentatively planning a day at Valleyfair on Friday, June 7. We would leave First Lutheran Church at 9:00 and be back by 5:00 p.m. Cost would be \$35 per person or \$5 if you have a season pass to Valley Fair. Please sign up on this google form and look for sign up coming soon! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/2IXWxAa>

Night at the Moon Dogs: The Youth Leadership Team is looking into a Family Night at the Mankato Moon Dogs baseball game. Everyone is invited to join us. A date will be confirmed soon.

## **May Service List**

***Coordinator: Betty Thompson***

Jan Afdahl	Helen Getskow	Owen & Jan Sammelson
Chelsea Alger	Shari Hantelman	Monique Sebring
Jared & Amanda Anderberg	Stephen & Arlene Hilding	Jessica Stadick
Sharon Anderson	Robert & Sara Hughes	Adam & Jill Stensrud
Bruce & Megan Berglund	Harvey & Gloria Kane	Leighton & Donna
Tom & Patty Bittner	Barb Larson Taylor	Swenson
Amy & Terry Blaschko	Karen Leighton	Ken & Kristi Westphal
James Brostrom	Wesley & Brittany Orde	Warren & Lynn Wunderlich
Judy Chaffee	Stefan & Amy Ronnkvist	
	Jason & Kimberly	
	Salisbury	

# Green Committee

Thank you, members of First Lutheran Church, for supporting Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light!

The MNIPL 2018 Annual Report has just arrived. A copy is available for you to read, on the coffee table in our church library. You will find First Lutheran, St. Peter, listed as a Sustaining Congregation on page 11. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.



To refresh your memory, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light is an interfaith community co-creating a just and sustainable world. Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and others are participating together to build our cooperative climate movement.

## Here is a taste of recent activities:

Envisioning 100% access to renewable energy. This includes our own Solar Spectacular, held at First Lutheran on April 1, 2019. Thanks to all who participated.

Fourth annual Unity Iftar Block Party during Ramadan, concluding with a meal at Gandhi Mahal Restaurant in Minneapolis. Theme was women's empowerment.

Ninth annual "All in the Circle" creative arts and nature camp. You may recall that this was introduced to us in a First Forum presentation in 2018.

MNIPL is active locally through the River Prairie Regional Network, which includes members from First Lutheran, Trinity, Union Presbyterian and Church of the Holy Communion. If you'd like to join, talk with Kathryn Christenson, Jim Dontje, Susan Jackson or Barbara Wilkinson. Next River Prairie meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. **You are welcome to attend!**

## **2019 Congregational Council**

President: Shanon Nowell

Past President: Paul Haukoos

Vice President: Dave Ribar

Treasurer: Ken Westphal

Secretary: Cheryl Kautt

Other Members:

Josh Drinkall, Tyler Erickson, Mary Gaebler

Gordon Long, Cindy Nadeau, Mary Thompson, Carolyn Trnka

# News and Notes

## Update on Intern

We received our top pick of interns from Luther Seminary! Meet Miranda Joebgen!

*Miranda grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago and attended Valparaiso University, where she graduated in 2016 with a B.A. in Theology and Global Service. After graduation, she became a long-term volunteer at Holden Village, where she served as the Education and Program Associate. She left Holden Village in August of 2017 and moved to St. Paul, MN to begin the M Div. Program at Luther Seminary. Miranda has a partner named Jenni, who works as a Librarian for Capella University, and a 12 year-old Border Collie named Cayenne. She loves running, hiking, and exploring the many parks and trails of Minnesota. In her spare time, Miranda also loves to knit and bake (especially Sourdough Bread!). She is thrilled to have the opportunity to become a part of the community of First Lutheran, and can't wait to get started!*



Miranda will start her year-long internship sometime in August, and will be moving to town with her 40 lb. Border Collie. If anyone knows of good apartments, please let us know! We will also be forming an Internship Committee, so let us know if you're interested in being involved in this.

Thanks to your generous contributions, we have already raised \$30,999 of the \$40,000 needed to fully pay for an intern. That means we need \$9,001 to cover all the costs! There's still time to contribute. Contact Pastor Gwen or Karen to pledge your donation.

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## Ideas for Stewardship – The Culture of Giving

During my years working for Gustavus Adolphus College, I travelled to various areas of the states. That gave me an opportunity to attend Sunday church services in a variety of denominations. Stewardship and pledging were addressed in different ways.

In downtown Chicago, an all-black Lutheran Church with a white 'Gustie' Lutheran Pastor first invited all tithers to bring their offerings forward. That was quite amazing to me. At the Catholic church, the Priest might ask for a second passing of the offering baskets for a special cause. A Korean church in Los Angeles asked tithers to be the first to bring forward their gifts.

This has made me wonder about how we at First Lutheran should invite our parishioners to consider their gifting. Is it possible each year to increase one's pledge? For me, that was a good way to work towards tithing.

Thank you, Paul Aasen, for allowing me to share some of my stewardship stories.

- Bruce Gray

# News and Notes

## Refugee Sunday—May 19

One only has to listen to the news for an hour or two on most days to hear some reference to the incredible number of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the world. The number of people on the move—especially those seeking safety and security-- can be almost impossible to comprehend. And yet American Lutherans, who have deep immigrant roots, seem almost obligated to at least attempt to understand the issues at play and to wrestle with some of the implications. To that end, Sunday, May 19. has been designated *Refuge Sunday* at First Lutheran. Come with open hearts and minds and, in addition to attending worship, plan to attend the forum at 9:30. We have invited as our speaker Affey Sigat, a Somali support specialist in the St. Peter public schools. This promises to be an opportunity to learn about some of the joys and challenges experienced by our new neighbors.

## From the Fellowship Committee:

We want to thank everyone who made our Easter Breakfast a success. There was a nice turnout on a beautiful Easter morning. We are planning to continue Fellowship through the summer and would like to give members the opportunity to take part. You may want to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary with your First Lutheran family, or you may want to just furnish treats. If interested, please contact Betty Thompson at phone: 934-3164 email: [bettythompson@hickorytech.net](mailto:bettythompson@hickorytech.net)

## Members Offer Letters to end Hunger in our time

During the Lenten Supper March 27<sup>th</sup>, attendees wrote letters to their US Congressional Representatives asking them to support legislation and increased funding to accelerate progress on global malnutrition. This effort is orchestrated by **Bread for the World's** annual "Offering of Letters" campaign.

Write a letter to your representative in congress. Representing our area are:

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D) and Senator Tina Smith (D)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Jim Hagedorn (R – MN's 1st district)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

For more information and sample letters contact **Bread for the World** at <http://www.bread.org/2019-offering-letters>

Together we can end hunger in our time!  
FYI, our Lenten Offerings to alleviate hunger was \$1,019!

### Financial Notes:

Through March 3, 2019	
Income	\$108,813
Expenses	\$120,255
Balance	(\$11,442)



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Requested



*Welcome to First Lutheran Church*

**Public Access Channel 7  
TV broadcast**

6:00 p.m. Monday  
8:00 a.m. Tuesday  
11:30 a.m. Sunday  
3:00 p.m. Sunday

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship

Starting Sunday, May 26, we will have one service at 9:00 a.m.

### Monday Morning Prayer

9:15 a.m. (Chapel)