



Interim Pastor Ted Kunze

“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King....I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert...”
Isaiah 43:15, 19

November 2017

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In an October 19th Facebook post, Bishop Jon Anderson of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod shared an article which had been written by Bill Wilson, the Director of the Center for Healthy Churches. The title of the article asked a provocative question, “Does Your Faith Community Live Out of Memory or Imagination?”

Wilson acknowledged that both memory and imagination are important.

Memories of God’s saving acts throughout history are at the heart of the Bible’s witness. Our memories of our ancestors and the history of this community and this congregation give us a sense of rootedness and appreciation.

Imagination, however, helps us to face the future by asking, “Where might God be leading us?” What creative solutions can we come up with for the issues that we face? Are there better or more faithful ways of doing what we are already doing?

Throughout the Bible, God led his people forward. He called Abraham to leave his home and family and go to a land that God would show him. God sent Moses to lead God’s people out of slavery and to the freedom of the Promised Land. When the people of Israel were in exile in Babylon and despaired about their future, God sent Isaiah with the good news of the “new thing” that God was planning (see above). And, when the faith of God’s people had become overly steeped in ritual and tradition, God did a new thing as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us in Jesus. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was surely a new thing, and gave us the promise of newness of life. The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost opened the floodgates to all kinds of newness, and the Bible ends with the promise of a new creation in the book of Revelation.

“However,” Wilson stated, “the default position of the vast majority of congregations and parishes is to lean most heavily upon the familiar, the known, the former. Our imaginations grow weak from lack of use as we loop repeatedly back to what is comfortable and predictable.” He warns, “If your church constantly allows your memories to overrule your imaginations, you will die. It really is that simple. Inviting God’s creative Spirit to invade and inhabit our minds and hearts is the first step toward vibrancy and sustainability. Walking by faith and not by sight has always been our challenge.”

Wilson’s question is good for us to think about during this transition time, “What drives our actions—our memories or our imagination?” This would be a good time to allow our imaginations to ponder new ways that God is leading us to build upon the foundation of the past.



--Pastor Ted Kunze

pastorflcstp@gmail.com

Green Committee



Notes from the Greens, November 2017

As November arrives we again remind ourselves of the gifts God has given us to both care for and use. The First Lutheran Food Shelf Garden has been put to “bed” for the season as we prepare it and our own yards and gardens for the coming winter of rest for the soil. This year has been a wonderful year of tomatoes, beans, carrots, peppers, turnips and lettuce that through the work of FLC volunteers has been watered, harvested and taken to the St Peter Area Food Shelf. Thank you all for making this possible. Jim Dontje has said it best in a poem he wrote after putting the garden to rest. With his kind permission I am including it here,

GLEANNING

Andi is doing squash triage at the farm,
Sorting out the ones touched too hard
By the first frosts, at risk for early spoilage,
But available, if you want them, to eat now

I am cleaning up the church garden,
Taking down the bean trellises
Snatching a few late pods as I work,
And rescuing a turnip or two for supper.

Ragged strings of geese straggle overhead,
Chased from the newly harvested fields,
Toward the river by the gathering dusk,
Leaving fallen grain behind for tomorrow.

And the maple trees are luminous,
Vibrant yellow, event the fallen leaves
Seeming to glow from within, light gathered,
Somehow, from the last bits of the setting sun.

James Dontje

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving !

Community

GIVE THANKS

We join with our Saint Peter community neighbors in thanking and praising God for his blessings with a Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 7:00 PM Wednesday, November 22 at Union Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 3rd and Locust Street in Saint Peter. Our Interim Pastor, Pastor Ted Kunze, will give the sermon at this ecumenical service. The offering received that night will go towards work that the Saint Peter Ministerium does to help others in this community. If you will already have family in town for the holiday, bring your Thanksgiving company with you as we worship God together!

YOU ARE THERE!

This year has brought one disaster upon another to many people in the world—particularly earthquakes, hurricanes, and devastating fires. As a part of the Lutheran Church, you are in all of these places bringing help and hope long after the TV cameras have moved on. Lutheran Disaster Response works through local Church agencies. As extensions of our Church's ministry, overhead costs are already covered so that they can promise that **100%** of your donations to Lutheran Disaster Response will go directly to help people in need. Information about how Lutheran Disaster Response is helping people affected by the California wildfires is available on the tables in the narthex about how you can make a donation to their work there or "as needed" in responding in Christ's name to those who are suffering.

HOLY LAND STUDY TOUR

Dr. Darrell Jodock and the Rev. Grady St. Dennis of Gustavus are putting together a study tour of the Holy Land for October 12-25, 2018. It is being hosted by the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies. You will not only see key sites from the Bible but also learn about them. The cost out of Minneapolis is listed as \$4,976 per person. More details are available from a brochure available on the church bulletin board, or by contacting either Dr. Jodock or Rev. Grady St. Dennis.

HAVE A HEART FOR MISSION?

You maybe know that our Minnesota Valley Conference has a "Companion" relationship with the Vryheid Circuit of the Southeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa. (The clothing drive is a part of that partnership!) Pastor Ted is seeking someone to represent our congregation on our Conference's Companion Synod committee. They meet four times per year, from 6 to 8 PM on the third Thursday of a month at different congregations in our Conference. We'd like someone willing to attend these meetings, keep our congregation informed about what we are doing with our "companions" in South Africa, and serve as an advocate for our participation in this ministry. If you have a heart for global mission and think this is something that you would be willing to do, please contact Pastor Ted or Dawn Kienlen on the Social Ministry Committee.

Building Fund

The Building Fund...from Stem to Stern

The Building Renovation Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Activity 2009 to 2016			
Chapel Fund - Transfer in	\$ 50,843	\$ 40,327	
Receipts / Donations	1,807,811		
Lloyd Elton Bequest	20,000		
Construction Costs Paid		696,356	
Interest Expense during Construction		64,560	
Interest Expense on Mortgage		455,580	
Principal paid on Mortgage		510,028	
Total from 2009 to 2016 Balance 12-31-16	1,878,654	1,766,851	111,803
Activity in 2017			
Receipts / Donations	\$ 82,959		
Interest Expense - Mortgage		\$ 57,500	
Principal paid on Mortgage		46,452	
Construction/Refinance Costs Paid		13,146	
Total for 2017 / Balance 10-10-17	82,959	117,098	\$ 77,664

Mortgage Summary (Monthly Payment is \$12,730)

Original Mortgage on 3-12-12		\$ 2,180,215
Principal Paid 2012 / Balance 12-31-12	\$ 73,505	2,106,710
Principal Paid 2013 / Balance 12-31-13	155,037	1,951,673
Principal Paid 2014/Balance 12-31-14	86,482	\$ 1,865,191
Principal Paid 2015/Balance 12-31-15	108,048	\$ 1,757,143
Principal Paid 2016/Balance 12/31/16	86,956	\$ 1,670,187
Principal Paid 2017/Balance 10/10/17	46,452	\$ 1,623,735

Building Improvements Summary

Costs Paid by Chapel Fund	\$ 40,327
Costs Paid 2009 to 2016	722,298
Interest Expense during Construction	38,618
Costs Paid by the Mortgage	2,180,215
Costs Paid in 2017	13,146
Total Building Improvements Cost 10-10-17	\$ 2,994,604

(Additional principal payments to date--\$240,000)

Stewardship Committee

I sat down to wrap up our FLC's Stewardship Campaign for 2018 this past week. When I was sorting my past folders, I reread that marvelous 8-1/2 by 11" stewardship booklet, Faith Alive: Called to Discipleship. It was our theme for the period of 2017 – 2019 as we reduce our building debt. Here First Lutheran members shared their reflections on Faith Practices. It was comforting and inspiring to reflect on their memories and stories that motivate them.

Let me quote from several faith practices that they contributed. Dawn Kienlen wrote about the faith practice of Serving. "God has a ministry for each of us in his church and a mission for us to serve in this world. Within our perceived crazy lives, we often shy away from one more project or one more duty, but God has called us to minister to others." She continues, "We all have a way to serve. Whether we offer support, donate, or give of our time. . . . We are not expected to change the world, but we may change a small part of it, even if for a moment. God put us on Earth to contribute, to minister his will, to serve others. We are not here to just consume resources, but we are here to add to life, not to just take. Take the time to give back. Step up! Tell God, here I am! Send me! Jump out of your comfort zone. Gain a new perspective. Remember we are all talented. We are valuable!

Nancy Altmann shared that a person whom she has always admired and looked up to is her grandma. "When I think of her, I see that there is still so much to give back to others. She reminds me that wherever I am, whatever state I am in, God has not given up on me and I am still called to give back what I can. Still called to use the gifts that have brought so much joy to me through the years. Still called to speak the Word of God to those who haven't heard it in a long time or at all. What will those gifts be that I will be called to use, I don't know. May God continue to show me how to use my gifts."

Encourage was the faith practice chosen by JoNes Van Hecke. "We are an impatient people. For too many of us, we want what we want and we want it now. We have cell phones, I-pads, Twitter and Facebook. Our world fills our ears with noise. Our every waking minute is so full that we can hardly hear ourselves much less each other. For me horses are one of the few things in my life that force to be quiet and calm and patient. You can't be loud and unsettled if you want to really connect with most horses. They preferred me when I am focused, centered, at peace. What a gift these horses have been in my life. I can't be around a horse without working a little harder to connect with the words of Isaiah, 'In quietness and trust is your strength.' And I try to remember to bring a little of that to the humans in my life as well."

And finally, Gordon Long's contribution regarding Worship! "I belong to this church . It's where I meet Christ, who, in those seen and unseen, enriches my life. If I didn't support it, would I be richer? No, I'd surely be poorer. Open our eyes too, Lord, to see your resurrected presence in this, our church. Amen."

Thank you to all of you who have refreshed your pledges and gifts for 2018's operation at our church, our community and the world!

Mary Ann Scharf,

Member of the Stewardship Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
			1 7:00 a.m. M 8:30 a.m. S 5:30 p.m. S 6:15 p.m. C 7:15 p.m. V 7:45 p.m. F 7:45 p.m. Y
5 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> All Saints Sunday 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	6 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m. Adult Study	7 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee	8 7:00 a.m. M 8:30 a.m. S 5:30 p.m. S 6:15 p.m. C 7:15 p.m. V 7:45 p.m. Y
12 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Baptism 11:15 a.m. YLT	13 7:00 a.m. Executive Committee 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m. Adult Study 11:30 a.m. Christian Education 6:00 p.m. Welcoming	14 1:00 p.m. Green Committee 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 6:30 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Altar Guild	15 7:00 a.m. M 8:30 a.m. S 5:15 p.m. W 5:15 p.m. S 6:15 p.m. C 7:15 p.m. V 7:45 p.m. Y
19 24th Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Jr. High Youth Gathering Group Returns	20 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m. Adult Study	21 7:00 p.m. Council	22 7:00 a.m. M 8:30 a.m. S NO Supper 7:00 p.m. E (Union Pre
26 Christ the King 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Baptism	27 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m. Adult Study	28 9:00 a.m.. Mission Quilters	29 7:00 a.m. M 8:30 a.m. S 5:30 p.m. S 6:15 p.m. C 7:15 p.m. V 7:45 p.m. Y

er 2017			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Lupper Confirmation Worship Handbells Youth Group	2 2:00 p.m. Text Study	3	4
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Lupper Confirmation Worship Youth Group	9 8:00 a.m. Finance Committee 9:00 a.m. Stewardship Committee 2:00 p.m. Text Study	10	11 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleaning
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Worship & Arts Lupper Confirmation Worship Youth Group	16 8:00 a.m. Finance Committee 10:00 a.m. Funds Management 2:00 p.m. Text Study	17	18 Jr. High Youth Gathering in Willmar
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff r, Confirmation or Youth Group Ecumenical Worship (sbyterian)	23 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED- NO ACTIVITIES	24 OFFICE CLOSED- NO ACTIVITIES	25
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Lupper Confirmation Worship Youth Group	30 2:00 p.m. Text Study		

Transition Team/News & Notes

A brief update on the transition process. The Transition Team is being finalized and will begin their work in November. When all the members have been confirmed and a timeline has been approved, we will share this with the congregation. The group will start by reviewing a proposed timeline to have a new pastor in place next August. The group will also review previous congregational surveys and studies from the last ten years. In addition, Larry Streng from the Synod Office will meet with the group in November to share options and best practices for the congregational self-study process. Sunday, November 19 will be the first opportunity to join in a conversation about the future of FLC. Members of the Christian Education Committee invite people to join in a conversation about our children, youth, and family programming and the Transition Team will present at First Forum to start gathering input on ways FLC can be a place to foster growth in our member's faith and do God's work in our community and the world.

Thank you for the continued prayers for and support of FLC. If you have thoughts, please talk with the Council on Duty member any Sunday.

Sincerely,

Barb Larson Taylor
Congregational Council President

Live Nativity Saturday December 9, 2017—5-9:00 p.m.

For those of you who may remember, back in the 90's First Lutheran Church presented to the community a Live Nativity during a weekend in December. There were lambs and shepherds, blonde angels, wise men and wooden camels, Mary, Joseph and even a donkey! People came from miles around to drive through our church parking lot to experience the story of the Nativity of our Lord live. Some of us think it is time to bring that ministry back.

On Saturday, December 9 we will host the FLC Live Nativity and we need your help! We are looking for actors, seamstresses, behind the scene hosts, traffic controllers and more. The 2 sets of actors will be sent out to depict their character for 20 minutes and then come back inside to warm up. Therefore, we are looking for folks 16+ years and who can handle the elements. We also need help getting the costumes ready – some have survived the years sitting in the shed and some have not. The night of the event, we will also need volunteers who can help dress the actors, serve refreshments and do childcare. So, if you are interested in signing up to be a part of this special ministry or have questions, please contact Amy Pehrson (apehrson@gustavus.edu or 507-340-4073) or Kim Neubauer (newnews@hickorytech.net or 507-381-6452).

Upcoming Events at FLC



November 5th

We will remember and give thanks for all our faithful departed who have died in the past year.

*Please bring a photo, artwork or artifact depicting a loved one or saints of the church to add to our Remembering Tables in the Gathering Space on All Saints Sunday.
Let's celebrate the lives of all of our saints.*

Red Cross Blood Drive at FLC



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

December 7, 2017 Noon-6:00 p.m.
to schedule your appointment visit:

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp>

FLC Devotionals

FLC will not be creating our own Advent Devotional this year but we want you to consider being a part of an FLC Lenten Devotional. Ash Wednesday is February 14th. If you are interested in contributing a devotion, please let Pastor Ted or Michelle Lemyre know and we will get you more information.

Christian Education

Christian Education Happenings

Sunday School

9:30-10:15 a.m. Sundays

Music Opening each week - we will be preparing for "From Heaven Above" our 2017 Children's Christmas program which will be December 17th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Along with preparing for the Christmas Program we will look at Bible Stories from the **New Testament**.

Intro to the Bible Class for 3rd Graders and Parents - November 5, January 7 & February 4. Pastor Ted will lead a 3 part series on the Bible during the Sunday School time in the Youth Room.

November 19th - Conversations with families - we invite you to join the Christian Education Committee in conversation about FLC, where we are, where we can be and be a part of the congregational self-study. We hope you will join us at 8:30; 9:30 or 10:30 a.m.

November First Forum Schedule

9:30-10:20 a.m. Conference Room

- November 5** All About the City of St. Peter with City Administrator Todd Prafke
- November 12** Reformation with MSU History Professor Chris Corley
- November 19** FLC Transition Team Update
- November 26** Chad Winterfeldt with a Preview/Background of 2017 Christmas in Christ Chapel
"Life Abundant: A Celebration of Christmas during the 500th year of the Reformation"

Adult Study Opportunities

Sundays 9:30 a.m. - Luther's Small Catechism; class held in the Pioneer Parlor

Mondays 9:30 a.m. - "Christian Mindfulness: The History & Practice of Meditation in Christianity" with Will Freiert continues through December 4th in the Conference Room

Wednesday Men's Conversation - 7:00 a.m. - Rundquist Room at Gustavus Adolphus College

Wednesday Evenings at FLC

5:30-6:10 p.m. Supper - RSVP by Monday each week

11/1 Chicken Quesadilla

11/8 Shredded Beef

11/15 Sub Sandwiches

11/29 Pizza

6:15 p.m. Confirmation Classes (No Class Thanksgiving Week 11/22)

7:15 p.m. Worship *Parents & Mentors are encouraged to worship with us each week*

7:45 p.m. Youth Group

Prayer Ventures

Prayer Ventures are available in the FLC website at www.flcstp.org. Paper copies are also available on the table in the narthex near the Gathering Space.

Financial Notes:

Through September 30, 2017

Income	\$ 368,510
Expenses	\$ 367,514
Balance	\$ 996



Working in the Vineyard

The 2017-18 forms are available in paper copy on the tables in the narthex. Or they can be completed online at:

<http://bit.ly/WorkingVineyard>

We thank you for your willingness to serve. Without your time and talents, it would be difficult to carry out our many ministries and programs that are of benefit to so many people.

NOVEMBER SERVICE LIST

**Coordinators: Barb Wilkinson
John & Ruth Hall**

Bill & Kristin Bensen
Chris & Erin Caven
Steve & Dawn Draeger
Justin & Amanda Draeger
Marty &Carolynn Duncan
Jim & Ann Friederichs
Mary Gaebler
Stephanie Hailperin
Dave & Darcy Helder
Al & Mary Hildebrandt
Jim & Aimee Johnson
Arnold Krueger
Peter & Vickie Kruize
Shelly Maas
Randy & Cara Olinger
Ranae Peterson
Dan & Ceceli Polzin
Charlene Sanford
Jim & Diane Stenson
John & Shirleen Sylvester
Mary Thompson
Tom & Nancy Thorkelson
Dennis & Ronda Zochert

Thank You for sharing your time and talent!

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Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we serve the community and the world

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Phone: 507-934-3060
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E-mail: mlemyre@flcstp.org

Address Service
Requested



Welcome to First Lutheran Church

Public Access Channel 7
TV broadcast
3:00 p.m. Sunday
6:00 p.m. Monday
8:00 a.m. Tuesday
11:30 a.m. Sunday

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Weekday Worship

Monday 9:15 a.m. Prayer
Wednesday 7:15 p.m. Worship