First Out Loud

God's Work. Our Hands. To Serve ALL People.

JUNE/JULY- 2025 NEWSLETTER

Siblings in Christ,

It has been a wonderful program year. Our Wednesday nights were filled with tasty food and good conversation, music and worship, education, and fellowship. I want to thank everyone who helped to make these weeks a faith-filled and fun experience. Celebrating Confirmation (May 4), first Holy Communion (May 11), and Graduate Blessing (May 18) was a fabulous way to wrap up our program year as a congregation.

This summer, July 7 – 11, we will be sending a group to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Please pray for these youth and their adult helpers that they will have a safe and memorable experience exploring God's greatest cathedral- the great outdoors.

We will be hosting Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran Church. Music Leaders from FLC will join staff from Camp Shetek to offer VBS programming at FLC from 5:30 – 7:30pm, July 27 – 30. All youth Aged 4 – Grade 6 are invited to participate. Invite a friend to join your child. The more the merrier!

We will have three outdoor worship services this summer, weather permitting. Please join us for worship on the second Sunday of the month at 10am on the West side of church by the rocks. We will pray for pleasant weather for these services on: June 8, July 13, and August 10.

With vacations, college touring, sports tournaments, time spent at the cabin, and all that fills the summer- I wish you God's blessings. Be safe. Be well. Enjoy this warm time of year. Keep coming to worship and know I continue to pray for you all each day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Culuris

As our school year nears an end, we are excited about summer and (whew!) hopefully something of a break. Amongst the family trips, summer camps, and swimming pools, this might be a time to consider volunteering at the church. I suspect that, at some point in your time here, you have probably been invited to volunteer for something. Have you been asked to join a committee or serve in some capacity? Thank you! Our church cannot be successful without our volunteers.

If you have avoided signing up for whatever reason, I encourage you to take a moment and reflect, what can I do? The answer is, a lot! And I can personally attest that, although I might grumble about having to donate my time, I always feel energized after putting my faith into action and service.

Here is a small look at what some of our FLC volunteers do: be a reader or greeter, assist with landscaping or cleanups, serve fellowship, assist with communion either during the service or behind the scenes, teach lessons on Wednesday night or help with the meals, decorate the altar, help with community events, serve on council, serve as youth council, lead camping trips, play or sing music. You and your family could participate in the Live Nativity this Christmas! The list goes on and on.

Everyone has a talent. And everyone has a little extra time. Despite family obligations and busy schedules, there is always time to play your instrument for a hymn or wash the communion wine cups. Are you interested in helping to shape how the church serves our community? Consider serving on Church Council! Your voice matters and we need some fresh ones to continue moving FLC into the future.

I hope you're able to close out the school year with gusto and that you are able to enjoy your summer. Please give volunteering some thought.
Sincerely,
Mark Roemhildt

Youth, Family and Friends happenings in June and July:

June 19 – Hike and Bike with S'mores and campfire 6:30 pm

June 22 – FLC at Habanero's game (Women's softball at MoonDogs field).

June 29 – Hymn Sing at 10 am worship – come sing your favorites!

July 4 – Come watch the parade from Deacon Brenda's and Andy's yard at Washington and Locust (Confirmation kids will be making free popcorn and lemonade) bring your chairs!

July 16 – July All family hike and bike night – trash pick up project – prizes for most trash - 6:30 pm

July 27 – July 30 – Vacation Bible School at FLC 5:30 pm – 8 pm "God's Word Comes Near" open to preK- 6th grade

Resurrection Cemetery Clean up

A big 'Thank You' to all who helped on Wednesday, April 30, with the clean-up of our cemetery: Aileen and John Bipes, Joe Frank, Chuck Netzke, Mike and Diane Stewart, Tom Thorkelson, and Dawn Wenner.

For two hours we moved brush and branches, raked grass, weed-whacked around State Hospital burial plots, and scrubbed lichen off stones. Much of this work will continue throughout the coming months. As the summer progresses, we will also water young trees and the garden, unless nature provides us with sufficient rain.

Have you taken a walk in the cemetery lately? This spring, the Redbud and Crabapple trees were glorious. Lilacs are blooming. The cedars on the West hill have reached impressive heights, thanks to watering and fencing.

Remember our Dearly Beloved as you stroll past their stones. Our church has a long history, carried out by people who now rest at Resurrection Cemetery. History is also present in the State Hospital section in the South/East corner of our cemetery.

Our committee is contemplating a new segment in the cemetery for cremation burials only. This area would give people a less expensive option for single cremation burials.

We have room on our Resurrection Cemetery Committee and invite you to join us in taking care of these sacred grounds, Please contact the office or one of our committee members. Monetary donations are greatly welcome as well. We depend on them.

So Much Gratitude!

As the stewardship committee met last week, the overwhelming theme was GRATITUDE! When I entered the church building after a winter in Arizona, I was immediately thankful for the expanded gathering space, offices that can handle our congregational needs, the spectacular sanctuary and the comforting feeling of being back in my church home!

The committee members were all in equally delighted places in their hearts, as well. We celebrated the fact that the church's mortgage is below $1 million dollars. With the original debt of nearly $3 million for the expansion and renovation of the building, we have so much for which to be THANKFUL! We have such generous members here.

The ministries of the church are in full swing and thriving! From Sunday morning worship to Wednesday with dinner, worship and learning opportunities to every day of the week when so much of God's work is accomplished by our members, we need to praise God and say THANK YOU! Our church staff is indeed a blessing! We again need to PRAISE God for bringing them all together to lead our local and worldwide ministries! We are so fortunate to have such great leadership with our rostered staff, Pastor Chris and Deacon Brenda! I would be remiss if I did not mention their families who support their work! Ryan, Karen, and Dave are the backbone of the day-to-day operations. Thanks be to God for their years of service to our congregation!!

The parking lot is full on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays! We host space for senior adult day services for our community members who could use some respite with their daily care of family members. We are active with food programs and so many assisted living facilities in town. The support of other congregations within our town boundaries makes me proud to be a member of FLC!

I guess to sum up the Stewardship Committee's recent meeting, THANKS BE TO GOD, TO STAFF MEMBERS, AND TO ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS FOR MAKING FIRST LUTHERAN THE BEST CHURCH HOME FOR US ALL!
Dawn Wenner Council Liaison to Stewardship Committee

The Kitchen

Upcoming dates for serving at "The Kitchen" are: May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th and August 25th. Sign up sheets are on the table in the foyer. Volunteers are needed from 3pm-5:30 to help prepare the meal and set up the dining room, from 5:00-6:30 to serve the meal, and from 6:00- 7:15 to help with cleanup. Serving a monthly dinner to 90-100 people is no small task and wouldn't be possible without the faithful volunteers at First Lutheran Church. Thank you to all of the volunteers who pick up donated bakery from Hy Vee and Family Fresh, prepare and serve the meal and clean up afterwards. A special thank you to the Boy Scouts for helping in February and April. It really is a fun opportunity to serve the people of St. Peter, and it is much appreciated by those who come to enjoy this weekly dinner.

If you have any questions or want more information about "The Kitchen", please call Marilyn Kochsiek at 612-695-6270.

We Have A Good Beginning

We have met 10% of our goal of collecting plastic for a bench for our congregation. The plastic continuously arrives and we are busy turning it in. That is exciting!

Besides bringing us your plastic, members could be helpful to us by presorting at home with these ideas in mind. If an item crackles or it is hard, it should not be included but if it stretches, we want it. All plastic must be clean, dry and free of residue.

These items include ice bags, wood pellet bags, salt bags and cereal box liners. Also to be included are produce, ziploc, and other reclosable bags. Case overwrap may be included as well as newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap and plastic e-commerce mailers.

Some items that cannot be accepted are frozen food bags, candy wrappers and chip bags. Net or mesh produce bags cannot be included as well as prewashed salad mix bags, hot dog or meat wrap packaging and six pack rings. Gloves, masks and protective wear is not to be included as well as lamination film, silage and hay bags, backyard ice rinks, vinyl shower curtains and table cloths. Bedding or linen packaging and shiny crinkly film like floral wrap also cannot be included.

We appreciate the diligence of our members in collecting plastic and the above ideas can guide you in what to include. By your following this guide, we have less sorting to do in
sending it off for recycling. Thank you for your efforts.

If anyone would like to join the team to assist in helping out with this project, please leave your name and number at the church office. Time involvement could be about 1 hour or so a week shared with a couple of individuals.

To remember crackly or hard, no, and stretches, yes, is the guide for including plastic for our program of obtaining an outdoor bench for our church but also in removing destructive plastic from landfills which helps us to have a cleaner environment, a goal of our Green committee which encourages this project.

KEEP DONATING PLASTICS TO THE
NEXTREK BENCH PROJECT.
COLLECTION BIN IN THE ENTRANCE

From the desk of Deacon Brenda

I've been thinking about prayer a lot these days. I have a person in my life who continues to call me from a community I served a couple of years ago. He lives in a Nursing Home and occasionally calls me up and usually asks me the same question. "Brenda, how should I pray with these people around here?" We have talked about how everyone is called to be a little Christ to each other, and since he has moved from his home into the Nursing Home, he has been re-thinking who and what his mission field is. (Earlier in his life, he went door to door to talk about Jesus so talking to people is not a problem for him.) Numerous times we have discussed how praying could be a conversation from the moment we wake up to when our head hits the pillow with no special words or litany. Or another idea on how to pray comes from author Ann LaMott using the words "Help, Thanks, Wow!"

But sometimes, in moments when we really need to hear God's voice words aren't necessary.

Perhaps we need to just sit in a chair or go outside for 5 minutes and listen? Sometimes tears can be prayers. There are no rules. It is taking a moment to talk to God - telling God what is going on inside each of us - our fears, our failings, our joys - all of it and then…listening and remembering what Jesus said to his disciples "…and remember, I am with you to the end of the age" Matthew 28: 20. For those times we need words in front of us, I have really grown to love this prayer we have been using in our Thursday communal prayer service known as the Prayer of Good Courage. Try it out when you need some words in your mouth and mind.

O God, You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+God's peace, Deacon Brenda

"God's Work, Our Hands"

Below is Union Shelter clean up on May 18. Thanks to the crew that helped! The work there isn't done so stay tuned for other opportunities.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1114 Traverse Rd.
St. Peter, MN 56082

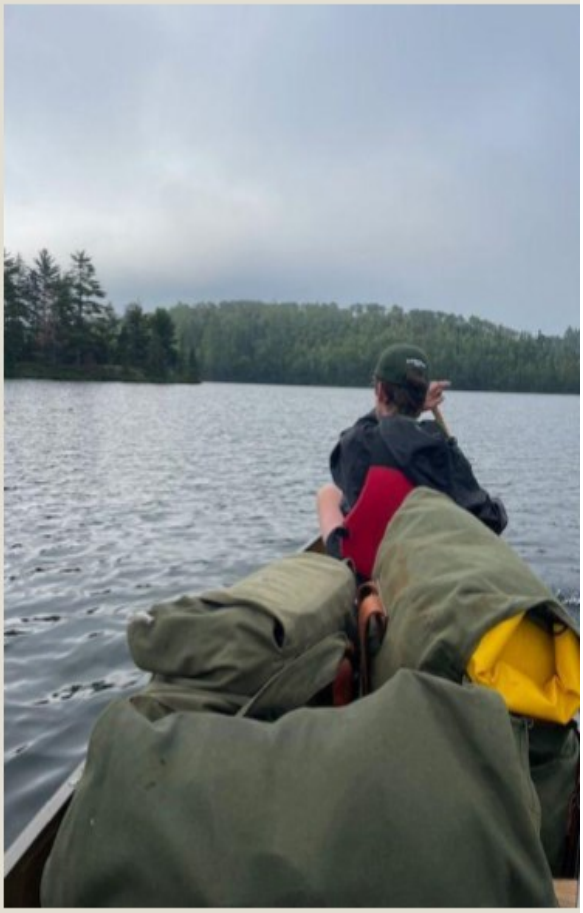
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Peter, MN 56082
Permit #3

2025 BWCA Trip

FLC Youth (grades 8-9)

July 7-11, 2025
ELY, MN; Fall Lake Entry

Can you lend any of the following camping equipment for our trip into the BWCA?

-Duluth Packs, large backpacks
-2-3 person tents

If you can help in any way, please contact me, Mark Szybnski at 507.380.9180 or at markszybnski@gmail.com