



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

*Matthew 5:16*

**First Lutheran Church**  
**June 2021**  
**Newsletter Edition 6**

## **Pastor's Message**

### ***An Evangelical Church***

As your Interim Pastor, I have learned that First Lutheran Church has so much to offer. We have beautiful and inspirational worship and music, Christian education, very active lay leadership and participation, growing youth activities, preaching of the Gospel, and a welcoming spirit. All these special attributes were affirmed in our small group discussions and in the preparation of the documents that describe our church for the call process for a new pastor.

Yet, we, like many Lutheran congregations, are not very good at telling our story. We are proud to be part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Yet, we are not as excited as we should be about being "evangelical." Instead, we should be excited that we have so much to offer to so many people who are in need of spiritual renewal in their lives. Our Lutheran theology raises high the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's amazing gifts of love, grace, forgiveness, and renewal.

Let us not be hesitant to speak our faith and to invite people to our church. And now, with the emerging of new opportunities as the Covid pandemic lessens, we can issue new invitations to friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. This summer you can invite others to join you online, via local TV, or in person for Sunday worship or you can invite them to come with you to the new Monday evening services. God is calling us to be bold as an evangelical church!

**Pastor Bill**

## **Prayer Chain Renewed!**

The Inreach/Outreach committee invites members to become part of a prayer chain. We will also offer a brief training for prayer chain volunteers. Please contact Amy Pehrson at [amyrpehrson@gmail.com](mailto:amyrpehrson@gmail.com) or by calling at 507-340-4073 if you would like to volunteer on our prayer chain team.

## **FLC's Council President Message**

Church Council Actions: At its May meeting, the Church Council received information that the constitution changes ratified at the January congregational meeting were accepted by the Synod. The Council approved the Ministry Site Profile and selected a call committee. The committee members are Isabel Avant, Aileen Bipes, Kaari Bly, Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Mark Roemhildt, and Dawn Wenner. The Council received a report from the technology task force and voted to approve the task force's recommendation to accept the bid from MetroNet to install fiber Internet in the church. MetroNet will also become our phone provider. In other action the Council approved a donation to the Synod's "Gift of Grace Campaign" in honor of retiring Bishop John Anderson, accepted the Staff Support Committee's recommendations for changes in the staff handbook, and approved the use of the parking lot by the Food Shelf for its summer food drop-offs. Finally, the Council accepted the resignation request from Bethany Valentini.

**Bill Kautt, Council President**

## **Monday Evening Summer Services**

On Monday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m., FLC will begin its new summer Monday evening worship services for our members and for the Saint Peter community. These services are designed to be helpful to those who may be out of town for summer weekends and can appeal to families and all ages! These services, with Pastor Bill preaching, will be informal, with inspirational music, celebration of the spirit, and they are Lutheran yet always ecumenical in nature. Communion will be offered when communion is held on the previous Sunday. The services will be held each Monday and will continue through August 30. Come and invite a friend!

## **Emmanuel Nine Commemoration**

"As part of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C." (from the ELCA website) First Lutheran is going to answer that call and hold a commemorative service as we continue to work toward racial justice in our country. Join us for a special service on Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

## **Stewardship Message**

With each passing day it seems like we are getting back to 'normal.' Or the 'new normal.' And so now, more than ever, we are asking for you to share your time, your talents and your gifts with FLC. As we begin to re-open in person, we need your help! Each Sunday it takes a small army to put together a worship service. Ushers are needed as are lectors, communion preparers, greeters, social hosts, technology supporters, and musicians to name a few. Please consider helping!

Dear Lord: Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action. Help us to generously share the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. Help us Lord to serve our church, our community, and our world with the gifts you have given us. Teach us how to give with a joyful spirit, with love, and with hope. Amen.

## Summertime AGO Organ Recitals

The Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents its annual Summer Noontime Organ Recitals LIVE at 12:10 pm on Tuesdays in Mankato. In June, the series begins at Grace Lutheran Church, 110 N. 4 th Street, Mankato, with performances by Thomas Andrews (6/8), Chad Winterfeldt (6/15) and David Fienen (6/22). For the last Tuesday, the series shifts to Christ the King Lutheran Church, 222 Pfau Street, Mankato, for a performance by Garrett Steinberg on 6/29. Each recital is free. Visit [www.agosiouxtrails.org](http://www.agosiouxtrails.org) for more information.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.

## Youth and Family Faith - Out Loud

### *Here's what's happening in June*

#### **Congratulations to FLC's 2021 St. Peter High School Graduates!**

Join us on Sunday, June 6th at our in-person church service for the blessing of our graduates: Madison Doose, Kody Braun, Tyler Erickson, Audrey Kennedy, Anna LoFaro, Dakota Matheson, Elizabeth Orth, Katie Peteren, Jakob Rimstad, and Owen Schaffer

#### **First Holy Communion Service: Sunday June 20th, 2021**

Join us on Sunday, June 20th to celebrate the First Holy Communion for our 2nd Graders!

### *Here's what's happening this Summer*

#### **Summer Opportunities for Sunday School**

Vacation Bible School at Trinity Lutheran: Rocky Railway - Jesus' Power Pulls Through!

- When: June 6th-10th; 5:30pm-8:00pm
- Where: Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter
- Cost: \$10 per child
- Ages: Entering Kindergarten through entering Grade 5
- Contact Trinity Lutheran Church at 507-934-4786

Shetek's Lutheran Ministries - Day Camp at First Lutheran Church: Dwell Faithfully

- When: July 26th-29th
- Where: First Lutheran Church in St. Peter
- Cost: \$25 per child
- Ages: Entering Grade 1 through entering Grade 6
- Registration link: [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)
- Use Group Code: FIRSTDAY

## **Summer Opportunities for Middle/High School**

Shetek Lutheran Ministries - Overnight Confirmation Camp: Dwell Faithfully

- When: July 7th-9th
- Where: Shetek Lutheran Ministries Site
- Cost: \$140
- Ages: Entering 7th-9th Grade
- Registration link: [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)
- Use Group Code: Firststp

Week of Mission: a week of service designed to connect our youth with their community through intentional service based on the needs of the community.

- When: July 5th-9th
- Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
- Cost: \$20 per child
- Ages: Entering Grade 7 through Entering Grade 12
- Contact Trinity Lutheran Church at 507-934-4786

Summer Service Projects for Youth and Families:

- FLC's Confirmation students planted nearly 100 trees along Church Street at the beginning of May (the east side of FLC's lot). We are looking for families to help us with tree watering this summer! Interested? Contact Calleigh at [cc.flcstp@gmail.com](mailto:cc.flcstp@gmail.com)
- Our Food Shelf Garden is looking for volunteers to assist with its care throughout the summer! Interested? I'll connect you with FLC's Green Team!
- FLC's Courtyard is in the process of being renovated! Once that is complete we will need families to assist with the general maintenance and watering of all its plants! Interested? I'll connect you with FLC's Building and Grounds Committee!

## **Leaving A Legacy at First Lutheran**

First Lutheran Church has been fortunate to have received legacy and planned gifts in the past that have assisted the church to carry out its important mission. These funds are cared for by the Funds Management Committee. Yet, to ensure that First Lutheran in the future can carry out its ministry of outreach, service, and caring support for others, our perpetual endowed resources need to be much larger.

All our members can consider how to help. What legacy do you want to leave to the next generations? Have you listed First Lutheran Church in your will? Have you considered estate gifts that can benefit your current financial picture yet be used in the future for the vital mission of your church? The Funds Management Committee is beginning to work on the creation of a "First Lutheran Legacy Society" or something similar by name, along with new materials that will help our members decide how to carry out estate plans of benefit to both the church and to their families. Stay tuned!

**The Funds Management Committee**

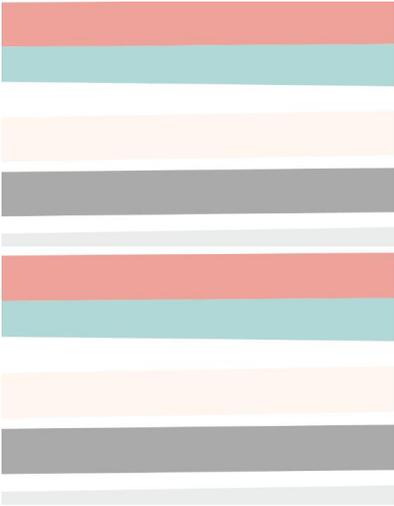
## Summer Outdoor Worship

The Worship & Arts Committee is planning three outdoor services this summer: June 20, July 18, and August 15. These three Sundays will be in-person only; the service will not be pre-recorded. However, it will be recorded live and posted to Facebook following worship. We are also planning on offering Holy Communion during these services, and if you have ceramic cups from the Communion Kits (or another small cup), you are encouraged to bring those along with you!

## Rogation Sunday

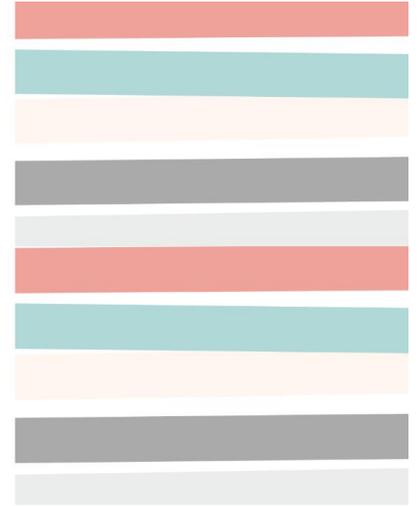
On Sunday, May 16, First Lutheran Church celebrated “Rogation Sunday.” This service reflected a long-standing Christian tradition of asking God’s blessings for the planting and fruitful outcomes of crops and garden flowers and plants. Following the service, various members did special plantings in our Bell Garden, the newly redesigned Courtyard; and the Green Team began planting in the Food Garden. See the photos that depict planting on this special day!





# NEWSLETTER

*First Lutheran Church*



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