



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
January 6, 2021
Newsletter Edition 1**

Pastor's Message: Rejoice in a New Year

We rejoice in a New Year! Often we take this change in the calendar in stride, but this January is different, as we move beyond a year that was filled with uncertainty, fear, and challenges for us all. Yet, as Christians, we always live in hope. And we are ready for better days ahead. In these months to come, we have much for which we can anticipate, including:

- Reuniting in our beautiful church building, though we will still have to have some patience until it is safe for us all to do so.
- Engaging in group discussions as outlined in the letter sent recently to all members by President Bill Kautt and me.
- Focusing of the future, as we come together to share ideas, develop plans for action, and prepare for bringing in a new long-term pastor to our special church.
- Communicating actively within our congregation to keep everyone up to date, as signified by our renewing monthly newsletters, now under the new name of "First Out Loud: Our Faith in Action."
- Communicating more actively to our community to let people know about the many great things happening at First Lutheran.
- Continuing to worship and praise our Lord and to learn and be renewed from God's scripture, made meaningful for our communal and individual lives.

Indeed, we rejoice in the New Year! Pastor Bill

Council President's Message:

Welcome to 2021! This year promises to be an important year for First Lutheran. Hopefully, we will be able to hold in-person church services sometime soon this year. Additionally, we will be calling a new full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament this fall. We will be holding additional small group Zoom meetings designed to help us develop a new strategic vision for the congregation and prepare for this call. Watch for the announcements in the Weekly Update of these meetings and please sign up for one. Your thoughts are important to the church's leadership.

Also, the congregation will be holding its constitutionally required second congregational meeting Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:00 am via Zoom. This article serves as the official notice of this meeting. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer – Pastor Bill
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 6, 2020, Meeting
5. Action Items
 - a. Election (see ballot)
 - b. Ratify Constitutional Amendments
 - c. Receive Annual Reports for 2020
 - d. 2021 Budget
6. Congregational Life Updates
 - a. Strategic Visioning
 - b. Health Advisory Team Update
7. Lord's Prayer
8. Adjournment – Next Scheduled Meeting December 5, 2021

The minutes of the December meeting, the ballot, the Constitutional Amendments, the proposed budget, and reports will be available at a later date as well as the Zoom instructions.

Bill Kautt, Council President

From the Cantor: Worship Out Loud!

January is an exciting month in the life of our church. Jesus teaches us to love God, love our neighbors, and work toward justice for all people. In this spirit, we highlight important social justice concerns in our worship as we strive to live out our calling as Christians to be loving, accepting, and welcoming of all AND to strive to make personal and communal changes so that we may better serve our world.

- This year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day falls on January 18th, and we commemorate this important day in our nation's history on Sunday, January 17th. We will hear from guest speakers Richard Green -

(a former Interim President at United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania and the first African American to graduate from ELCA Concordia College, Moorhead, MN) and Alaiyah Nelsen Tobechukwu (2020 Graduate of South Minneapolis High School; performer for Minneapolis Children's Theatre; member of St. Peder's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. They will speak to their experience of being black right here in Minnesota. How can our church continue the non-violent and anti-racist legacy and example of MLK?

- As is tradition at First Lutheran, we observe Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday again this January on Sunday the 24th. We celebrate our commitment to openly affirm the LGBTQ+ community and send a message of welcome and acceptance to those who have been persecuted by the church for who they are. Kari Lipke will be our guest preacher during worship and will be available *live* during our coffee hour for further discussion.
- Kari Lipke, Former Pastoral Intern at First Lutheran, Saint Peter, MN; graduate of Harvard School of Divinity; Pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA

We lift-up and celebrate the image of God in ALL people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical/mental ability, socioeconomic status, and anything else used as a weapon to separate us from one another and ultimately from God. May our worship and our lives reflect this each and every week!

Emily Bruflat, Cantor

Youth Faith - Out Loud with Calleigh:

Even amidst a global pandemic, our youth have been busy acting out their faith and serving their community. Here are a few of the important projects from last month, December:

- **The Advent Nativity Drive Thru Event:** On December 6th, First Lutheran Church hosted its beloved annual Advent Drive Thru. First Lutheran Church teamed up with the St. Peter Food Shelf to collect donations for the community, raising over \$500 dollars and 345 lbs in food shelf items.
- **Thank You For Your Faithfulness - Pie and Flower Delivery:** A group of our youth spent the Saturday before Christmas delivering bouquets of flowers and fresh pies to several members of First Lutheran that have impacted the church in so many great ways. Doing a contact-free drop off, our youth shared Christmas cheer with these special members of our congregation, thanking them for their faithfulness.
- **Tie Blankets:** Gathering virtually over Zoom, our youth came together to create tie-blankets! All completed blankets were donated to Partners for Affordable Housing in St. Peter. Partners is a non-profit organization that supports people experiencing homelessness in our community.
- **Do You Want To Build a Snowman?** Mask up and bring your creativity to the church for some snowman/snowwoman building! All youth, young and old, are invited to join in on the fun! Hot chocolate provided! Time and date TBD.

- **Here's what's going on in January:** High School Youth Bible Study: Join our Bible Study! Information on the book we're covering is below. Contact Calleigh for more information on how to sign up!

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.

Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

Calleigh Carlson, Youth Ministry

January 10: Celebrate Your Baptism! On Sunday, January 10, we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. It is a very important day in our church calendar, and it provides a special occasion to remember our own baptisms. We will ask each of you to find your baptism certificate (and the certificates of children and grandchildren, if you are holder of such documents). Discover the date of your own baptism and the dates of your loved ones. Baptism days are of great importance in our lives, and they should be celebrated each year, just like birthdays. During our virtual service on January 10, we will ask each of you to hold in your hand your baptism certificate, while we remember the amazing gifts that came from our Lord at the time of your baptism.

Pastor Bill

Small Group Meetings: On Dec. 29 and 30, the first two of the small group meetings were held via Zoom. Both sessions went very well with 9 to 12 in attendance at each session. Valuable feedback and advice were offered in response to the five questions listed in the pre-Christmas mailing to all members. More opportunities to join these small group discussions in January and February and to offer written responses will be announced soon.

Bill Kautt and Pastor Bill

A Message from Social Justice: January is shaping up to be a great month of speakers for Social Justice. We have lined up two speakers for Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday on January 17 and Pastor Kari Lipke will be joining us for RIC Sunday on January 24. Also save the date for a new monthly online education forum we will be piloting on Friday, January 22. More details to come in early January. If you are able, FLC will continue to provide weekly snacks for the medical staff at the St. Peter Free Health Clinic. Click [HERE](#) for details and to sign up.

A Message from Outreach & Inreach: Are you looking to become involved in our community? Outreach/Inreach Committee members are needed. The Outreach/Inreach Committee is responsible for outreach efforts within the Saint Peter area community for the purposes of showing God's love to all. We also reach out to potential new members and help integrate new members into the life of First Lutheran Church.

Committees play an important role in First Lutheran Church and are a wonderful opportunity to become an active and involved member and share your talents. If you are interested in serving, please email Shanon Nowell, Michelle Twait, or Pastor Bill for more information.

Coming Virtual Event; 2021 Simpson Forum

Re-Visioning the Role of the Christian Community in Today's Society

Change is certainly one of the great challenges of our time –in our lives and in our families, in our communities, in our world. As such, change becomes a challenge for our church as well. A challenge to reconsider the Church's role faced by our world. Through it all, our Church is called to consider how its role in our world is changing. In a series of lectures over 4 weekly Zoom meetings in January and February, the 2021 Simpson Forum will welcome 5 scholars to speak to the ever-changing role of the Church in our world.

Registration for the series is \$10 at: <https://www.trinitystpeter.org/the-simpson-forum.html> or by calling Trinity Lutheran Church at 507-934-4786. The fee is waived for any students, but registration is required to be included in the sessions. Multiple viewers are permitted at each email site.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Prayer Concerns: We are called to remember Tom Michels, Marie Benson, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Assen, Paul Baumgartner, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams and one another in prayer. We lift-up prayers of healing for all others in our personal prayers this week. We also pray for the families of Jim and Karen Wendroth, Charles Hendrickson, and Mort & Dorothy Eliason as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

Schedule and Events for the Month;

Baptism of Our Lord	January 10 th
Martin Luther King Sunday	January 17 th
Martin Luther King Day	January 18 th
Council Meeting (Monthly)	January 19 th
Reconciling in Christ Sunday	January 24 th
Epiphany 4	January 31 st
Congregation Annual Meeting #2	January 31 st

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



Newsletter

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran Church
1114 Traverse Rd.
Saint Peter, MN 56082

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

Address Service Requested
Phone: 507 934 3060
Email: flcstpoffice@gmail.com
Web: flcstp.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FLCSTP