

January 2019-The First Word



Happy New Year

I have been contemplating all my New Years resolutions. Why do I always expect to fail all of them? Does our culture set us up to believe we will fail the next diet, exercise plan, promise to spend more time with loved ones.....

What does Jesus promise us for New Years?

- + abundant life
- + forgiveness
- + eternal life
- + love
- + presence with us always
- + LIGHT
- + hope

Jesus New Years promises are real and it is forever yours. Jesus never fails us.

Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that. 1 Corinthians 1:9-12 The Message

Electing a new Bishop in 2019 What you need to know....

Now until JANUARY 30:

CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATE

Congregations will be mailed a packet by November 1 which includes

resources to use in calling the next bishop. The packet will include nomination forms. The Committee on the Election of a Bishop must receive all congregational nominations by January 30. The Committee then compiles the names and bios of each candidate to present to the Conference Assemblies.

FEBRUARY 10, 2019:

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES

Conference assemblies take place on February 10 with a snow date of February 24. During these assemblies, voters from each congregation vote on the names that were previously submitted to the Committee on the Election of a Bishop. Each conference can bring up to three names forward from their Conference Assembly gatherings.

MARCH 2019:

CANDIDATE PROFILES CREATED

A resource will be created in March highlighting the candidates whose names have been lifted up. All congregations are invited to make use of this resource and continue praying throughout the process.

MAY 12-19, 2019:

DISCERNMENT CONVERSATIONS

The candidates for bishop whose names have been raised through the congregational meetings and then conference assemblies will participate in three discernment conversations happening throughout the synod. Everyone is invited to attend these forums.

MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2019:

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Synod Assembly voters will participate in the calling of the next bishop. The process will begin with an ecclesiastical ballot which means a ballot that is blank.

First Lutheran Annual Meeting

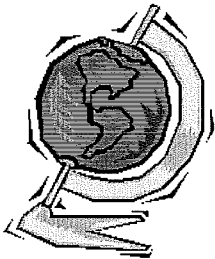
We will gather for our annual meeting following worship on Sunday, January 27th.

Cannon River Conference Meeting

February 10, 2019 at 2pm
Urland Lutheran Church
Pastor Julie and Bill Lewis will be attending
and would love for you to come along, we can even carpool. This is a significant meeting as we prepare to elect a new Bishop May 31st – May 1st.

Did you know!!!!

The globe offering for the young at heart ended the year with \$300.00. Students in grades 3 and 4 decide how we will share these gifts. Stay tuned until next month. Thank you for the global generosity of our youth.



Cannon River Conference Meeting with Clergy and Lay Staff

We are the hosts this year on January 3rd. I am excited to host and welcome a good Pastor friend to speak. Pastor Daniel Wolpert is outstanding in working with others, has a deep understanding of systems and is adept at "discerning ways forward that are life-giving." In 2001, he created a religious nonprofit, Minnesota Institute for

Contemplation and Healing. He leads spiritual retreats and teaches about spiritual practice and leadership nationally and internationally. A Presbyterian minister and a contemplative, he recently worked as a church pastor and now continues his spiritual direction and healing work in private practice and through the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing. Dan also is a trained psychologist. He has written four books, one of which, *Creating a Life with God*, has been published in five countries and three languages.

You are welcome to come hear him speak from 9:30 until 10:30.

Guatemala Intergenerational Journey June 19 - 29

Experience the people, sights, sounds and amazing work at the Community Cloud Forest Conservation. Pastor Julie will co-lead this trip with Doctor Trisha Hall and her group from many places. Find out more at an informational meeting on Sunday, December 13 at 10:15 in Pastor Julie's office.

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Programs are available for every age! Abundant options offered. Check the website for details and watch for info at Church.

<http://goodearthvillage.org/summer>

First Lutheran Church Council 8:00 PM December 19, 2018

Welcome and Call to Order: President Pat

Present: Pastor Julie, Bill Lewis, Sue Wold, Jill Berg, Don Herrlich, Wayne Spidahl, Amy Lee, Candy Herrlich.

Devotions: Pat - "Why A Manager". Emphasis on humility and accessibility.

Adopt Agenda: M/S/ Don/Jill. Approved with addition.

--Addition: First Lutheran Church Archives Committee Checking Account

Secretary's Report: M/S Bill/Sue. Approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: M/S Jill/Wayne. Approved as printed.

-- Total Checks for November: \$20,298.12

November 30-

-- Checking Acct. Balance: \$7,870.25

-- Memorial Chkg. Acct. Balance \$525.00

Motion to move approximately \$540.00 from First Lutheran Church Archives Committee Checking Account to First Lutheran Memorial account. This money remains from the 100th anniversary celebration at First Lutheran. M/S Jill/Candy. Approved

Pastor's Report: Sunday Worship Services, 5; Wednesdays Worship Services, 5; Wedding, 1; Visits (hospital, communion & other) – 25; Clergy coaching.

Weekly planning with Annette; Attend text study; Attended Nominating, Worship and Evangelism, and Internship Committee meetings; Supervision of Intern Sara Martin.

Christmas at First Lutheran:

-- December 23, 9:00 am 4th Sunday in Advent Worship

-- December 24, 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

-- December 25, 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Looking Forward:

-- Cannon River Conference Meeting at First, Jan. 3, 9 –Noon

—Doing Behavioral Interview for a pastoral candidate desiring to do redevelopment work in a congregation on the West Coast

-- Continuing Ed

Continuing and New Business Youth and Family Position Update: Pastor Julie

--Carmen Nesselth has accepted the position on a flexible part-time basis with financial reimbursement for expenses incurred.

Budget update: Don

-- Presented recommended budget for 2019. Variance from 2018, addition of \$10,000 for youth and family position; withdraw \$28,000 from 2018 budget for Kenyon Area Youth director. Total 2019 budget, \$248,583. M/S Amy/Don Approved.

Nominating Committee: Pat and Bill

--All executive positions are filled; still need to fill some committee positions.

--Committee Member Size-update to current constitution discussion: Based on the wording of our First Lutheran Church Constitution, committee size can be 4-6 members depending on number of volunteers secured M/S Jill/Candy Approved

Annual Report to church office-due January 14, 2019 and in Word Format

Committee Attention Items/Action:

Worship/Evangelism: Met on Thursday, December 4, 2018

- Friendly Visit planning will take place early 2019
- Starting in 2019, people will be notified by the church office in advance of being scheduled as worship assistants and/or serving coffee
- Next meeting, Tuesday, January 8, 2019 , 5:30 pm

FLCW: See separate FLCW report.

Property and Management: Did not meet in December.

Ongoing items:

- snow removal help lined up
- elevator repaired
- furnace repaired
- comparing insurance plans; getting estimates

Brought to the attention of the property and management committee a concern from neighbors about the "bright" outside lights shining into their homes. Will have lights adjusted.

Stewardship: Did not meet in December

- Fall festival report; \$1500 went to tuckpointing, \$650. to food shelf and \$650. To disaster relief. Catered brunch by Marlene Gustafson at a cost of \$540. Free will offering total \$720
- Next meeting, January 13, 2019 after church.

Youth Rep: Not present

Ed/Youth: Met on December 2

Discussion:

- December 16 Sunday School Program: readers, greeters, costumes, songs, advent candles, senior choir, piano, treats, etc.
- FLCW Sunday School shopping on December 9

Kenyon-Nerstrand-Wanamingo Youth: Did not meet.

Kenyon Area Intern Committee: note meeting date is after our November council meeting.

(Meeting Date: November 27, 2018)The November meeting of the KAIC met at 1st Lutheran in Kenyon. There were 7 churches represented.

- President Jim called the meeting to order and the opening devotion was led by intern Sara. She focused her devotion on Psalm 107 verse 1: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord. She said how it is easy to be thankful when things are good. She asked the members present to share one thing that we are thankful for.
- Sara presented her very detailed intern report for the past month. She has been very busy with worship services, attending meetings and groups and she is looking forward to many upcoming Christmas celebrations and events. She brought us up to date on her Internship Project with is titled Expedition Serve. All churches will be asked to help her with this endeavor. More information will be forthcoming. The will be sending out a "Save the Date" memo to all churches.
- It was decided to hold the annual Soup Cook-off on April 7 at Gol.
- Pastor Heather refreshed us all on the duties of the internship committee members. It is the responsibility of each congregation to help with fund raisers, making timely quarterly payments and to provide 2 lay members to attend meetings.
- The 40th Anniversary display will now be show at Grace.
- Bruce reported that we are secure on our finances to this point and there will be no increase in yearly dues from the congregations.
- The new Supervisor for the next incoming intern will be Pastor Heather.

Personnel Committee: Did not meet in December

Next Meeting Date: January 16th @ 8:00 pm.

Adjournment: M/S Amy/Don. Approved

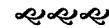
FLCW Board met on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7 PM.

Co-president Cora Lee Monroe called the meeting to order. Candy Herrlich gave devotions. Secretary's report was approved and placed on file with the addition that the flower chart for 2019 will be posted. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented and placed on file. Balance through November 30 was \$4,016.15. Balance to December 4th was \$4,561.15. Correspondence: Secretary to send thank you to David Sathrum for building the mitten Tree. Cora Lee gave a brief report on the church council meeting. Synod is requesting more funds. Youth and Family part time position has been filled by Carmen Nesselth. Tuck pointing debt is paid off. Projects being considered include air conditioning for the offices, copy machine needed, windows replaced in Ed Wing. Donation drive: Balance to date \$ 2,481.00. FLCW Booklet report: Booklet for 2019 is almost ready to be printed. Lefse Making recap: Lefse was done on Thursday and Friday mornings. Sales were down from last year. Thank Offering Service: Donations \$650. Nice service and plenty of ladies volunteered to help with the service. Sunday School Christmas shopping: Sunday, December 9. Set up on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. Quarterly Meeting: December 16 at 10:30 AM. There will be a short program and business meeting. Annual FLCW Disbursements: Annual disbursements were discussed and will be finalized at the quarterly meeting. New Business: Christmas treats will be delivered to home bound members. Staff gifts: Gifts will be purchased for Pastor Julie, Debbie, Redfield's, Intern Sarah and Carmen from the FLCW. Monday, December 17th First Lutheran choir will sing at Sunset Home at 2:30 PM. Food committee to call for treats for residents attending. Reminder to save cancelled stamps. Pastor's Conference on January 3, 2019 at First Lutheran. Brunch will be served. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Devotions: Tammy Fletcher. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ladies Clubs & Bible Study News

*Morning Circle Bible Study
First Tuesday of the month in the
Joy Room at church.
Everyone is welcome!
December 4th meet at 9:30 a.m.

January and February Bible Studies by Julie A. Kanarese are in the same magazine. Session one, Come and See: Seeking and Finding Faith; in the Gospel of John, we contemplate the mystery of God through Jesus. Session Two, By Night and By Day: Coming to Faith in Jesus; we ponder the mystery of God with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, two people seeking healing and a hungry crowd.



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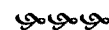
Gather Subscription Center PO Box 336
Congers, NY 10920-0336
gather@cambeywest.com



*Christian Mission

Thurs., January 10th, 1 p.m.

Thurs., January 24th, 1 p.m.



*Priscilla Club

Tues., January 8th

Cora Lee Monroe is the hostess

Tues., January 22nd

No hostess

Tues., January 29th, 1 p.m.

Jan Schmidt is the hostess

From the Intern Sara Martin

Happy New Year! 4 months down and 8 to go! These 4 months have gone by so quickly, and I seriously wouldn't trade any moment of any of them. I know I say that a lot, but it's true. I'm super thankful for each of you.

In 2015 I was in Mexicali, Mexico for a week long partnership, we happened to be there over the new year celebration, and boy was it going to be a celebration. Fireworks, carne asada tacos, piñatas, and more, since we were thanking God for another year. As we were getting ready for the fiesta, several of the girls were talking about what their new year's resolutions would be. One of the more experienced adults shared with us how it's hard for her to keep resolutions, and instead focusing on a word keeps herself grounded throughout the year. She recommended we pick a word to meditate on throughout the year, and so I picked *joy*. I had recently lost someone close to me, and I had no idea what 2016 was to bring, but boy did I meditate on that word more than ever. In 2017, I chose a word instead of resolutions and decided *experience* felt right since I was going into a year of new experiences (including winter). When 2018 was rolling around, I chose *enough* because it was something I had been struggling with. I was in the habit of comparing myself to others, and had a hard time seeing that I was enough-just as the person God created me to be.

I've decided in 2019 the word I will focus on is *whole*. It's because I have a feeling 2019 will present challenges along the way, and there will be times when I want to give up and leave pieces of me behind. There's times where it will be tempting to check my personality at the door, instead of walking in as my full self. This new year, I want to remember to show up wholly, the way God created me to be. So, I encourage you to pick a word that encapsulates what you hope to get out of this year, maybe it's *joy, peace, patience, faith, love, whole, or enough*. Whatever it is, know that you are exactly that, and were created to be exactly as you are.

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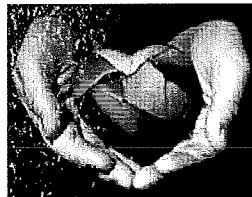
Christikon

Anyone want to go?

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ – exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together. Christikon is a camp of the church in the mountains of Montana.

Christikon is camp filled with so many opportunities to encounter the gospel, an experience of being the church together, an opportunity for growth and nurture in the faith. And all of it happens in the middle of a magnificent outdoor setting.

Talk to Pastor Julie!



**Doing Small Things
with Great Love:
A Women's Retreat**

Saturday February 2, 2019 at Holden Lutheran Church,
9am to 1pm

Who is invited: Women high school age and older from First Lutheran, Trinity and Wanamingo, Holden and Dale and their friends or family
We will have time to worship and learn together as well as activities and lunch.

Cost: \$5 for materials

Also, each participant is asked to bring an item to share for lunch, First: Dessert. Please contact Pastor Julie if you are interested in attending. Pastors Julie, Heather and Intern Pastor Sara leading.

Lyn's Line or So....
The Interview with Franklin Delano Peterson
(named after the 32nd President 1933-1945)

Born: Braham, MN at home on the farm

Family: Dad was a farmer and mom was a farmer's wife. She raised 10 children with Frank being #7. Footnote: Frank married an only child.

Baptized: Siloa Lutheran Church, Maple Ridge Township

Childhood Jobs: Helped Dad milk 25 Ayrshire cow, mowed the cemetery by hand which took a half a day and was paid 25¢.

Confirmed: Siloa Lutheran Church. In those days we memorized the whole Catechism by heart. We had a small class of a dozen.

High School: Play Basketball and Football. Go Boomers. Class President at Braham HS. There were about 50 students.

What's next? Augsburg College, Truman State, Air Force, St. Cloud State, Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul for 4 years.

Wife: Met Bev on a blind date, she worked for the Aquatennial Office in Minneapolis. We went for a boat ride on the Mississippi River.

Married: Congregational Church in South Minneapolis on a hot August day. (This is the church where Marty Haugen is now the music director)

First Home: I was a car Insurance Claims Adjuster for Southern Minnesota. We lived in Bloomington for 4 years.

Why Kenyon?: We were looking for a small town with a small law firm. I was with Ray (Marilyn) Wahlberg for 8 years. I've been a fixture on Main Street ever since.

Bev: Frank told me they only had one fight...and it lasted 57 years. Bev succumbed to cancer after a 4 year battle. She passed away in 2015. She was loved and is missed.

Kids: We have 3 kids.. Durk, a minister in Hudson, WI. Heidi a retired KW teacher and Heather a social worker for Rice County.

Grandkids: We have 7 grandkids; Anders, Karl, Mikkel, Hannah, Cole, Laura and Eric.

Great Grandkids: Annika, Elise, Oliver and Roman.

Shriners: Has been involved with them for over 50 years. All of the grandsons are Masons. Anders will be the Potentate in 2019, in charge of 1/3 of the State of Minnesota, about 14,000 members. Frank was Potentate in 2007 and Grand Marshal of the Rose Day Parade. *We are most grateful for his involvement in making it a wonderful day with all the Shriners on the small motorized vehicles in our small town parade.

Always Busy: Follows sports and high school teams, Lion's Club, American Legion, 6 years on the school board, KABA, Sons of Norway, numerous church duties and two of his favorites, Koffee Klatch and of course Franklie the Clown (his alter ego).

Travel: Highlights a trip to Israel with Durk, Tanzania with Mikkel and Europe with Bev. Austria was their favorite.

Retirement: Huh? Still working and enjoys golf, sports, music, concerts (not rock), reading biographies, history and many other subjects.

Closing Thoughts: I have been blessed with good health and a loving family. Keep engaged with people. "If you are given a certain amount of talent or privilege use it to benefit the community or the good of society." Amen!

We love Frank...and a Happy New Year!

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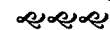
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The First Word

floffice@frontier.com
Web Site www.flckenyon.webs.com
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(507)789-5261
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First Evangelical Lutheran Staff

Pastor	Julie Rogness
Intern	Sara Martin
Secretary	Debbie Eggert
Accountant	Julie Dyr Dahl
Custodians	Dave & Betty Redfield
Keyboardists	Annette Thunhorst, Tammy Hanson
Choir Director	Carol Lozon
Bell Choir Director	Tanya Short
Missionaries	Stephen Deal, Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke Karen Anderson

Mission Statement of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Through God we are creating a vibrant, welcoming faith community, embracing all, providing harmony among generations, while lending compassion locally and globally.”

Volunteers for January -Ushers

Les Eggert, chr.
Jason Quam, chr.
Steve Boyum
Tracy Boyum
Jay Fogelson
Dean Musgjerd
Todd Angelstad
David Floren
Mike Hope
Dan Quam
Rich Ellingsberg

Altar Care

Heidi Haugen
Cora Lee Monroe
Marie Spidahl

Communion Set-up

Jan. 6: Kaia & Larry Lehman
Jan. 13: Linda Barsness
Jan. 20: Carmen Nesseth
Jan. 27: Kaia Lehman

Communion Helpers, Acolytes, Coffee Servers:

January 6:

Reader-Tammy Fletcher
Greeter-Anne Gilster
Com-Ed & Tammy Fletcher, Anne Gilster
Coffee-Ed & Tammy Fletcher
Acolyte- Mason Torgerson, Jackob Kirchmann

January 13:

Reader-Pat Schreiber
Greeters-Jerry & Jill Berg
Com.-Pat Schreiber, Tim & Ellen Sackett

Coffee-Brad & Carmen Nesseth
Acolyte-Dakota Temple, Nora Rechtzigel

January 20:

Reader-5th & 6th graders
Greeters-5th & 6th graders
Com-Don & Candy Herrlich, Cora Lee Monroe

Coffee-Don & Candy Herrlich
Acolyte-Alex Lee, Will Van Epps

January 27: Annual Meeting
Reader- Jim Fountaine
Greeters- Troy & Joy Estrem
Com.-Troy & Joy Estrem, Emmy Kruger
Coffee-Jim & Karen Fountaine
Acolyte-Emma Paulson, Josi Quam

