

the First Word

December 2019

www.flckenyon.org
floffice@frontier.com
(507) 789-5261

STAFF

Pastor — Julie Rogness
KAI Intern Pastor — Patty Bjorklund
Admin.Asst— Annette Thunhorst
Accountant — Julie Dyrdaahl
Custodians — Dave & Betty Redfield
Keyboard — Annette Thunhorst
Organ — Tammy Hanson
Youth/Family — Carmen Nesseth
Missionaries — Stephen Deal,
Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke,
Karen Anderson
Partner Cong — Ilonger Lutheran,
Tanzania



First Lutheran Church—
Kenvon MN

Advent Christmas Journey 2019

Come and worship. We experience this season of Advent through taste, touch, smell, sound and sight. I invite you during this season of waiting to be intentional about noticing all your senses. Pastor Julie



**We light the
Candles of Advent**

First Sunday of Advent, December 1st - Hope a Light
How do we taste and see that the Lord is good?

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8th - Peace a Prayer
How have you been touched by Jesus this year?

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15th - Joy a Song
What smells come to your mind as you think about Christmas?

***WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF STELLAN JOHN SUMMERS
SON OF CHRIS AND RACHAEL (MORTENSEN) SUMMERS**

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd - Love a Gift
We share the sounds of Christmas
and worship with SS Youth & Children presenting:
'THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS'

**Christmas Eve, December 24th - Jesus is born for you -
Immanuel God with us! Do you see what I see?**

**Christmas Day, December 25th - And the Word Became
Flesh and dwells with us!**

Sunday, December 29th - Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Worship at 9 am,
Advent Wednesdays at 6 pm
Christmas Eve Worship at 4 pm
Christmas Day Worship at 9 am

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."

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting, November 23rd, 2019 7:30 pm

Present: Bill Lewis, Pastor Julie Rogness, Amy Lee, Chris Mallery, Carrie Doehling, Jackie Mortensen, Troy Estrem, Don Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Tammy Fletcher, Sue Wold

Welcome and Call to Order: Bill Lewis

Devotions: Jackie Mortensen

Approval of Agenda: M/S Don/Amy, Approved

Secretary's Report: M/S Carmen/Tammy, Approved with two corrections - Jackie read devotions, Feed My Starving Children (spelling corrected)

Treasurer's Report: M/S M/S Bill,Sue, Approved. As of 10-31-19: Checking account balance \$4,469.01; Memorial account balance \$525.00. Received \$15,000.00 in donations in September and October for the parking lot repayment fund.

Pastor's Report: Worship services Sunday mornings - 4. Wednesday worship - 4. Confirmation, All Saints, Fall Festival, Thank Offering. Weekly planning with Annette. Attended Committee meetings, 15 Visits (hospital, communion, others). Funeral services: Doris Henke, Ken Skok,, Howard Ronken, (end of month) Eleanor Traurig. Pre-marital work with 2 couples. Participate in Intern Roundtable, TEEM Partnership with a seminary student - Visit. Clergy coaching, Synod Council Meeting, Fall Theological Conference November 3-5. LOOKING FORWARD: Advent, Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm, Christmas Day service 9:00 am.

Continuing Business:

Friendly Visitor program is going well. Plan to focus on providing more support to youth. 2020 Budget- Don presented the proposed 2020 budget. M/S Amy,Bill. Approved. Parking Lot - Donations coming in, \$54,000.00 remaining to repay.

New Business:

Nomination Committee Activated - Bill, Pat S., & Amy; Youth Ministry Ideas. M/S Don, Troy. Approved. Give Youth Ministry priority. Recommendation made to Personnel Committee to begin planning. Thanksgiving Service at Holden on November 26. Need to provide one pan of bars. Need to begin work on Annual Meeting and required committee reports. Christmas in Kenyon Variety Show will be held at First Lutheran on 12-07-19.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Evangelism - Did not meet

FLCW – SEE FLCW PAGE FOR COMPLETE MINUTES.

Property and Management - Committee met with HS Monument Committee. Checked roof for loose shingles. Some repair done. Will re-check roof next summer. Will deal with moisture problems in the north side of the Education wing. Have memorial funds for the planting trees on church property.

Stewardship - The Fall Potluck Brunch Gathering and Cake Auction on November 10 was successful. There was a free will offering of \$156.00 and a profit of \$808.00 from the Cake Auction. All proceeds designated for the parking lot fund

Youth and Education - Had email contact but did not meet. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on December 22 at 9:00 am. Planning a youth sledding event in 2020. Confirmation youth made 35 Homeless Bags and 27 Christmas Shoe Boxes were made. Plan a ditch cleaning event in the Spring.

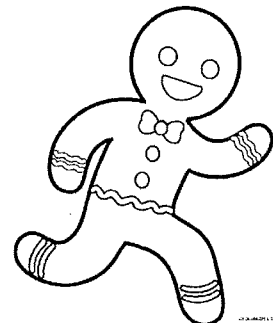
Personnel Committee - Visitation efforts are going well and focus has turned to options for adding a part-time youth activities coordinator.

Next Meeting: December 18, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Devotions: Sue Wold

Adjournment

Closing with Lord's Prayer



Meeting was called to order by Cindy Lewis. Devotions were given by Sherry. Secretary's Report was read by Cora Lee; approved and placed on file. Treasurer's Report was given by Tammy; approved and placed on file. Beginning balance on 10-31-19 was \$3,438.76, Income \$3,080 and \$150; Expenses \$626.59; Ending balance on 10-31-19 of \$6042.17. Correspondence, of requests for money and a thank you, were presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✦ Sun. School Christmas Shopping: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th in the upper rooms of the Education Wing, with wrapping in the hall. Workers are needed for Saturday Set-Up and Sunday Shopping.
- ✦ Joy Room Money of \$300 to be given to Joy's 2 sisters to be used at their discretion for new chairs or repair of the old.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✦ A Volunteer Work Group Opportunity was presented to the congregation on Sunday 11-3-19. The idea and information will be reworked and presented again at a later date.
- ✦ Lefse Making will be on Thurs & Fri, Nov 21 & 22 with Pick Up on Sunday. Price \$10 for 6 rounds. Lefse Purchase Sign Up and Work Sign Up posters to be placed around the church.
- ✦ Thank Offering Service Nov 17, planned by Annette & Pastor Julie with FLCW providing greeters, readers, communion servers and coffee servers; Thank Offering gifts going to Women of the ELCA. Marie and Sharon head up this event.
- ✦ End of Year Meeting: November 17 after worship with a brief devotion, story of The First Thanksgiving, and disbursement of funds. Karen and Heidi head up this event. Tammy will present disbursement information.
- ✦ Mitten Tree will be set up for mittens, scarves and hats which will then be taken to the KW Elementary School.
- ✦ WELCA Triennial Gathering 2020 in Phoenix Arizona July 16 - 19. Early Registration Discount is available through January 6, 2020. There are also scholarships for first time attendees.
- ✦ Kitchen Committee Request for new carafes was acknowledged and will be looked at in 2020, along with lighting under the cabinets.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 at 6:30

Devotions: tbd

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Cora Lee Monroe

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

TRIENNIAL GATHERING 2020, JULY 16-19 IN PHOENIX, ARIZ
Early Bird Registration thru Jan 6 is \$325; After that cost is \$375
Register at welca.org or email women.elca@elca.org

INTERN PASTOR PATTY

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east and sing today - Love, the Guest is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (ELW 248)

This is a favorite 20th century Advent Carol of mine. In comparison to the other common Advent carols in the hymnal, it reflects our modern day tradition— that being, “*making our house fair*” as we would if a very important guest were planning to visit us. And, the guest that this song refers to of course, is Jesus Christ, the incarnation of the Creator God, who is the incarnation of Love.

As I understand it, it is a Polish tradition to set a place at the table on Christmas Eve for the Holy Guest as a symbol of hospitality not only in anticipation of the expected arrival of the infant Jesus, but also a symbolic expression of Jesus’ earthly ministry of welcome and generosity to the poor and the marginalized should they unexpectedly knock on our door.

Year around at the Bjorklund household our table prayer is usually the familiar “*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.*” Which begs the question, “What if Jesus really did show up at our door?” Would we be ready? Would our house be in order to receive him- not only “*fair*” on the outside, but from the inside, too? Have we made room for him in our hearts?

Preparing ourselves to once again receive the wondrous news of God’s love breaking into the world to walk on this earth with us is one of the joys of the Advent season. May the season bring just such blessing to you and yours!

Peace, Joy and Love,
Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

★ Endowment Fund

DONATION ENVELOPES are now available in the Church Narthex. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be made out *In Memory of, In Honor of, or In Celebration of*. All earnings from our Endowment Fund are distributed equally to five categories: ELCA Mission, Scholarships, Community Outreach, Capital Improvements and Committee Discretion.

★ 2020 Offering Envelopes

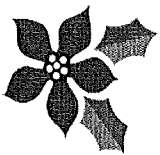
Please look for them in the Narthex beginning December 15.

★ Morning Circle Bible Study: 9:30 Tuesday, December 3

Gather Magazine Devotional: Walking Through the Wilderness of Advent with Isaiah by Vondra Drees.

★ January Sign Up Page for Worship Assistants

Is Now Available. See the Salmon Colored Clip Board to volunteer.



If you would like a plant in church for Christmas in Honor/Memory of a loved one, please purchase your own and deliver it to the church. If you would like to be listed in the Christmas bulletin please complete THIS SLIP & leave in the offering plate or bring to the church office by **December 16th – Deadline.**

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

December

2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:00 Coffee 1-3 Op.Hs-Jeanette Lerfald-95th B-Day 7:00 AA	2	3 9:30 Morn.Circ. Bible Stdy 7:00 Internship Committee	4 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. Choir	5 9:00 Cannon Rvr Conf 1:00 LOVE Day 7:00 AA	6	7 6 pm Chr In Knyn Variety Show@ First
8 Advent 2 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch Xmas Shopping 10:00 Coffee 7:00 AA	9 12:00 Liter- ary Guild 5:30 Prpty & Mngmt	10 1:00 Priscilla 7:00 EdYou	11 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. Choir	12 6:00 Sons of Norway 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	13	14
15 Advent 3 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:00 Coffee 7:00 AA	16	17 Court Services	18 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. Choir 7:30 Council	19 11:00 KAIC Rnd Tbl 1:00 LOVE Day 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	20	21
22 Advent 4 9:00 Worship w/ SS Chr Story 7:00 AA	23	24 Chr Eve 4 PM Worship	25 Chr Day 9 AM Worship	26 7:00 AA	27	28
29 Chr 1 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 7:00 AA	30 New Yr's Eve					

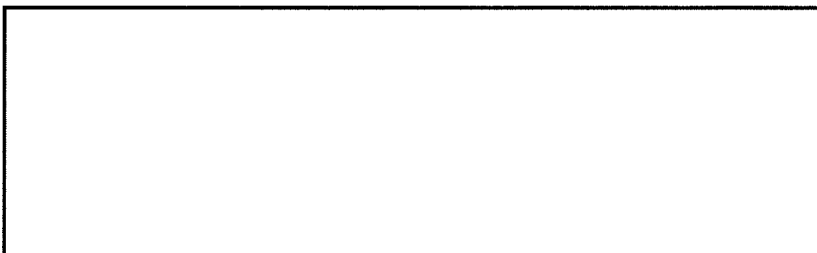
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills & everywhere!

The First Word

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 Forest Street
Kenyon, MN 55946
(507) 789-5261

Presorted
Standard
US Postage
PAID
Kenyon, MN
Permit No. 20

*Change service requested



DEC USHERS

Jerry Berg, Chr
Tim Sackett, Chr
Mike Berg
David Schreiber
Russ Foss
Mel Kirchoff
John Lang
Jeff Traxler
Ryan Ugland

ALTAR CARE

John & Debbie Maki
Linda Barsness
Marcie Gaasedelen
Carolyn Walker

COMMUNION SET-UP

12/1: Harris & Heidi
Haugen
12/8: Linda Barsness
12/15: Dan & Shari Quam
12/22: Kaia Lehman
12/24: ---
12/25: ---
12/29: Wayne & Marie Spidahl

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COFFEE, & ACOLYTES

DEC 1

GREET Jim & Karen
Fontaine
READ Jim Fontaine
COMM Jim & Karen Fontaine,

COFF Wayne & Marie Spidahl
ACOL Dakota Temple,
Norah Rechtzigel

DEC 8

GREET Josh & Wendy Lorfald
READ Rhana Olson
COMM Doug Henke, Carmen &
Brad Nesseth
COFF Don & Candy Herrlich
ACOL Ross Aldorfer,
Jamison Hoffman

DEC 15

GREET Tim & Ellen Sackett
READ Dan Rogness
COMM Dan Rogness, ---, ----
COFF Brad, Carmen & Bev Nesseth
ACOL Mason Torgeson,
Jakob Kirchmann

DEC 22

GREET Sharon Homeier,
Dave Kolsrud
READ Rhana Olson
COMM Sharon Homeier,
Carolyn & Larry Walker
COFF Jim & Karen Fontaine
ACOL Hayden Baka, Thomas Paulson

DEC 24

GREET ---
READ Carmen Nesseth
COMM Ed & Tammy Fletcher,
Carmen Nesseth
ACOL Ben Short, Will VanEpps

DEC 25

GREET Anne & Darvin Laue
READ Rhana Olson
COMM Rhana Olson, ---

DEC 29

GREET Androli Family
READ Jim Gould
COMM Androli Family
COFF Sharon & Paul Rechtzigel
ACOL Norah Rechtzigel,
Dakota Temple

Thank You, December Volunteers!