

the  
First Word  
January  
2020

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## STAFF

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



First Lutheran Church—  
Kenvon MN

BE THOU MY

*Vision*

## Vision for this New Year

*“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night waking or sleeping thy presence my light.”*

Sometimes hymns invite us to connect with the saints who have gone before. That is the case with the famous Irish hymn, "Be Thou my vision." The original poem may be dated as early as the 8th century.

As we move into this new year in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – what is your vision? Is Jesus your vision? Is it about seeing with your eyes? Is it about seeing with your heart of hearts that Jesus is the “Star” (shining bright) of your life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

I am going to practice seeing with my heart as I begin 2020. My husband’s aunt lost her eyesight in her 80’s. First it was things turned fuzzy, then dim and finally just shades of object and people from time to time. She was an accomplished pianist and harpsicord player, even teaching at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. It troubled her to lose her sight and not be able to play the beloved hymns and music.

Truth be told Aunt Verona carried all those hymns in her heart and they never left her in her 101 years of life.

I’m going to practice seeing with my heart in 2020. Mary pondered in her heart the words of the angel that a son would be born to her – a Savior, Christ the Lord. I too will join in the pondering of my heart through scripture, reading, music, prayer, worship, giving, playing and more. We welcome this new year.

Blessings! Pastor Julie

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

## 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes, December 18, 2019 @7:30 p.m.

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Bill Lewis

**Present:** Bill Lewis, Cindy Lewis, Don Herrlich, Brad Nesseth, Amy Lee, Jill Berg, Tammy Fletcher, Chris Mallery, Pastor Julie Rogness, Sue Wold.

**Devotions:** Sue Wold offered a prayer honoring the blessing of Friendship.

**Adopt Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with two additions under New Business, 1-Good Earth Village and 2-Kenyon High School Monument Committee. M/S Don/Amy, Approved with additions.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve as printed. M/S Jill/Tammy, Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve. M/S Tammy/Amy, Carried. As of November 30, 2019: Checking account balance: \$1,863.66; Memorial account balance: \$525.00.

**Pastor's Report:** Worship services Sunday morning - 4. Wednesday worship - 2. Thanksgiving Service cancelled due to weather forecast. Weekly planning with Annette. 1 Baptism - Stellan Summers. Visits - 18 (hospital, communion and other). Funerals/Memorials: Eleanor Trauig, Bob Erslund, Gordy Anderson. Pre-marital work with two couples. TEEM Partnership with a seminary student - visit. Clergy Coaching. Tree Lighting message at Veteran Memorial Park. Variety Show held at First Lutheran.

**Looking Forward to:** Family time, Christmas. Christmas Eve Worship at 4PM. Christmas Day Worship at 9 AM. Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 29th at 9 AM. NO Wednesday Night Worship New Year's Day.

**Continuing Business:** Continuing discussion on Visitation Pastor and Youth needs.

### **New Business:**

- Nominating Committee - Still seeking Stewardship, Ed Youth, possibly Worship committee members and Church Council Secretary or 2 people to share responsibilities.
- Continuing discussion on needs.
- Annual Report - Tammy Fletcher needs Committee Report for the Annual Meeting by December 23.
- Project Neighbor discussion - discontinuing to donate to this fund and creating a fund through First Lutheran for people to request assistance.
- Good Earth Village - Celebrating 50 Year Anniversary in 2020. Requesting additional support to support special funding efforts in 2020.
- KHS Monument Committee - Discussed new plan presented to Property and Management by the committee. Consideration being given to their proposal, ongoing discussions with the KHS Monument Committee.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Worship/Evangelism** - Did not meet.

**FLCW** - Did not meet.

**Property and Management** - Focus for outdoor work has shifted to snow removal of walks, steps and parking lot. New phone lines have been added to service the lift elevator exclusively, as required by law. Old, unused lines were removed from exterior Ed wing walls. All door sweeps checked and replaced, as needed. Looking into photocopy machine replacement. Current machine is 9+ years old and has become unreliable. Continuing to look into details and possible issues with Kenyon High School Monument Committee's request of placing a monument on church property.

**Stewardship** - Did not meet.

**Youth and Education** - Samaritan's Purse Operation Child - 27 boxes turned in. Kids were fitted for costumes for Christmas Program 12-22-19. Sledding event at Golf Course January 19 from 2pm to 4pm. Feed My Starving Children event 02-01-20, working on the details. Plan Intergenerational Sunday School event for Valentine's Day. Looking at a possible indoor rock climbing event in Rochester in 2020. Looking at an Intergenerational Game Day. Additional Ideas: Baking or Ice Cream Making, Movie-showing, Resurrection Gardens, Intergenerational Exploration. Tabled Topics: Nerstrand Big Woods overnight camping, Ditch Cleaning, Halloween Event.

**Personnel Committee** - Ongoing discussions regarding youth needs. Completed a performance review for Pastor Julie.

**KAIC** - Plan a March Chile Cook-off.

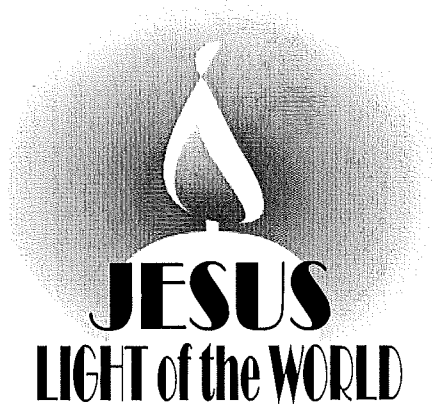
**Next Meeting Date:** January 15, 2020 @7:45 PM. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE\*\*\*

**Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 26th, 2020 @10:00 AM

**Devotions:** Jill Berg

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn. Don/Tammy, Approved

**Closing with The Lord's Prayer**



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

JOHN 8:12 NRSV

"Epiphany Season is Here! Hooray!" Such a statement you may rarely hear. But did you know that the season of Epiphany is also called the "Season of Light"? Perhaps by now you have unplugged, if not taken down your Christmas lights. Have you ever thought of maybe letting them shine into the remaining long dark nights that lay before us well into February? Not only will it give the neighbors something to talk about, perhaps it will serve to brighten their dark nights, too.

For we people of faith, we celebrate that Jesus has come to this weary world to bring light and hope. During the season of Epiphany, we follow Jesus' light as he teaches and ministers to us, showing us how to live into God's profound love for us- offering a path of forgiveness and healing, restoration to wholeness and peace in his name.

Jesus is the Light of the World! He shines it on us that we may shine on others with kindness and good works in the name of Christ. Such shining lights can change the world. May the light of Christ fill your hearts, hands and minds in the coming weeks!

Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

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## Notes from FLCW

**THANK YOU** to all the ladies and men who helped to make our Lefse Baking a success. Over a two day period we made over 60 lefse and had a few giggles along the way. Thanks to CoraLee and Lois for heading this committee.

**THANK YOU** to our members for Gift Donations to 12-8-2019 Sunday School Christmas Shopping. The children had a great time shopping and really appreciated all the awesome gifts.

**REMEMBER THE WELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING 2020**, July 16-19, Phoenix, AZ. Early Bird Registration Fee thru Jan 6 - \$325; After Jan 6 - \$375 Register at [welca.org](http://welca.org) or email [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org)

**NEXT FLCW BOARD MEETING:** January 6 at 6:30



## **WOMEN'S RETREAT – February 1, 2020 at First Lutheran Church 9am to 1pm**

As we did last year, Holden and First will join together in a women's retreat. It will be held at First Lutheran this year. Our theme from best-selling author of "*Bad Girls of the Bible*" Liz Curtis Higgs is **The Girl's Still Got It -Take a Walk with Ruth and the God who Rocked Her World.**

**Who is invited:** Women high school age and older from First Lutheran, Trinity and Wanamingo, Holden and Dale and their friends and family.

We will have time to worship and learn together as well as activities and lunch. Cost: \$5 for materials. Also, lunch will be served. First is offering a warm lunch menu. Holden and Dale desserts, Trinity and Wanamingo salads. Please contact Pastor Julie if you are interested in attending. Pastors Julie, Heather and Intern Pastor Patty leading.

### **Planning a Funeral/Memorial and Creating an Ethical Will**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, at 10:15**

Pastor Julie will lead us through best practice for leaving your life in good hands. Join her on Sunday, January 12 at 10:15 am in the fellowship hall. Learn about putting your house in order, writing an ethical will, and planning a funeral/memorial service.

### **ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY JANUARY 26, following worship**

We look back and we look forward with gratitude. Thank you to all who have served this year on council and committees.

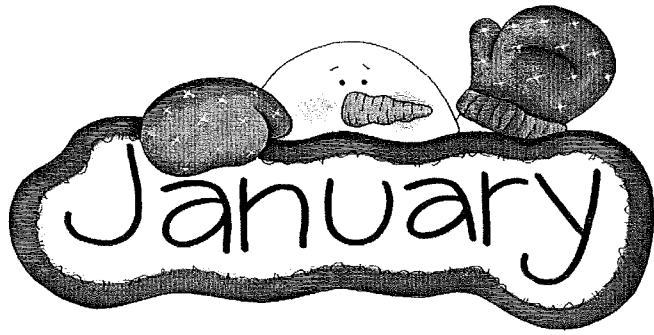
### **CHRISTIKON – GOOD EARTH VILLAGE**

**Mission Adventure – Anyone want to go?**

In the past, First has had a tradition of going to camp, women's retreat, youth gatherings, and mission trips. It is the mission to awaken and nurture faith in Christ – exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together. Traveling and learning together filled with so many opportunities to encounter the gospel, an experience of being the church together as we nurture our faith in Christ. Talk to Pastor Julie!

## **Join us for a Feed My Starving Children Event**

**GROUP NAME:** First Lutheran Church, Kenyon- Youth  
**GROUP LEADER:** Sarah Hildebrandt - Education Youth Committee  
**LOCATION:** 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121  
**DATE:** **Saturday, February 1, 2020**  
**TIME:** **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**CONTACT:** Sarah Hildebrandt at: [smhildebrandt7@gmail.com](mailto:smhildebrandt7@gmail.com)  
for Questions or to Register



2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day <i>Offices Closed No Events</i>	<b>2</b> 1:00 LOVE Day 7:00 AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:00 Coffee 7:00 AA	<b>6 Epiphany</b> 5:30 Prpty & Mngmt 6:30 FLCW Board	<b>7</b> 9:30 Morn.Cir. Bible Stdy 1:00 Priscilla	<b>8</b> 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. Choir	<b>9</b> 5:30 Stewardship 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:15 Adult Forum <i>Funeral Planning</i> 7:00 AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation NO SR.CHOIR 7:45 Council	<b>16</b> 12:00 Round Table 1:00 LOVE Day 6:30 Scouts/ DERBY RACE in fellowship hall 7:00 AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:00 Coffee 2-4 Youth sledding 7:00 AA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00 Priscilla	<b>22</b> 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. Choir	<b>23</b> 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 SSch 10:00 ANNUAL MEETING 7:00 AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 KAI Inter-Ship Comm.	<b>29</b> 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation	<b>30</b> 7:00 AA	<b>31</b>	

A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations  
but look what they can do when they stick together!

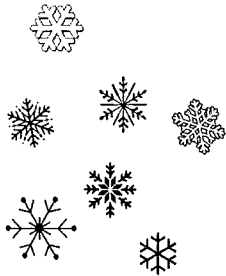


# The First Word

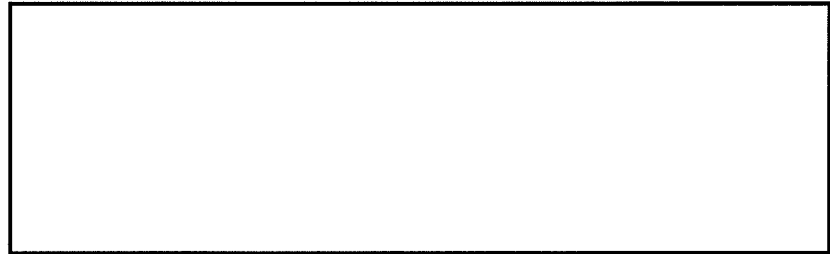
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We're all  
like snowflakes,  
unique and  
one of a kind



## JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COFFEE, & ACOLYTES

### JAN USHERS

Don Herrlich, Chr  
Steve Johnson, Chr  
Steve Alger  
Greg Canton  
Jeff Ellingson  
Dave Emerson  
Fred Barsness  
Tom Dodds  
Dennis Monroe

### ALTAR CARE Jan-Mar

Cora Lee Monroe  
Marie Spidah  
Heidi Haugen

### COMMUNION SET-UP

1/5: Kaia & Larry Lehman  
1/12: Linda Barsness  
1/19: Carmen Nesseth  
1/26: Kaia Lehman

### JAN 5

GREET John & Amy Lee Family  
READ Tanya Short  
COMM Amy Lee, Tanya & Mike Short  
COFF Paul & Sharon Rectzigel  
ACOL Jakob Kirchmann,  
Ross Aldorfer

### JAN 12

GREET Leroy & Jan Ashland  
READ ---  
COMM Barb Groth,  
Kaia & Larry Lehman  
COFF Kaia & Larry Lehman  
ACOL Mason Torgeson,  
Jamison Hoffman

### JAN 19

GREET Steve & Karen Alger  
READ Steve Alger  
COMM Steve Alger, Sharon Homeier,  
Cora Lee Monroe  
COFF Dennis & Cora Lee Monroe  
ACOL Devon Kreisler, Ben Short

### JAN 26

GREET Les & Angie Eggert  
READ Carrie Doehling  
COMM Les & Angie Eggert,  
Carrie Doehling  
COFF Mike & Margaret Lerfald  
ACOL Thomas Paulson,  
Will VanEpps



**Thank You, January Volunteers!**