

the First Word MARCH

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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—Ilonger Lutheran
Tanzania



First Lutheran Church
Kenyon Minnesota

OUR MISSION:

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

Our 2020 Lenten Journey Begins



When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?" MATT. 26:20-22

I choose to quote Henri Nouwen boldly:

"The table is the place of intimacy. Around the table we discover each other. It's the place where we pray. It's the place where we ask: "How was your day?" It's the place where we eat and drink together and say: "Come on, take some more!" It is the place of old and new stories. It is the place of smiles and tears. The table, too, is the place where distance is most painfully felt. It is the place where the children feel the tension between the parents, where brothers and sisters express their anger and jealousies, where accusations are made, and where plates and cups become instruments of violence. Around the table, we know whether there is friendship and community or hatred and division. Precisely because the table is the place of intimacy for all the members of the household, it is also the place where the absence of that intimacy is most painfully revealed."

Our Lenten story this year is again around the tables of our lower level and around the tables in your homes, work, school, friends, restaurants..... It can be a place where we feel so accepted or so much like we are wandering in the wilderness alone and sometimes both at the same time and no one knows it but God.

Around the table sometimes there is one who will betray our secret, unshared experience or a lie. It is all of us because we want to be the best, know the most and keep others from feeling successful. In reality we are often hiding in the wilderness of our own lives. Jesus invites us again in our 2020 Lenten Journey to gather at the table and let the power of conversations and walking in the wilderness claim us as God's beloved.

Pastor Julie

New Members Welcomed Sunday, February 23rd

Donna and Stephen Berge
Amy, Michael, Henry and Page Buchal
Elsa, Aaron and Mason Torgeson

Lenten Wilderness Journey 2020

Wednesdays February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1
Soup Supper at 5:30 pm
Worship at 6:15 pm
Confirmation Students & Mentors meet following worship

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, February 19, 2020 @ 7:45 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Brad Nesseth, Carmen Nesseth, Don Herrlich, Leah Berg, Carrie Doehling, Pastor Julie Rogness, Bill Lewis, Cindy Lewis and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Pastor Julie Rogness presented a short video of a special example of how God gives us second chances to be a blessing to others.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Bill/Harris, Approved

Secretary's Report: M/S Carmen/Amy, Approved

Treasurer's Report: M/S Harris/Brad, Approved

01/31/20: Checking Account Balance **\$37.22**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship Services - Sunday Mornings - 5 (1 Preacher Mark Rydberg), Wednesday Worship - 5 (JP preaching all), Funeral/Memorial Services - 4: Donna Malloy, Earl Fredrickson, Edward Klingsporn and Mike Ostgaard, Wedding - 1 off site: Alex Hein bride, Baptism - 1: Vivian Alice Samlaska, Parents Alyssa and Maurice. Weekly planning for worship with Annette. Committee Meetings - 1. Visits (hospital, home, office, communion and other) - 14. Premarital work with one couple. TEEM Partnership with a seminary student - visit. Women's Retreat - postponed until a later date. Round table with Intern. Lenten Worship planning with Intern Pastor Patty. Confirmation: Conversations about life, death and resurrection, Lord's Prayer and visit to Michaelson's Funeral Home. Cannon River Conference Meeting - Sunday, February 16. Computer, sound and tech work with various teams from church. New Member Class. Ministry shaping meetings.

LOOKING FORWARD: Ash Wednesday - February 26 Intern Pastor Patty is with us this year for Lent. Theme - Wilderness Journey. Confirmation Students - Mentors. Meeting in Chicago - on the board of the non-profit Mwangaza.

REMINDERS: Synod Assembly - May 15-16 in Rochester. Baccalaureate will be at First this year on Wednesday, May 20 at 8 pm. (*date change from May 13).

Continuing Business:

- 1) Pastor Julie and Amy attended the Cannon River Conference Assembly Meeting on February 16 at Vasa.
- 2) Further discussion regarding First's commitment to support Project Neighbor which supplements funds to those in times of hardship.
- 3) Staffing a part time minister to meet the needs of our intergenerational congregation with emphasis on our youth remains a work in progress as creating a job description and potentially collaborating with other churches are explored.

New Business:

- 1) Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services - Serving soup at 5:30 pm followed by Worship at 6:15 pm.
- 2) Council will review and update the roles of each committee in turn at regular monthly meetings.
- 3) Pastor Julie will arrange to have Emily Carson from Enough Food for All and Stewardship potentially help lead worship in April or May.
- 4) Installation of new committee members will be held March 29 during the 9:00 am worship service.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - See FLCW News.

Youth Representatives - Leah shared her recent experience in Chicago with her SMV volleyball team receiving a tournament championship while Leah earned the MVP award. Carrie announced her upcoming trip to Nashville with the KW band and choir.

Worship/Evangelism - Did not meet.

Property and Management - Adding additional handrail in the church balcony has now been completed. A special thank you to Ryan Ugland for the installation. Have met with vendor on church sound system to consider adding supplemental speaker(s) in the front of the church and continuing to adjust the existing system. Are awaiting a cost estimate for the upgrade. Are continuing a dialogue with the Kenyon School Monument Committee as they work toward their goal of

organizing and providing us a final design and proposal which when complete, will be presented to council and church membership for consideration. Snow removal continues to be a challenge this winter season. Special thanks goes out to Randy Eggert and committee members Troy Estrem and Dan Lexvold for their time and equipment needed to get the job done.

Stewardship - No report.

Youth and Education – Activities in the last month... January 19 - Sledding Activity (due to cold temps) was changed to Board Games at church from 2-4 pm. 16 students, grades PreK-6 and 8 adults. Fun, food and fellowship. January 26 - Kids' Choir sang at 9 am worship. February 1 - FMSC 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Eagan. 8 students grades K-7 and 10 adults. The combined group packed 108 boxes, 23,328 meals to feed 64 kids for a year at a cost of \$5,598.72. The meals were sent to Haiti and Dominican Republic. February 9 - Valentines Intergenerational Sunday School. 25 people ventured out and participated in the event following worship. 4 of them were students K-2. A total of 22 Valentine cards and crafts were made for the shut-ins. February-March - Stewardship has encouraged a friendly competition for the Sunday School kids to get involved in a food drive for the Food Shelf. 2020 Summer Bible Camp/ELCA 2021 Youth Gathering info has been mailed to students in grades 7-11. Lent soup suppers offer an opportunity for fundraising. Individual letters will also be mailed to each student.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - Council consented to pursue options for potential sale of the church land for building purposes.

KAIC is seeking donations of 2 cakes or pies and 1 silent auction item for their annual fundraiser on March 29 at Gol Lutheran Church at 11 am.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2020 at 7:45 pm

Devotions: Brad Nesseth

Adjournment: M/S Carmen/Don, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Sandy Doehling



Internship Fundraiser . . . SUNDAY, MARCH 29 at Gol Lutheran Church

This KAIC Annual Event will start at 11 AM with traditional soup cook-off and dessert live auction, plus a silent auction. Our church needs to donate 2 baked items for the live auction and one item for the silent auction. The silent auction item could be a gift basket, Easter basket, flowers, homemade items like jams, blanket or quilt, baby gift, etc. Please consider sharing your talents and donate an item for this event. Call Cindy or Bill Lewis 507-330-1644, 507-330-6265 with any questions or to donate an item.

Plan to attend this fun event and vote for your favorite soup and see which church wins the Golden Crockpot this year!

Stewardship Drive - Feeding Our Neighbors . . . Continues through March 31st

Stewardship Committee is asking for food donations to All Seasons Food Shelf in Kenyon. Please bring canned or non-perishable items to the narthex, or donate via your offering envelope and note Food Shelf in the memo space. Sunday School students will have their own friendly competition to see who collects the most items!

Gather Bible Study . . . TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd - 9:30 AM You Are Welcome!

From WE ARE CALLED! by Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, the March study features - *Called to Serve* -exploring the work God calls us to do in the world.

FLCW News . . .

MONDAY, MARCH 2nd - 6:30 PM. - FLCW MEETING.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6th, Worship 1:30 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AT FIRST - Host Country-Zimbabwe. After Service, Jim & Karen Fountaine will tell about their experience in Zimbabwe. Come Join Us. *"World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer & service."*

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 - PALM SUNDAY- Continental Breakfast after worship - Hosted by FLCW - Free Will Donation.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, 8 AM to Noon. CANNON RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT at First -Pastor Julie Rogness will share her experience with Global Neighbors.

KITCHEN STORIES: With enormous gratitude to the folks who have been bringing cakes/bars/desserts for our funerals, we share the following story... *A lady came to the serving window and said, "My sister and I were absolutely thrilled to be able to once again taste the three kinds of cake that our mother baked for us and farm workers when we were little. We ate chocolate cake with white sticky frosting, spice cake with brown sugar frosting and German chocolate cake. We can't thank you enough for the service, lunch, meal and those cakes."*

IMPORTANT! Please pick up your pans, containers, rolling pins, towels, dishes, etc. before Soup Suppers begin. We are running out of storage space. Reminder, label items with your name.

March Volunteers . . .



USHERS

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

ALTAR CARE Jan-Mar

Cora Lee Monroe
Marie Spidahl
Heidi Haugen

COMMUNION SET-UP

3/1 Don & Candy Herrlich
3/8 Linda Barsness
3/15 Tammy Fletcher
3/22 Harris & Heidi Haugen
3.29 Cindy Lewis

MAR 1

GREET Jim & Karen Fountaine
READ Jim Fountaine
COMM Barbara Groth,
Cora Lee Monroe
Karen Fountaine
COFF 5th & 6th Grade Class
ACOL Ross Aldorfer, Will Van Epps

MAR 8

GREET Androli Family
READ Rhana Olson
COMM Scott, Lisa & Reganne
Androli
COFF Wendy & Josh Lorfald
ACOL Thomas Paulson, Mason Torgeson

MAR 15

GREET LeRoy & Jan Ashland
READ --
COMM Don, Tammie & Jonathan
Kirchmann
COFF --
ACOL Norah Rehtzigel
Dakota Temple

MAR 22


GREET Les & Angie Eggert
READ Larry Lehman
COMM Les & Angie Eggert
Cora Lee Monroe
COFF Tammy & Ed Fletcher
ACOL Hayden Baka
Jakob Kirchmann

MAR 29

GREET Wendy & Josh Lorfald
READ --
COMM Rhana Olson,
Doug Henke
--
COFF Mike & Margaret Lorfald
ACOL Will Van Epps
Devon Kreisler

MARCH

2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Hymnal Suppl 1st Sun in Lent 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee/Forum-Food Shelf by Marilyn Schaper 10:00 Sun Sch. & 5th Grade 1st Comm.Class 7:00 AA	2 6:30 FLCW	3 9:30 Gather Bible Study	4 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship & time w/mentors 6:45 Sr.Choir	5 1:00 Love Day 7:00 AA	6 1:30 World Day of Pryr Service 5:30-8:30 Spaghetti Fundraiser-Washington DC Trip/VFW	7 Change Clocks -- SPRING AHEAD
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sun Sch. & 5th Grade 1st Comm.Class 7:00 AA	9 1:30 Literary Guild 5:00 Ppte & Mngmt	10 1:00 Priscilla 7:00 EdYou	11 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship & mentoring 6:45 Sr.Choir	12 9:00 Conference Mtg-Faribault 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	13	14
15 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sun Sch. & 5th Grade 1st Comm.Class 7:00 AA	16	17	18 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship & mentoring 6:45 Sr.Choir 7:45 Council	19 1:00 Love Day 6:00 Sons of Norway 7:00 AA	20 1st Day of Spring	21
22 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sun School 7:00 AA	23	24 1:00 Priscilla 7:00 KAIC	25 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship & mentoring 6:45 Sr.Choir	26 11:30 Round Table 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA	27	28
29 Hymnal Suppl 9:00 Worship* <i>*Council Installation</i> <i>*Kid's Sing</i> 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sun Sch. & 5th Grade 1st Comm.Class 11:00 KAIC Fndrsr at Gol Church 7:00 AA	30	31 1:00 Priscilla	<p>Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water</p> <p>John 7:38</p> 			

The First Word

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THE SEASON OF LENT HAS BEGUN. It is a season of introspection and repentance, a time to reflect on our faith. Oftentimes Lent has been compared to wandering in the Wilderness, much as Jesus did for forty days just before he launched his earthly ministry. Perhaps we find ourselves in our own wildernesses, be it suffering illness, the loss of a loved one, broken relationships, a job loss, a failing business, or just being thrown out of the mainstream of life for whatever reason, left on the side of the road to fend for ourselves.

Whether it be a trauma in your life, or you find yourself thirsting for deeper relationship with God, the good news is that we never wander alone. In fact, it is in the wilderness that God awaits us, in our most vulnerable state, when we can be most ready to hear and feel God's guidance. Think of the Israelites as they wandered the wilderness for 40 years in close companionship with God as God readied them to live into their identity as the People of God. Think of Jesus, sent into the wilderness, who stood firm against Satan, was tended by angels and protected from the wild beasts. Think of your own past wilderness wanderings. How did you find your way home? Did you call on Jesus to walk with you, this Jesus who knows what wilderness suffering is? Or did you find that you didn't call on him at all, that Jesus just showed up- maybe through a loving friend, family member, or even a kind stranger?

Lent is a time when we can embrace our stories of wilderness wandering, tell and celebrate them, testify to our journey of faith and the mysteries that unfolded because of them. May you claim them as God's deepening blessing as you journey forth. My prayers go with you.

Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

*God go before you to lead you,
God go behind you to protect you,
God go beneath you to support you,
God go beside you to befriend you.
Do not be afraid.*

*May the blessing of God the Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen. [ADAPTED FROM ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE BY ROY HOPP]

