



Sigh & Breathe ~

A couple of months ago I was with a family who were tending to the needs of a loved one's life. Mom was nervously moving around the house trying to think of everything that needed to be in place as hospice joined the family. I noticed that she was not breathing. So, when I caught her attention, I mentioned to her, "Don't forget to breathe." It has become a "thing" between us, a meaningful reminder

to breathe and that God is the author of the air that fills our lungs giving us life every second on this earth.

I have been thinking about breathing and sighing. Paul writes in Romans 8:26- 27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with **sighs** too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

I don't know about you but I find I have been forgetting to breathe sometimes lately. When I do it sounds more like a sigh - that pouring out of air I had no idea was still stuck inside of me, desiring to be released.

Breath is essential for speech, laughter, sobbing, singing and other expressions of emotion and communication. When we breathe, we live. And when you are breathing, you are praying.

The spirit of God is alive within us breathing and sighing with deep prayers of hope and life. In these days of uncertainty let the Spirit sigh with you too. Go for a walk and notice the earth breathing and sighing with God. God is for us and desires abundant life today for each of us.

Blessings! Pastor Julie

Our First Communion Students

These young people have completed their class work and are now ready for communion.

Please keep them in your prayers:

**Seth Aldorfer, Oliver Bauer,
Luke Cordes**

Our 2020 KWHS Graduates

Joy & Congratulations to First Lutheran Grads:

**Julianna Boyum, Megan Mattson,
Thomas Haasnoot, Ally Peterson,
Shelby Noah, Madison Thompson**

Prerecorded Worship: Website—flickenyon.org Facebook—**First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN**

E-Mails: Pastor: firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com Church Ofcs: floffice@frontier.com

Pastor Phone: 952-994-1201

Church Phone: 507-789-5261

Church Building

Our church building may be temporarily closed but the Church (YOU) are alive in the world. The council has decided to keep the building closed until the end of May unless there is something that would prompt us to feel it is safe to open before the end of May.

Newsletter Newness

We are trying something NEW! The newsletter will be coming to your home via your email or you can find it online at flickeyon.org website. We will mail copies to those without internet or you may contact us to request to be added to the hardcopy mailed version.

Generosity

Thank you for your continued support to the mission of what God is up to in the world through First Lutheran, Southeastern MN Synod, our Mission Partners and more. Ways to continue your support include these opportunities:

OFFERING ENVELOPES – Return though the mail.

BANK BILL PAY – Contact your personal bank to automatically transfer funds directly to First Lutheran Kenyon MN.

ON LINE GIVING – See the opportunity through VANCO on our church website at flickenyon.org

THRIVENT MEMBERS – You have the option to allocate your Thrivent Choice dollars quarterly or annually. Choice dollars earned this year must be directed to the charity of your choice on a quarterly basis. You may wish to place a reminder on your calendar to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars every three months.

MEMORIALS & SPECIAL OCCASION GIFTS – Welcomed.

ENDOWMENT FUND - Gifts to the First Lutheran Endowment Fund are permanently invested and only the interest from these investments are used to further ministry and support in various ways (i.e. camp scholarship, college scholarship, internal board or leadership needs and more.)



**“And then the whole world walked inside
and shut their doors
and said, “We will stop it all,
Everything
To protect our weaker ones.
Our sicker ones.
Our older ones.”
and nothing
nothing in the history of humankind
ever felt more like love
than this.”**

freedhearts.org

My prayers continue that you are safe and healthy and confident in the knowledge, that as you shelter-in-place that you are not only helping yourself and your family, but you are helping your neighbor. Never was there a time when carrying out Jesus’ command to “love your neighbor as yourself” been so poignant and crucial. Your loving patience is a testimony to your faith. Grace and peace to you and yours.

Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, April 15, 2020 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom

Welcome and Call to Order: Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Don Herrlich, Pastor Julie Rogness, Brad Nesseth, Carmen Nesseth, Jim Fountaine, Bill Lewis, Jackie Mortensen, Erica Aronson and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Pastor Julie Rogness on solitude and prayer.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Don/Harris, Approved

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

Treasurer's Report: M/S Jim/Amy, Approved. 03/31/20: Checking Account Balance \$5775.46, Memorial Account Balance \$525

Pastor's Report: Worship Services - Sunday Mornings - 4, Lenten Wednesday Worship - 3, Maundy Thursday - 1, Good Friday - 1. Worship planning. Working with Jim Braaten on setting up worship planning and execution. Bell Tolling and Pot Banging. Meetings with Intern Pastor Patty. Committee Meetings - Worship and Evangelism. Visits - 25. Memorials - Geneva Canton. Clergy Coaching - 2 people. Note to members - Up to the letter Q and R. Recording and designing worship for all the Sundays and Special Celebrations. Global Table - Zoom Meeting. Mwangaza Board - Zoom Meeting. Executive Board - Zoom Meeting. Web meetings about these times - Zoom Meetings - 5. Text Study - Zoom Meetings. Synod Council - Zoom Meeting. Clergy Zoom Meetings.

Looking forward: Reminder at this time the following events are canceled: Synod Assembly - May 15-16 in Rochester (Amy and Harris attending); Baccalaureate at First on Wednesday, May 20 at 8 pm; Council Installation - Sunday, March 29; Baptisms - March 29 and April 11

BUSINESS

- 1) Paycheck Protection Program loans and other ELCA work include collaborative efforts with Dennison Bank led by Don Herrlich and Julie Dyr Dahl.
- 2) Discussion and unanimous vote (M/S Harris/Don) to close the church until 5/31/2020 due to Covid-19 with pending reevaluation 5/13/2020 based on governor's recommendations and continue online services including communion. Pastor Julie is seeking interested parties to assist with reading scripture, providing special music and encouraging Sunday School student involvement.
- 3) Proposed communication efforts to reach all members with the latest news via the newsletter sent electronically for cost effective measures or postal mail to those without Internet access. Church website updates will highlight upcoming events and committee information making pages more relevant.
- 4) Online giving is made possible by Vanco via the church website. Other options include offering envelopes mailed to the church and Pastor Julie has offered to pick up any contributions at your home. Council also discussed addressing the roles of the stewardship committee and ways to maintain and grow membership connection and involvement.
- 5) Wetzel Construction of Owatonna has approached property and management members Brad and Troy Estrem about utilizing the unpaved portion of the parking lot to park their equipment during their construction project on Red Wing Avenue. Signage will be provided and there will be no thru traffic from the south end of the lot.
- 6) Funerals in Minnesota will not take place during the pandemic except in a gathering of 10 or less. Recorded burials are accepted. Please keep our funeral home directors in your prayers.
- 7) Jim Braaten shall be recognized for his tech support and services perhaps gifting him with needed equipment and offering him a possible position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLCW - Did not meet.

Youth Representatives - No current activity.

Worship/Evangelism - Discussed Holy Week and Easter activities at last meeting. Next meeting May 5 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Property and Management - Did not meet, however, please reach out with any questions or concerns. Special thanks to Brad for painting the south wall in the fellowship hall.

Stewardship - Did not meet. All missionary activities on hold. Pending event ideas include planting trees and hosting a tea.

Youth and Education - Did not meet. All activities postponed. Next meeting via Zoom to present scholarship opportunities and consider creative ways to engage kids. Please keep them in your prayers and acknowledge them with some fun mail.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - Former intern Sara is contemplating pastoral calls. Intern Patty wishes to participate in any capacity. KAIC will discuss alternative fundraising efforts as the cake auction in March was cancelled.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm; **Devotions:** Carmen Nesseth; **Adjournment:** M/S Don/Jim, Approved
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Forest Street
Kenyon, MN 55946



GARDENING IS
CHEAPER
THAN
THERAPY
AND YOU
GET ...



Raised Garden Beds

Are available in the East part of our church parking lot through the Kenyon Community Garden for \$10 per growing season. If you are interested or need more information: contact Heidi Haugen at 507-649-0517 or mrsheidihaugen@gmail.com