



Challenges We Face

Child of the Congregation **Scot Johnson** reached out to the families of the School he is the Principle of in Mankato, MN – Jefferson Elementary. Here are some of Scot's thoughts and resources shared.

"When I consider the challenges we face as a community, state, and country related to racial equity and social justice, I can't help but think of our Jefferson Elementary family. We strive to create a space where all families feel welcome, differences are embraced and seen as strengths, and healthy relationships between staff, students, and families create a culture of collaboration, creative thinking, and high expectations for all. While we strive for these things, we also know we sometimes fall short. We don't have all the answers to challenging questions around the different experiences some students and families have in our school. However, just because we don't have all the answers, that doesn't mean we should stop asking ourselves tough questions.

I want all our families to know that the Jefferson staff is committed to making changes that break down barriers for students and families who maybe haven't always felt welcome, or haven't always felt like they are treated fairly, or believe their children don't have the same opportunities for academic success. This is REALLY important work to our staff. Like most important work, there isn't a quick fix, simple solution. It starts with learning. Learning about yourself, your lived experiences, and biases you have that impact the way you interact with others. Learning about others, their lived experiences, and how your biases impact them. And finally, learning about how this all impacts the work we do every day.

Many of our Jefferson staff members participated in a year-long book study using [Everyday AntiRacism: Getting Real About Race in School](#). And this summer our Jefferson Leadership Team is facilitating multiple staff book studies focused on the impact of race in schools.

What can we do? *It might start with learning for many families, too. Pick up a book or read articles related to the impact of race in our everyday lives, or explore some of the resources linked here:*

[Anti-Racism Resources](#)

Have tough conversations with your friends and neighbors. Have conversations with people who don't look like you, or who have vastly different lived experiences than you. Have uncomfortable conversations with me. But, if it's important to you, do something. Because doing nothing is a choice.

Finally, now more than ever, it is important to have conversations with your children about the world around them. Staying silent does not equip our children to be independent thinkers who are empowered to change the world. Linked below are a few resources for families interested in engaging their children in tough conversations".

[Tips For Talking With Children About Race](#)

[How to Talk to Kids About Race: Books and Resources That Can Help](#)

[How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism](#)

Scot Johnson - Principal, Jefferson Elementary School

Pastor Julie desires to keep the conversation going in these challenging times.

Consider reading ***“White Fragility”*** by Robin DiAngelo and be part of an ongoing discussion with your family and your church family.

I always think and hope I am not racist, but my daughter-in-law is helping me understand that even as I am the mom and grandma of Haitian and African American children, I have learned to judge. I am working to be in conversations that create an open heart within me.

Here is another resource that might be helpful – [Why I’m not racist” is only half the story](#), short (6:11) video from Bing Think Science.

My hope is to have conversations in person rather than on Zoom. I know the book, “White Fragility” is hard to get right now, it is available on Amazon Kindle and more copies are being printed.

When will First Lutheran Church open and what can we expect?

Council has voted to reopen the church building for worship on **Sunday, July 19th at 9:00 am**.
Worship will also be available on: Facebook — **First Evangelical Lutheran – Kenyon MN**
& the church website — **fickenyon.org**

Procedures for everyone who enters our building

1. Do NOT come to church if you have tested positive for COVID-19, have a fever or cough, or if you have a family member who has COVID-19.
2. If you are over the age of 65 or have underlying health issues that make you vulnerable to COVID-19, we encourage you to consider staying home.
3. Wearing a mask is required, no exceptions. We will have some disposable masks available if you do not bring one.
4. You will be asked to physically distance from those who are not your family members. We are practicing the 6-foot rule. Every other pew will be closed and there will be X’s on other pews indicating where you are able to sit.
5. We will share the *“Peace of Christ”* with our words and not actions.
6. Offering plates will be available as you enter and exit worship.
7. Communion will be offered by using Pre-Filled Communion Cups and Wafer set, distributed where you are seated.
8. Hand sanitizer will be available when you enter.
9. We will take a picture and/or have you register when you enter the building. We need to know who has been in the building in case of an outbreak.
10. Restroom access is limited.
11. To enter the building for worship please use the front stairs (west) of the church sanctuary to arrive and leave. Please refrain from using the handicap accessible door unless you need elevator assistance.
12. An usher will open the door and we ask that you please go directly to your seats. Coats are to be kept with individuals.
13. Ushers will dismiss from pews at the end of the service. Please depart immediately through the west door.
14. If committees choose to meet in the building, they will be limited to one a day and only in one area of the building starting July 20th. The committee chair is asked to call or email the church office to reserve the date. You will be asked to clean and sanitize the area you were sitting in for the meeting. Supplies and directions will be provided.

July Greeting from Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

*History repeats itself! Does this sound familiar? Universal words of wisdom for our time, too:
Martin Luther—writing during the Bubonic Plague of the 1500's*

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated, and thus perchance inflict and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy, and does not tempt God."

MARTIN LUTHER

*We show our love for God by caring for our neighbor. We trust that God will take care of the rest. Holding you all in prayer as we journey together through this extraordinary time. Please stay well! —
Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund*

Pastor Patty's Final Sunday

Intern Pastor Patty has had an amazing challenge this year: to learn while we learn to be church striving to care about each other during COVID-19. She has put together two different worship services as part of her internship project (a big change from what she had planned). The second worship creation will be our worship on Sunday, July 5th. Thank you, Patty, for this gift giving.

Intern Patty's final Sunday with First Lutheran will be on July 19th. She will help lead and preach. Her request from us as she ends her time is to ring the church bell at the end of worship. We intend to honor her request. So, if you hear the church bell ringing after 9:30 on the 19th also lift a special prayer for Patty as she moves forward in her call to pastoral ministry.



Wednesday, July 8th, 3 to 5 PM

Come by Church for Outdoor

Prayer/Communion/Blessing

By Pastor Julie

July Worship Theme



July 5 – Creation Theme

Thank you to Intern Pastor Patty for Leadership.

July 12 – Rizpah Mourns Her Sons

Public Grief that Inspires Action – 2 Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14

Rizpah is a low-status wife of King Saul, meaning that her children are considered legitimate but not entitled to an inheritance, and that she has been raped by Abner, Saul's nephew and former commander of his army. How do these elements shape your understanding of Rizpah's social location, and therefore, her ability to sway political leadership to take action? What has or is unraveling in Rizpah's life and family?

July 19 – Jesus Heals Legion, A Man Possessed by Demons

The Unraveling of the Mind – Mark 5:1-20

Legion's mind and his social connection to the community have unraveled. The status quo of the town unravels by the disruption of Legion's healing and the death of the herd of pigs. Legion's identity as a feared outsider unravels when he is healed and he transforms into a passionate evangelist.

July 26 – Zacchaeus the Wealthy Tax Collector

Radical Unraveling of Vocation – Luke 19:1-10

What is or has unraveled? Zacchaeus' vocation and identity? His complicity in an oppressed economic system? His greed unravels into radical generosity. The crowd's expectation about who is and isn't worthy.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS - *Christ In Our Home* - Jul-Aug-Sept



The next devotional books are available and can be picked outside of church on the stand next to the kitchen/elevator door. They are in a closed tote/container, please snap the lid closed after you take a devotional. If you would like to have it mailed to you or dropped off at your home please let us know.



Gratitude from the Women's Shelter for your donations

An extra 'shout-out' for the pull-ups and nail polish!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - JUNE 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Don Herrlich, Pastor Julie Rogness, Brad & Carm Nesseth, Jim Fountaine, Bill Lewis, Jackie Mortensen, Erica Aronson

Devotions: Amy-James 4:6, treat yourself and others like God treats you. Psalm 5:8, we are not exempt from trials and tribulations put your trust in the Lord.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Don/Harris, Approved. **Secretary Report:** M/S Bill/Jim, Approved. **Treasurer Report:** M/S Jim/Harris, Approved. 05/30/20:Checking Account Balance **\$9,983.79**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship-4, Kids Message-2, help record musical offering, Recording worship and securing assisting ministers, Lead Lament service on Zoom with Vang Lutheran, Katie VanEpps helped, Zoom Synod Leader worship, Graveside service for Janis Gjervik Wobschall, Funeral for Jeanne Ellingson with burial, Stewardship work with Food Drive for N Minneapolis, Phone calls to check on people, Conversations with people in various settings, Email correspondence, Text Study, Clergy coaching, Pre-marital work-one wedding postponed to 2021, Festival of Homiletics-this week-Luther Seminary, Worship/Evangelism meeting, KAIC meeting via Zoom, Mental Health checks, received correspondence with a donation from a nonmember thanking us for online worship.

Continuing Business: AA has expressed gratitude for use of room in lower Ed Wing. WiFi-is now in, both office and sanctuary through Mediacom.

New Business:

1a. Covid-19 Protocols Document (separate sheet) Worship Committee recommendations reviewed with much discussion. **Mask policy** - Required for worship. M/S Bill/Harris, approved. **Member arrival-west steps door/ elevator door**, go directly to seating, signage of where to go. **Ushers**-four per service. **Greeters**-No greeters. **Bulletins**-email & print at home, limited supply available. **Hymnals**-no hymnals or Spark Bible. **Seating**-signage for no seating areas. **Sharing the Peace**-no touching or moving around. **Offering**-offering plate located at the entrance/exit. **Communion**-Disposable wine and wafer in plastic to be distributed by ushers. **Member dismissal**-ushers will dismiss, go directly outside, social distance/mask. **Online presence**-live stream or post recording for future viewing. **Sanitizer**-bottles available at entrance. Ushers will open doors for people. **Protocol signage**-will be posted on all doors. **No Acolytes**. **Communication**-email/mail to all members explaining safety protocols, in-sanctuary worship and continued online worship option. **Singing**-to allow singing with masks on-M/S Bill/Jim, approved. **Post service cleaning**-wipe down of entrances, sanctuary and elevator by volunteers. **Fellowship Hall**-remains closed. **Kitchen**-remains closed. **Restrooms**-2 open, emergency use. **Education Wing**-remains closed, AA meets weekly in lower level, disinfect after. **1b. Reopening date**-anticipated opening, Sunday, July 19. At this time Fellowship Hall may be open for church meetings only, one per day, must be on the calendar, no food, must disinfect after meeting. **1c. Scheduling helpers**-to be determined as we go. **1d. Division of duties for committees**-to be determined as we go. **2. Church outside our walls**-tabled to July, reach out to the community, ponder and address in July. **3. Air Circulation/HVAC**-no fresh air.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Jackie-Did not meet.

Youth Representatives - Absent. No current activity.

Worship/Evangelism - Bill-See New Business

Property and Management-Brad-no meeting but committee continues to address week to week concerns of the church campus.

Stewardship-Jim-Submitted updated Committee Structure and Responsibilities to be tabled to July meeting

Youth and Education-Erica-Did not meet. "Parking Lot Chalk Art" Activity planned for Monday, June 22 at 7 P.M.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee-No reports.

KAIC-to meet June 23.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2020--7 pm. **Devotions:** Harris. **Adjournment:** M/S Don/Amy, Approved. **Closing:** Lords Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Carmen Nesseth

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

Church Phone: 507-789-5261

Office E-Mail: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com

Pastor E-Mail: firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com



BLESS THE LORD
ALL YOU WORKS
OF GOD
IN ALL PLACES
WHERE GOD RULES

PSALM 103:22