



A Heart Full of Gratitude

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

1 Thessalonians 3:9

I recently meet Joel. His mother had died after living with dementia for many years. Joel was going to give the eulogy at the graveside memorial service. As we visited it became clear he would speak about his mother's attitude of gratitude.

She raised her children to be thankful. Her motto: it is never too late to show your gratitude. It is never too late, even seven years later.

I don't know how it is for you but even now there is a note on my desk from Jeannie Ellingson's daughter that was included with the donations in memory of Jeannie. It came a few days ago but I still have not written a note of appreciation for the gift given to First Lutheran. It sits on my desk and makes me feel guilty. But I need to get my newsletter article done, someone is coming to visit in twenty minutes, Lyle just died this morning and we have our first outside worship tonight. Aren't those great excuses for not attending to the note on my desk? (say no!)

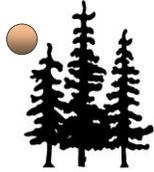
I met Joel three weeks ago. I am filled with gratefulness for the words he shared about his mother's gratitude and acknowledging people for their generosity. His mom might miss the mark of getting a thank you note out in the first days, but she believed even if you sent it a year later it was important to send. You say thank you for what first inspired you to respond (even though you didn't) and add other things you have experienced from the person along the way. Maybe a smile, a gift from a garden, a phone call from this person or family that has continued to touch your life.

These days are filled with many opportunities to say thank you to God and others because of the gift they are to you. If you forgot a year ago or two years ago to say thank you – it is not too late. Gratitude is a gift from God.

Pastor Julie



On Sunday, August 2, Harper Jo Niemann, daughter of Jason & Samantha Niemann, begins her walk in the waters of baptism.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
 Wednesday, August 5th at 6 P.M. – NE corner of the church
 Under the pine trees. Bring your Lawn Chair and a Mask!
Cancelled in the event of Rain



"Christ In Our Home" Devotion Books Available for You!

You can pick one up at your convenience without entering the church. Find them in a closed tote container **Outside** of the Handicapped Entrance. Please snap the lid closed after taking a devotional. If you would like to have it mailed to you or dropped off at your home please let us know.



COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON "IN-BUILDING" MEETINGS

Effective 07/19/20, in-building meetings will be limited to church committees and AA only, must be scheduled with Annette and held solely in the fellowship hall. All parties must practice social distancing, wear masks and sanitize area prior to leaving the building. All other meetings may be held outdoors.

Farewell from Patty Bjorklund



Back in January my illustrious internship supervisor, Pastor Heather Culuris (Dale/Holden) asked me if there was something that I would like to specifically experience before I completed my internship assignment. It took me but a few moments to respond. *"I want to ring the church bells,"* I said.

On my very first Sunday with the Dale and Holden folks back on September 1, it was hearing the church bells that brought me back to the beginning of my faith journey.

I grew up in a tiny, humble rural church in east central Minnesota. *Really* tiny and humble, nothing close to the beautiful décor and structure of the Kenyon Internship churches. But there is one thing in common. The church bell. As a young child I was always captivated by the sound of the church bell calling us to worship and sending us out to serve. Today, its sound not only marks for me the beginning of my faith journey those years ago, but marks yet another beginning as I turn towards the future. I want to ring the church bells to mark this new beginning and to send out to you a resounding and joyful THANK YOU – for your gracious welcome, hospitality, good humor, patience, honesty, openness, generosity and your sincere investment in shaping me to be a pastor. Thank you, people of Holden, Dale, First, Trinity, Gol, Grace, Hegre and Vang congregations. Thank you, Pastors Heather, Julie, Paul, Renita, Don, Marv, Chad and Craig. I am blessed beyond measure to have journeyed with you this past year. I will carry you in my heart always.

Intern Pastor Patty Bjorklund

Greeting From Lucas Shurson – 2020-2021 Kenyon Area Intern



At the start of September, I'll be settling into this new adventure as Kenyon Area Intern, and I could not be more excited! I've spent the past couple of years in Saint Paul, and I'm looking forward to getting to know this new community and the people who make it unique.

Before moving to Minnesota, I grew up in Southern California in a town in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains about eighty miles east of Los Angeles. I could usually be found out in the marching band field, with my nose in a book, or doing something involving music at the Lutheran church my family attended. As graduation came closer (and as my long-term plans to be an architect fell apart, which is another story), I started looking at getting out of my bubble. With my interest in music, I ended up at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, where history and religion caught my interest.

One of my best memories there came during an off-campus class on Christian community at Holden Village in Washington. I was amazed at the community's commitment to welcome and to worship, and the beginnings of a sense of call to ministry began to appear. I got more involved with the student congregation and with the choir after coming back from the trip, and that sense of call grew. With that idea floating in the back of my mind, I wanted to give church work a test-run as I graduated. I spent a year with Lutheran Volunteer Corps serving as community outreach coordinator at a small ELCA congregation on the north end of Omaha, Nebraska. The work was difficult, but it was also rewarding; I left knowing that I had done some good and learned lots about myself and about the wider Church. Ultimately, that work sent me on to Luther Seminary, where I've spent the past two years.

Here in Kenyon, I'm hoping to continue that process of growth and service. I'm eager to worship with you, make music with you, and learn from you, in whatever shape those things might take.

All the best until we meet!
Kenyon Area Intern Lucas Shurson

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes — July 15, 2020

Welcome and Call to Order: Amy Lee

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

Devotions: Harris Haugen.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Harris/Brad, Approved

Secretary's Report: M/S Bill/Jim, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: M/S Jim/Sandy, Approved. 06/30/20: Checking Account Balance **\$6,331.36** less \$250 Synod Assembly Offering designated for Campus Ministry M/S Amy/Harris, Approved. Memorial Account Balance **\$525**.

Pastor's Report: Worship - 4, Assisting Ministers, Intern Patty project worship, Children's Messages - not at this time, Help record musical offering - 3, Recording worship and securing assisting ministers, Drive by Communion serving over 60 people, Attended Zoom Synod leader worship, Planning Graveside service for Carol A Kumm (daughter of Lyd and John Wallaker), Phone calls to check on people, Conversations with people in various settings, Email corresponding, In person Executive meeting, KAI in person meeting, Worship Committee meeting, Clergy Coaching, Mental Health checks, Week of vacation - June 29 - July 7, Upcoming - 2 burials, 5 baptisms and a possible wedding.

Continuing Business:

1) Thoughtful discussion on reopening the church building continues.

a. COVID-19 Protocols - Bill and Amy will summarize final documentation. Pastor Julie and Heidi Haugen have reviewed required cleaning supplies and essentials.

b. Reopening date will be revisited by the church council each month. Amy composed a letter to the congregation outlining plans moving forward. M/S Harris/Erica, Approved.

c. Effective 07/19/20, in-building meetings will be limited to church committees and AA only, must be scheduled with Annette and held solely in the fellowship hall. All parties must practice social distancing, wear masks and sanitize area prior to leaving the building. All other meetings may be held outdoors. M/S Amy/Harris, Approved.

d. Council reviewed the Usher Protocol during COVID-19 created by Bill, making a single amendment to include seating parishioners beginning in the front of the sanctuary and ushering them to the exit beginning at the back of the sanctuary.

2) Worship services will continue online along with other opportunities to include, but not limited to, Wednesday evening outdoor services and communion.

New Business:

1) Currently in the process of securing a video system that is compatible with a camera and/or computer. Jim Braaten is looking at a potential option called a Sling Studio Hub. The executive committee approved monies be utilized from the memorial fund to make the purchase once selected.

2) Be encouraged and mindful when representing the church outside our walls that all are welcome.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Did not meet, however, 2 members are passionately sending greeting cards to our elderly community.

Youth Representatives - Absent. No current activity.

Worship/Evangelism - COVID-19 protocol has been designed and issued.

Property and Management - Over the past month, committee members put together COVID-19 related cleaning supplies, chaked concrete joints to reduce potential moisture issues, sprayed weeds and kept trees and plants watered. Purchase and planting of trees by Matul family in Memory of Ed delayed til Spring 2021. Don offered words of gratitude to Brad, Carmen and Troy for their fine work of painting the Joy room and fellowship hall.

Stewardship - Stewardship is defined as "Do good, kindness, generosity, well-meaning programs to turn to in time of need." Stewardship Committee structure - current version about 20 years old. Updated version to share with council.

Youth and Education - Did not meet in June or July, but activities were planned. June 22, 2020 a CHALK the WALK event was held in the church parking lot. Families were invited to bring their own chalk to be creative and draw peace, joy, love, kindness, hope, friends, family, etc. 18 kids and 16 adults participated. Pictures were taken, closing prayer and family grab bags were handed out. July 19, 2020 Pool Party and Tailgate Treats 8 pm to 9 pm at the Kenyon Pool. All age levels invited.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - No meetings held. Welcome new intern Lucas!

Open Discussion

Next Meeting: August 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Devotions: Sandy Doehling

Adjournment: M/S Don/Bill, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Doehling



We remember Lyle Canton and keep his family in our prayers. Lyle passed away early Wednesday morning at home. A private family service will be held and a public service for both Lyle and Geneva Canton will take place at a later date.

Burial for Carol Kumm and Richard Rasmussen will take place Friday, August 7th at the Kenyon Cemetery. Carol is the daughter of Lyle and John Wallaker. We keep the family in our hearts and prayers.



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GRACE

*to you and peace from
GOD our FATHER
and the LORD JESUS CHRIST*