



*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*

Jeremiah 1:5

I have been pondering Sara Martin Gorman's call to serve as Pastor at St John's Lutheran Church in Marion, WI. I have been contemplating my own call and want to invite you to consider your call.

God has known you your whole life long and as Parker Palmer puts it, you are called to **"Let your Life Speak"**. I think about all our vocations be it a student, a parent, retired. How are you called to let your life speak? During one of our outdoor worship service I used this thought to shape our time together – How are you letting your life speak?

**Vocation means call. Call means finding your voice.** Call isn't something you choose, like what house you buy or what car you buy; it's something you **unearth**. You excavate. You dig out. Fred happened to be sitting directly in front of me that night. When I said excavate my mind started spinning. I wondered what Fred thought he would be when he grew up and what did God unearth in his life. So I asked, he thought he would be a farmer. Maybe he was I am not sure. I know he has done a lot of excavating in his life and he shared that his call, vocation, voice is still being unearthed.

What if we stop asking what do you want to be when you grow up? What if we start wondering what God is unearthing in you? Who you are is a call from God. As Fredrick Buechner puts it, *"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."* I love that. May you ponder your call in new ways today Child of God.

--- Pastor Julie ---

**CHURCH BUILDING REOPENING.** The decision to set a church building Re-Opening Date was postponed until the next council meeting September 16th. Please see Council Minutes for meeting directives at the church.

Worship will remain the same with continued Wednesday Evening Outdoor Worship and Holy Communion (weather permitting) as well as Online Worship via our website and facebook page, and Drive-By Communion dates. (*More below*)

**WEDNESDAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP** will continue with Holy Communion through the month of September. We gather at 6 PM under the pine trees on the NE corner of the church. The service is simple, short, and we hum a hymn together—it is important that we gather as God’s holy people. Please bring a chair and a mask. Cancelled only in the event of rain.



**CONFIRMATION.** There will be confirmation classes and Confirmation (Affirmation of Faith) this fall. Pastor Julie will communicate with confirmation students the beginning of September.



**SEPTEMBER DRIVE-BY COMMUNION:** Sunday, September 6 and Sunday, September 20 in the church parking lot from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m

**STEWARDSHIP Hosting Food Shelf Drive: “Being Fed and Feeding Others”**

The food shelf drive is planned for drive-by communion Sundays in September. On **September 6** and **September 20** (*see times above*) please bring a **Food Shelf Item or Monetary Donation** to benefit the **Kenyon Four Seasons Food Shelf**. They are seeing a continued, steady need for food and other supplies from their shelves. The following items are especially needed, because they are in demand and often hard to find.

**HIGH NEED ITEMS -**

- \* Packages of Mac & Cheese
- \* Boxes of Cherry Jello
- \* One Pound Size of Coffee
- \* Paper Towels
- \* Peanut Butter
- \* Canned Peas
- \* Canned Carrots
- \* Canned Beans
- \* Canned Corn



\* Monetary donations are also welcome. The Four Seasons Food Shelf of Kenyon appreciates your continuing generosity. *Sponsored by Stewardship Committee.*

**SHARING MISSIONARY NEWS from The Bencke Family in Japan (excerpt)**

“In April, due to the COVID-19 crisis all travel for Global Mission personnel was suspended. In addition, all global mission home assignments scheduled for summer of 2020 have been cancelled. That includes our family. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel plans that had been in the works. There is not yet a plan in place on home assignments in the future. We continue to keep you in our prayers. We are grateful for the strong relationship’s we have.”

Email: [Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com)  
Submitted by FLC Stewardship Committee



**Welcome  
Lucas!**

## **INTERN PASTOR LUCAS SHURSON**

We look forward to meeting Lucas, who begins his pastoral Internship in our Kenyon Area churches at the start of September. He is originally from Southern California, and attended St Olaf College and Luther Seminary. *His letter of greeting and introduction was printed in the August newsletter.*

**SOLE HOPE** Continues to be a mission project we can work on during social distancing and in the comfort of our homes. Please let Cora Lee Monroe and Candy Herrlich know if you would like to help. Our job is to cut the shoe shapes out of denim. The denim and the patterns are all ready to be used.



## **VANG LUTHERAN - 40TH ANNUAL LUTEFISK AND NORWEGIAN MEATBALL SUPPER**

*Lutefisk with melted butter, meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberries, cole slaw, fruit soup, lefse, Norwegian bakings, & Commemorative 40th Anniversary water bottle.*

**ADULTS \$18.00      10 & UNDER: \$6.00**



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This traditional meal will be packaged and ready to take home, eat in your car, or enjoy at work. Curbside pickup: 11 am-2 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm. Home or business delivery also available. Pre-orders required with credit card by September 30th. *Reservations:* Phone: 507-789-5186 or Email: [vanglutefisk@gmail.com](mailto:vanglutefisk@gmail.com)

### **10 Things God Wants You to Remember**

- I will give you rest.**
- I will strengthen you.**
- I will answer you.**
- I believe in you.**
- I will bless you.**
- I am for you.**
- I will not fail you.**
- I will provide for you.**
- I will be with you.**
- I love you.**

## **First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, August 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

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**Welcome and Call to Order:** Amy Lee

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

**Devotions:** Sandy shared thoughts on being a lighthouse for Jesus.

**Adopt Agenda:** M/S Don/Carmen, Approved

**Secretary's Report:** M/S Amy/Brad, Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** M/S Bill/Brad, Approved

07/31/20: Checking Account Balance **\$11,700.87** Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

**Pastor's Report:** Worship - 5 (plus 2 recordings for upcoming weeks), Wednesday night worship - 3, Carmen will lead 8/26 and we will continue to gather outside for the month of September as well, Children's Messages - will resume in September, Help record musical offering, Recording worship and securing assisting ministers, Drive by Communion offered again and will be offered 9/6 and 9/20, Baptism of Harper Jo N. 8/2 in the church, Funeral/Memorial services - 5, Tyler Hein (youth from a former congregation died at age 23), Graveside service for Carol Kumm and Richard Rasmussen, Lyle and Geneva Canton, Phone calls to check on people and conversations outside, Home visit with communion - 1, KAI in person meeting, Clergy Coaching, Mental Health checks, Week of Vacation - August 20-27 to attend Sara Martin's Ordination, Upcoming - 2 baptisms to be held at First Lutheran and 2 weddings, 1 at First and the other off site.

### **Continuing Business:**

- 1) Cautionary discussion on reopening the church building continues.
  - a. Reopening date will be revisited by the church council each month.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Worship services will continue online along with other opportunities to include, but not limited to, Wednesday evening outdoor services and communion.
- 2) Sound system update - Council pre-approved the purchase and pending installation of Sling Studio and cables to beneficially provide an external broadcast. Special thanks to Jim Braaten for his technical skills.

### **New Business:**

- 1) Sunday School classes will be postponed at this time, however, the EdYou Committee is collectively planning monthly activities to engage our children in Bible Study, an obstacle course along with other ideas brewing. Pastor Julie will provide lessons for the Confirmation class in a social distance setting.
- 2) Stewardship Committee Description - Jim presented the structure that defines their purpose and focus on giving, sharing and uplifting ways of generosity. Amy advised that the description be aligned with the constitution language and will, therefore, be tabled until the next meeting when someone of constitution knowledge can offer further insight. M/S Bill/Amy. Approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

*FLCW* - Did not meet, but remain active. See *FLCW* News.

*Youth Representatives* - Absent. Work schedules, the return of school on the horizon and extracurricular activities keep the youth of First involved.

*Worship/Evangelism* - Did not meet. Next meeting 9/8 at 6:30 pm.

*Property and Management* - Did not meet.

*Stewardship* - Met 8/13 with the following minutes submitted by Tanya Short.

~ Grateful for congregation's generosity during these unusual times of COVID-19.

~ Moving forward, how do we continue to assist with stewardship needs of local, national or global ministry? Ideas include an online fund drive that could highlight local community/congregation members with a message running along the bottom giving info on how to donate...similar to the KW Band Feed the Need last spring, but pertaining to needs of the church at large.

~ A stewardship committee member will type a small article for the newsletter each month regarding stewardship and may include news from our missionaries. Sue Wold will help with Sept. newsletter article.

~ Stewardship committee will host "Being Fed and Feeding Others" food shelf money and goods donation drive during drive up communion on 9/6 and 9/20. (Need other stewardship committee volunteers for both dates - Tanya will assist/attend on 9/6) Kayo Kirchoff will contact food shelf for more specific items of need.

~ Stewardship committee working on overall theme to encompass meaningful giving is more than dollars and can be as easy as sharing gifts of time or talent. "Stewards for Life", "Giving back what God gives us" are just a few ideas.

~ Jim to attend Council meeting 8/19. Next Stewardship meeting 9/10.

*Youth and Education* - Did not meet, but actively brainstorming. See > New Business.

*Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC* - No meetings held. New intern Lucas arrives 9/1.

## **Open Discussion**

**Next Meeting:** September 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Devotions:** Carmen

**Adjournment:** M/S Don/Carmen, Approved

**Closing** with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Doehling

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**309 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN 55946**

September Newsletter

