

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENYON MN
THE FIRST WORD
October 2020



Touching Stones by Pastor Julie

I had a burial recently at our Kenyon cemetery. The memorial service had been in the Twin Cities earlier in the day. As the family arrived and gathered in Kenyon, we began to tell stories. It was fun to hear the two sons talk about their dad and tell this story:

Jordan and Lois bought a 1979 Toyota Corolla. They then sold it to our next-door neighbors a couple of years later. A couple of years later, Chad wanted to buy it for his first car. In negotiating with our neighbors, Jordan (dad) asked: "Is this a one-owner car?"

Maybe since it just moved one driveway over for a couple years and then back to the original driveway?

As the sons were getting ready to leave, I watched each of them, at separate times, bend down and touch the names on the tombstone next to their dad's newly dug grave. It was their grandma and grandpa. They touched the stones with such love letting their fingers linger on the letters of each name.

I have not been to my grandparent's gravesites in years. We live so far away. But now I long to let my fingers run over the letters of their names: Alma, Alvin, Conrad and Myrtle. And after touching the stones, as I stand up again, I desire to give thanks for the ways they shaped my life. The older we get the more we long to remember how people, now gone from our sight, have touched our lives. What tomb stone touching is calling your name?

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." REVELATION 21:3-5



Confirmation Sunday, October 25th

At 9:00 am on Confirmation Sunday these youth will affirm their faith in Jesus Christ. ***Jakob Kirchmann, Norah Rechtzigel, Benjamin Short, Dakota Temple, Mason Torgeson, William Van Epps.*** The service will be by family invitation only. We strive to accommodate this important milestone with those who have been significant in their faith development.

✝ We will begin to worship in person beginning November 1, All Saints Sunday, and continue to have an online presence for those of you who prefer or need to worship at home.

"October's Party"

c.1887

October gave a party,
the leaves by hundreds
came – the Ashes,
Oaks,
and Maples,
and leaves of every
name.
The sunshine spread a
carpet,
and everything was grand.
Miss Weather led
the dancing;
Professor Wind, the band.
The sight was like
a rainbow new-fallen
from the sky...

George Cooper
(1840–1927)

◇◇ **First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, September 16, 2020 @ 8:00 pm** ◇◇

Pastor Julie introduced and council members welcomed our new intern Lucas Shurson who hails from California and is looking forward to his new role in the community.

Welcome and Call to Order: Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Don Herrlich, Pastor Julie Rogness, Carmen Nesseth, Jim Fountaine, Troy Estrem, Tammy Fletcher, Jackie Mortensen, Lucas Shurson, Carrie Doehling and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Carmen on Psalm 133. Kindred live in unity.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Don/Harris, Approved

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

Treasurer's Report: M/S Harris/Carmen, Approved. 08/31/20: Checking Account Balance **\$4,937** Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship Services - Sunday mornings - 4 (online), Wednesday Worship - 4 (+ 1 canceled), Ordination Worship - 1, Baptisms - 2 (outdoors), Drive by Communion - 1, Planning for worship with Annette, Committee Meetings - Ed You, Baptism Orientation, Food Drive with Drive by Communion generated over \$500 and 125 lbs of food, Making connections via phone, on the street, in the church parking lot, email, mail, etc, Funeral/Memorials - in process for Gary Strandemo here on 9/19 and in St. Cloud, Clergy Coaching - 2 people, Synod Council online retreat 9am-3pm on 9/12. **Looking Forward:** Working with Confirmation Youth, Musgjerd Wedding, John Shelstad seeking escort for burial at Vukku for his daughter, Dodds Wedding at First on 10/10.

Continuing Business:

1) Reopening

- a. Worship - Contingent to access for live streaming to start **10/11** with essential leaders/assistants only, **10/18** live streamed soft opening to practice COVID-19 protocol with select members, **10/25** Confirmation Sunday live streamed with Confirmation students and up to 12 guests each and **All Saints Sunday, 11/1, tentative** opening will be reviewed by council at their next meeting on 10/21. M/S Harris/Tammy, Approved.
- 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.

2) Sunday School and Confirmation classes will practice social distancing. See EdYou minutes.

3) Sound system update - nearing completion.

4) Jim Braaten will be recognized for his invaluable time and technical talents. M/S Amy/Harris, Approved.

5) Stewardship Committee Description will be tabled until next meeting to allow sufficient time for further discussion.

New Business:

1) ELCA Social Statement on race, ethnicity and culture from a biblical perspective. Council members are invited to participate in discussions led by Pastor Paul of Dennison and Vang Lutheran Churches.

2) Reflection Questions to ponder and discuss at next meeting:

- ~ What is our definition of Church and how has it changed over these past six months?
- ~ What have we learned about our congregation during this time of masks and social distancing?
- ~ What resources are needed to be First Lutheran now?
- ~ What is possible now that didn't seem possible before the pandemic?

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Nothing to report.

Youth Representative - Carrie reported students are adapting to schedules, sports and missing friends upon resuming school in a hybrid model until 10/1 when the district will reevaluate the effectiveness of this method.

Worship/Evangelism - Pastor Julie reordered communion cups following the use of the first 500.

Property and Management - Met 9/14 with the following notes provided by Brad Nesseth.

With the building continuing to be closed and things in-and-out in overall good order, we feel there is currently little to address. We look forward, however, to working with Wencil Construction as they vacate the unimproved portion of our church parking lot later this fall. It is our desire to see some crushed rock added and grading take place leaving things in better condition going forward. We propose to close off the south end once again in order to reduce traffic unrelated to church business. ***The committee accepted requirements to include provided insurance for monument construction expected to begin next spring.***

Stewardship - Met 9/10 with the following minutes submitted by Tanya Short.

1. Discussion Topics

- a. Living Lutheran Magazine Generosity project article. We continue to explore themes for the committee and overall giving of time and talents. What are the ways of "practicing" good works and generosity in our daily lives? (book of Timothy)
 - b. Inter-generational stewardship projects. What could we do to bring people together?
Looking forward to time after social distancing.
 - c. Food shelf drive again September 20 during drive up communion. Helpers are Ed and Kayo.
The Kenyon Food Shelf will continue to have ongoing needs. See Sept newsletter for more specific items of need.
 - d. Habitat for Humanity - Is there any interest on behalf of the congregation in joining again?
 - e. Provide a more definitive awareness of what stewardship can look like. Jim to write an update on our missionaries for Oct newsletter. Dan will write an article on generosity, date to be determined
 - f. Where should Stewardship committee go from here? Looking for more direction from council.
Focus seems to have shifted away from two annual church fundraisers - ROSE FEST garage sale and Fall Festival.
2. Next Council Meeting September 16, 8 pm
 3. Rep. from Stewardship - Jim
 4. Next Stewardship meeting - October 8, 5:30 pm Church basement

Youth and Education - Met 9/15 with minutes provided by Carmen.

Discussion Topics:

Bibles to the 3rd graders: There are 4 students. Committee will deliver them to the students, taking a video of the presentation to be online Sunday, Oct. 4.

Kids' Messages: Starting in Oct. we will be adding these to our Sunday worship. This is open to anyone in the congregation. We will ask Lucas to do Oct. 11.

Ditch Pick-up: "Inter-generational" ditch pick-up (highway 12 east) will be Sunday, Sept. 27 at 10 am. Social distancing and masks, followed by treats. Vests provided. Bring gloves.

Operation Christmas Child: We are giving families the option to fill a box (we have boxes) or donate \$9 for the shipping and handling. More updated info in Oct.

Sunday School: Committee would like to do 1 Sun/month in certain spaces in the church: fellowship hall, double room, sanctuary. Wear masks, social distancing, half hour long, starting Oct. 11, per council approval.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 pm.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - No meetings held.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Devotions: Pastor Julie

Adjournment: M/S Don/Harris, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Doehling

From Pastor Intern Lucas

When the leaves started turning around town last month, my first thought was, "Oh no. Not already." I'm not fond of the cold, which is coming fast. Besides being a reminder of the weather, however, it was also a surprising reminder that a whole month has already gone by since I began my internship. I've been able to be a part of so many new things that I hadn't noticed the time going by so quickly; I won't be able to introduce myself as the "new" intern for long!

With October starting up, I'm looking forward to (finally) being in Sunday worship with each of the internship congregations. Even though I'm not able to be eight places at once each Sunday, I've been grateful to get to know each congregation in other ways as well, from meatball suppers to confirmation classes to weddings to funerals. I feel fortunate to have been a part God's ministry in these congregations, I've been overwhelmed and overjoyed by the hospitality I've received since arriving in Kenyon. I've experienced Matthew 25:35 firsthand from all of you, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Here's to not being a stranger much longer!

Lucas Shurson

STEWARDSHIP – Missionary Update

Received From: Karen Anderson in Chile – EPES (Education for Health)

What uncertain times we are living through to handle the COVID-19 crisis. By now, most of you know that in March the ELCA called all global mission personnel home from our countries of service. I returned home to Minnesota for a period of quarantine. During these trying times the EPES staff continues to be committed to working for justice, dignity and health. The EPES staff in Chile continues to meet regularly with community health teams. I continue to meet with the ELCA Global mission team for Latin America as we all work from home. After evaluation of the situation, I have requested and received the OK from Global Missions to return to Chile in October.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I would be grateful if you include my family, EPES staff, the people of Chile and the staff of Global Mission staff in your prayers.

Love and blessing, Karen Anderson

P.S. Gracias for your ongoing support for Global Mission of the ELCA and our ministry in Chile.

October Happenings

2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 AA	2	3
4 9:00 PreRecorded OnLine Worship <i>Bibles to 3rd Graders</i> 7:00 AA	5	6 6:30 Ed/Youth 6:30 WorshEv	7 6:00 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Gr.7&8 Confirmation	8 5:30 Steward- ship 7:00 AA	9 6:00 Wdg Rehearsal <i>7-8 Neighbor- hood Watch: South Grassy Area</i>	10 6:00 Dodds Wedding
11 9:00 LiveStreamed OnLine Worship <i>Leaders & assistants Only</i> 7:00 AA	12	13	14 6:00 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Gr.7&8 Confirmation	15 10:00 RndTbl Internship 7:00 AA	16	17
18 9:00 LiveStreamed OnLine Worship <i>Leaders, assistants & preselected committee members Only</i> 7:00 AA	19	20	21 6:00 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Gr.7&8 Confirmation 8:00 Council	22 7:00 AA	23	24
25 Confirmation 9:00 LiveStreamed OnLine Worship <i>Confirmads & Their Guests Only</i> 7:00 AA	26	27 KAI Committee	28 6:00 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Gr.9 Confir- mation Rehearsal	29 7:00 AA	30	31
Nov 1 All Saints Sunday TENTATIVE OPENING – (with Live- streaming) subject to 10/21 council review	 <p><i>Every tomorrow has two handles ~ We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887</i></p>					

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

October Newsletter



FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor—Julie Rogness; KAI Intern Pastor—Lucas Shurson
Admin.Asst—Annette Thunhorst; Accountant —Julie Dyr Dahl
Custodian—Betty Redfield; Youth/Family—Carmen Nesseth
Missionaries: Stephen Deal, Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, & Karen Anderson
Partner Cong.— Ilongero Lutheran/Tanzania.

FIRST LUTHERAN CONNECTIONS

Prerecorded Worship: (Website) fickenyon.org (Facebook) **First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN**
Pastor E-Mail: firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com Pastor Phone: 952-994-1201
Church E-Mail: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 789-5261

MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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