

The First Word – January 2021



Goodbye 2020
Hello Epiphany

Ecclesiastes 3 begins, *For everything there is a season....*

There are so many, many reasons we are ready for a new year to begin. There are countless things we long for. I cannot wait to hug my grandchildren and see my parents. I cannot wait to worship with you and see your faces as we confess our faith in God. I look forward to being with our confirmation students face to face and not on Zoom. I long for meetings where our planning is not only about protecting each other from a virus that has complicated so much of our 2020 life.

As we begin 2021 we enter the season of Epiphany. The Word made flesh and dwelling among us full of God's glory. Epiphany is the incarnation of Jesus among us all our days. It is a time we celebrate and acknowledge Jesus is for the whole world. Wise men follow the star and discover the Savior of all the nations.

What if? We enter the season of Epiphany with hope! And what if we make the most of our lives to let our hearts follow the star to see Jesus. In Jesus there is no darkness at all. So dear people, let Jesus, the WORD touch your life, in Epiphany 2021.

Pastor Julie



Annual Meeting 2021 will be on Sunday, January 31, via Zoom. That link will be sent to you closer to the meeting date.

Question posed to the SEMN Synod Council – (the following was shared at the 11/24 meeting and can be found in the document titled: SEMN Synod Remote General Congregational Meetings) C10.08 which states, This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically, the congregation's council may adopt C10.08 as a continuing resolution to the congregation's by-laws which gives the congregation the ability to hold a remote congregational meeting at this time and then update the congregation's constitution at their next annual meeting at which time C10.08 and other updates would be made to the congregation's constitution and voted upon by the congregation.



Celebrating Epiphany

by Intern Pastor Lucas

One of my favorite January memories comes from several years ago when I spent the month at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Glacier Peak Wilderness in Washington State. It was Epiphany, and the class I was traveling with had just arrived. We had no idea what to expect from this strange place, but right away we were recruited into one of the village's many traditions to mark the liturgical year.

With the Christmas season over, the villagers gathered the many firs that had been used as Christmas trees in various buildings and had a bonfire in the center of the village to mark Epiphany. From there, we split into groups and each went to several buildings, saying a prayer and singing at each, for the functions they would serve in the new year: Housing, cooking, medical care, etc. I remember the event for how strange it was to sing about the laundry room, but also for the spontaneity and fun that all of us had, even in this place we were still getting to know.

With this new year, we're finding ourselves in these circumstances that are both too familiar and yet still unfamiliar. We might not be together for Epiphany like we would ordinarily, but it's still a day we can celebrate. Think of the small things and places that have helped you get through this past year; it's worth taking time out to acknowledge and be thankful for those. Saying a prayer of thankfulness for those things, even silly and small ones, reflects the light of Epiphany that gets us through this time of year when the nights are at their longest. With that light comes renewal for this year ahead of us.

Intern Pastor Lucas

Stewardship News - The Deal Family in Central America

Hurricanes - Central America is reeling from back-to-back Hurricanes with catastrophic consequences for millions of people in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. Recovery from hurricanes will be a long difficult process. Please consider sending Congregational/Individual offerings to Lutheran Disaster Response. This will support those who are on the front lines.

New missionary Assignment - I have begun the final phase from my previous role as regional representative to a new missionary position where my work will be focused on strengthening and expanding our network from central America south into the rest of Latin America. A new missionary position was warranted to address emerging ministries with migrants, refugee's, and asylum seekers through Latin America. Marta and I will continue to live in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Your companion in global mission, Stephen Deal - Stephan.Deal@elca.org



Ways to Give Your Offering Gifts

- ***On-line via the website:** fickenyon.org - There is a link to detailed instructions after you click on the offering plate.
- ***Drop your giving off at church:** Pastor Julie will meet you in the parking lot at church - make arrangements or come by in the morning Tue-Fri.
- ***Mail in your giving.**
- ***2021 Offering Envelopes** are here and in process of being prepared.



Thank You - For donations to the Tellez family following their house fire.



Annual Reports Due January 5th

Please use a WORD document to create it and email to Tammy Fletcher or Pastor Julie.
Thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES —DEC. 16, 2020 @7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Don Herrlich, Pastor Julie Rogness, Brad and Carm Nesseth, Jim Fountaine, Bill and Cindy Lewis, and Tammy Fletcher.

Devotions: Amy-based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-4.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Harris/Brad, Approved.

Secretary Report: M/S Amy/Harris, Approved.

Treasurer Report: M/S Brad/Carm, Approved. Financially we are doing well. Don and Julie D. are working on getting the PPP loan forgiven.

Pastor's Report: Worship Services, Sunday mornings-4 Live Stream, 1 prerecorded, drive by communion Nov. 29. Planning worship with Annette, who has taken on securing musicians. I have been securing Assisting Ministers. Secure/Asked team to help with decorating for Advent. Continue to work with the Tech Team – two times during the past weeks to work out some of the issues of sound. 1 Committee Meetings- Worship. Gift Cards dispersed to those for whom they make a difference including Tellez Family after the fire using some of our Caring Funds. Memorial/Graveside for Bev Nesseth, Glorian Hein, Christopher Montanye. Baptism of William Samuelson–Saturday, December 5. Personnel Review completed. Online/Zoom Cannon River Conference. Making connections in as many ways as possible now. Clergy Coaching–2 people. Round Table with Lucas. Confirmation with 7th and 8th graders via Zoom. Assisted and watched Pastor Patty Bjorklund's Ordination and did a drive by video in my garage to celebrate the day (There was a Drive By celebration following the service at Oak Knoll).

Looking forward: Christmas Eve is prerecorded. Parking lot service with trumpets, live nativity and singing Silent Night. We will Go Live on Facebook for this Event. Christmas Day is prerecorded, Jenna Rogness/Katie VanEpps singing. Short devotional. Perhaps adding Now The Feast and Celebration/Hymnal Supplement to our worship opportunities after Epiphany.

Continuing Business:

Building opening: we will remain closed and continue on a month to month basis.

Service Updates: still working on sound when changing from one camera to another. Dec. 27 will be prerecorded led by our Synod Staff.

2021 Nominating Committee: Amy, Bill and Harris are asking committee members to stay on for an extra year. Those whose term is up would continue for one more year and those who have one year left would continue for two years. Committees will be contacted regarding this.

2021 Budget: this was voted on in at November meeting.

Annual Meeting: will be January 31 via zoom. Items to be voted on are the KHS Monument, Slate of Officers, and the 2021 Budget. Each committee is to get their annual reports in now, no later than Jan. 5 (send via WORD to Tammy). Notice of the Jan. 31 date will be in newsletter, announced at worship, and in weekly bulletins for 3 preceding Sundays.

New Business

Zoom Account: motion to secure a church Zoom Account by Bill, second by Harris, Approved.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Cindy-Did not meet. Disbursement budget was approved in Nov. & funds were sent out.

Youth Representatives - No report.

Worship/Evangelism - Bill-committee met via Zoom. Discussion topics were *Funerals/Weddings during pandemic: Weddings*- no weddings unless outside with limited numbers or only 2 others standing up with the couple. *Funerals*-Tammy and Pastor Julie updated funeral guidelines to include pandemic guidelines. *Live streaming*-continue to meet and fine tune the process. They will put together a schedule to allow enough tech support at each service. *Christmas Eve*- 3 p.m. service will be prerecorded. Parking lot service at 4:30 with possible partial live nativity, Christmas story, communion, singing of Silent Night and lighting of candles.

Church reopening-not at this time. Assisting ministers and music. Need more volunteers for assisting ministers (...also singers).

Property and Management-Brad-did not meet. They continue to address the week-to-week concerns of the church campus.

Stewardship-Jim-Many gift cards were received and passed on to those in need. Thanks to all for their continual support of the ministry done at First Lutheran.

Youth and Education-Did not meet. Carmen reported that 11 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes were filled. Thank you, Pastor Julie, for filling 10 boxes delivering 11 to the Faribault drop off site.

Thanksgiving/Advent greetings were emailed to all youth and families. Christmas fold books were emailed to the Sunday school students. 41 Christmas gift bags were filled and delivered to the Kenyon Senior Living Campus from the Sunday school.

Long Range Planning/Endowment-did not meet.

Personnel Committee- met to evaluate pastor and congregation.

KAIC-met via Zoom.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Devotions: Harris

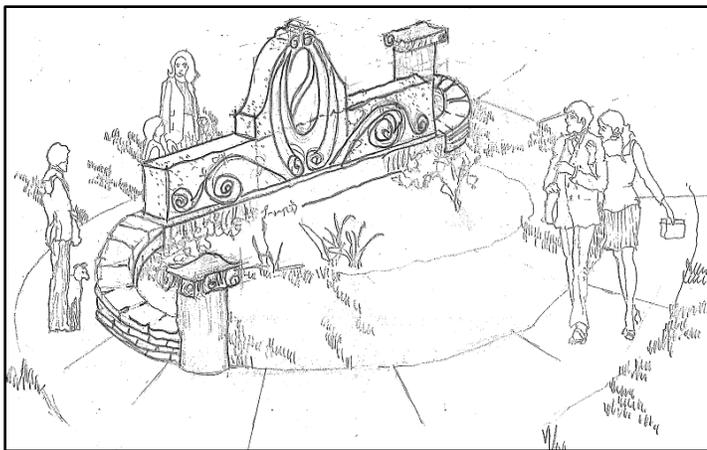
Adjournment: M/S Don/Carm, Approved

Closing with the Lords Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmen Nesseth, Pro Tem

REPRINTED FROM NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER...

THE KENYON HIGH SCHOOL MONUMENT MEMORIAL

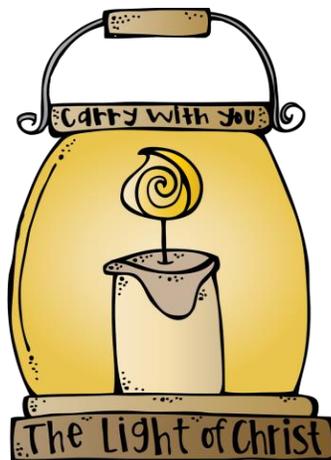


This view of the KHS Monument Memorial is what it will basically look like upon completion. The 'floor' on the front side will have pavers in memory or in honor of someone you would like remembered: a classmate, a teacher/coach/school worker, your class, club or a treasured friend. There will be benches to allow for time to think, share, reflect or just sit and relax. We hope this will be a place that enhances First Lutheran, as well as the memories of Kenyon High and Grade School. We see this as a place of honor, sharing your memories with children or grandchildren) reflection time (to sit during funeral or quiet times), joy (weddings or graduation pictures), fun (story time for Sunday School kids) and many other good times. We thank you for your consideration of this project.

~ KHS MEMORIAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE: Cindy Trapp, Mary Danielson-Gates, Kevin & Mary Gail Anderson, Chuck Aase, Julie Praus, John & Lois Estrem, Terri Malloy, and Kim Portz, Architect. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Kevin Anderson/507-789-6835 or Mary Danielson-Gates/507-838-6979

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Carry with you – the Light of Christ