



AGAIN & AGAIN

Our 2021 Lenten Theme on Ash Wednesday & Sundays in Lent

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and Again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we continue to be community to one another – especially when it's hard – by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. In this season of Lent, we need rituals – both old and new – to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples.

Ash Wednesday – February 17th. A prerecorded service will be available on our website and Facebook page mid-morning. You are welcome to drive by church at two different times – **11 to noon and again from 5 to 6 PM**. Pastor Julie and Carmen will be outside providing a safe way to receive the **Imposition of Ashes** and **Holy Communion**. Pastor Julie is preparing 35 Lenten bags as take away to assist you on your Lenten journey.

Wednesday Lenten Services – Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24 will be a time of *Reflection on the Heart*. A weekly email packet will be sent to you for diving deeper and participating. All Lenten Services will be pre-recorded and available on our website.

February 24TH	<i>Storing Up Treasures</i>
March 3RD	<i>Sharing Our Hearts</i>
March 10TH	<i>Knowing the Good</i>
March 17TH	<i>Consider the Lilies</i>
March 24TH	<i>Becoming Someone New</i>

PLANS FOR REOPENING THE CHURCH BUILDING

Council voted to take these steps forward with reopening our church building

One meeting a day is possible downstairs in the fellowship hall. If your committee is meeting please call the church office and **reserve your date with the time.** (AA meets on Sundays and Thursdays -- they are an exception)

Opening the church for Sunday Worship beginning, **Sunday, March 7th at 9 AM.** We are working hard to ensure that our livestreaming online via our Website and Facebook will continue when we open.

- We will be at 50% capacity.
- Contact tracing information will be taken.
- Enter by North Door unless you need elevator assistance.
- Exit by the Main Church Doors for those who are able.
- Ushers will usher you in and out.
- Masks are required.
- Self-Check to make sure you are not someone at risk, running a temperature, feel sick, or have been in contact with anyone who has Covid-19.

STEWARDSHIP

Missionary Karin Anderson in Chile EPES update (Education for Health)

EPES is an organization supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. EPES trains students, public officials, health and education workers and women from vulnerable communities to advocate for the right to health care and sustainable food and to share their knowledge with others through workshops.

EPES began as program of the Lutheran Church in Chile. The health promoters share information about health topics such as nutrition, breast cancer prevention, HIV, AIDS, and violence against women. This ongoing work is critical. Last spring, as the COVID pandemic hit, EPES hosted workshops on how to start home vegetable gardens, bake sourdough bread and more. At a time of challenges in accessing food, these workshops gave participants the knowledge needed to start their own gardens and increase their access to healthy food.

Blessings, Karen Anderson karenleeaan@aol.com

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

LUCAS SHURSON ~ INTERN PASTOR

One of the more memorable parts of the worship class I took at seminary came from the lesson on Ash Wednesday. Before anything else, the professor made it very, very clear that we were not to use water to mix ashes under any circumstances. As it turns out, mixing water and ash causes a reaction that creates sodium hydroxide, better known as lye. Naturally, drain cleaner doesn't treat skin very kindly, so we want to avoid putting it on our foreheads. Mixing oil and ash is the right way to make the formula we use on Ash Wednesday.



Apart from the fun of giving me a chance to be a chemist for a moment, that set of instructions stuck with me because it reminded me of how faith often works. When we go about living our faith in daily life, we don't just use faith by itself, in the same way that we don't use pure ash on Ash Wednesday. To get it to stick, we mix it in with other ingredients. When faith is applied together with compassion and humility, it leaves the mark of the cross that reminds those around us of Jesus' love, and it does so without hurting anyone. On the other hand, when faith is applied together with judgement and pride, the result is caustic. It might still leave the same shape of the cross as its mark, but it becomes a cross that burns the one who wears it.

During this coming season of Lent, we have time to look closer at our faith. As we read stories of how Jesus lived out his faith during the last weeks of his life, we are invited to see what we're mixing in with our own faith to make it stick. As people who claim the cross of Jesus on our foreheads, we want the ingredients we add to be a reminder of what the cross really means: That "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." I pray that this Lent will be full of those reminders of God's love for all of you.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, January 20, 2021 @ 7:30 pm via Zoom

Welcome and Call to Order: Amy Lee

Present: Amy Lee, Harris Haugen, Don Herrlich, Pastor Julie Rogness, Bill Lewis, Jim Fountaine, Jackie Mortensen, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Carrie Doehling and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Harris on making a difference when we work with others.

Adopt Agenda: M/S Don/Carmen, Approved

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

Treasurer's Report: M/S Bill/Harris, Approved

12/31/20: Checking Account Balance **\$8,987.54** Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship Services - Sunday mornings - 4 Live Stream, 2 Prerecorded (Christmas Eve and Sunday, December 27), Drive by Communion on Christmas Eve with Live Nativity and Silent Night, 1 Christmas Day Live on Facebook, Planning for worship with Annette, Annette has taken on securing musicians, I have been securing Assisting Ministers, Continue to work with the Tech Team - Jeff Andrews from MPLS has come down once to help us figure out our sound issues with regards to live streaming. He will be here again this Friday. Committee Meetings - Worship, Gift Cards dispersed at the end of the year and more gifts have come in for the Tellez Family, Graveside for Colletta Flom, Online/Zoom Cannon River Conference, Making connections in as many ways as possible now, Round Table with Lucas, Confirmation with 7th and 8th graders via Zoom with a proposed Spring Retreat post Lent, Serve on the Non-Profit Friends of Mwangaza - met January 16th via Zoom. **Looking Forward:** Adding Now The Feast and Celebration/Hymnal Supplement to our worship recording this week for a prerecorded service on Sunday, January 31st prior to the Zoom Annual Meeting. Ash Wednesday with drive by imposition of ashes, Holy Communion and Lenten devotional 11 am-Noon and 5 pm-6 pm. Lenten Sunday Theme - Again and Again.

Continuing Business:

- 1) Building opening/closing
 - a) Service - Following a proposal by the Worship Committee, Amy motioned to allow in person committee meetings with the goal of opening for in person services on March 7th with the conditions that the congregation cannot sing and the sound system is in check for both in person and live streaming. Seconded by Don. Approved.
 - b) Meetings - to be scheduled no more than one in the building per day.
 - c) Youth - the earliest gathering for Confirmation will be April 7th.
- 2) Jeff Andrews has been called upon to provide a special connection for the Sling Studio to operate live stream.
- 3) Goodhue County Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Program - Pastor Julie and Don applied for this grant to receive compensation for a varied list of necessities incurred due to the pandemic.
- 4) 2021 Nominating Committee Updates - Bill and Harris worked on this to include in the ballot for the annual church meeting.
- 5) Annual Report - Tammy and Annette are collaborating to create the annual report.
- 6) Annual Meeting - slated for Sunday, January 31 at 10:15 via Zoom.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - did not meet, however, working on filling committees within the organization.

Youth Representative - Carrie highlighted the positive energy of students returning to school in the hybrid model and resuming sports.

Worship/Evangelism - Bill recapped the feedback from the Christmas Eve service held in the parking lot. The high attendance was an indicator of how many miss coming to church. Seeking soloists/musicians for upcoming services.

Property and Management - Did not meet, however, all are invited to report any maintenance concerns for the committee to address. The bell rope was replaced and snow removal is completed when needed. Don suggested using the memorial funds toward the sound system.

Stewardship - did not meet, but are focusing on the Mission Board to highlight our missionaries.

Youth and Education - Did not meet. Faith Formation resources have been provided to the families of Sunday School students. Carmen announced stepping down from her many roles within the committee to become vice president of the council. A note of gratitude and appreciation for your invaluable time, energy and talents, Carmen!

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - Endowment Committee met on 12/31/20 with the following minutes submitted by Carmen.

Old Business: The Mission Term investment was changed as of October 28, 2020 into a 3 yr. fixed rate investment @ 2.0% APY, as discussed in the October 2020 Endowment minutes. The penalty to do this was \$1007.07 which came out of Committee Discretion. This was a big number to swallow, but the October rate on this investment had dropped to just .16%, so it really became a matter of cutting our losses. With rates now forecasted to be kept low, we should be in a better position at the 3 yr. fixed rate of 2.0%.

New Business:

1. No new application for disbursements. Larry emailed financials as of the end of December. Motion by Bill, second by Pat to accept the financials, carried.
2. The Committee elected Pat as chair for this committee.
3. Carmen typed up and sent the 2020 Annual Report in.

Next committee meeting will be April 2021.

KAIC is considering hosting a drive-thru hog roast fundraiser for the intern program. Bill spoke with high regards for our current intern Lucas.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Devotions: Carmen

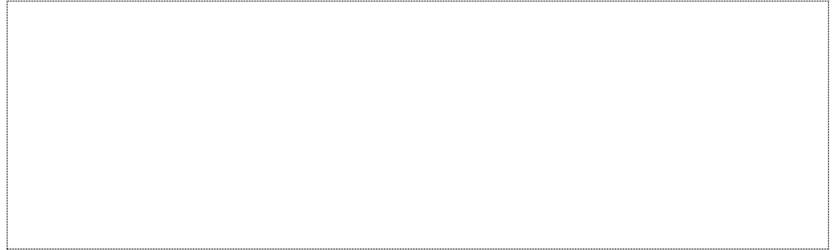
Adjournment: M/S Don/Harris, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Doehling

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

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. ~Mother Teresa