

April 2021 Newsletter

Selah IN EASTER



PSALM 84: 1-4

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. **Selah***

The word Selah is used at least 74 times in the Psalms. We don't know the exact meaning of the word; however, many Hebrew scholars believe it means "pause".

This Selah in Psalm 84 comes just as we begin to return and are happy to be in God's house and sing God's praises. Some of you have begun to pause for worship at First Lutheran. Some of you continue to pause and worship God at home in a variety of ways. Some of you pause and worship God by church surfing or church binge watching. All are great God pauses.

However we worship together, our hearts sing for joy to the living God who rose on Easter morning. Jesus points us beyond the cross to eternal life. Let us pause today to give thanks to our God who is our dwelling place and holds us every day and in all our pauses.

Where or how do you need to pause today? -Selah

Blessings on your Easter! Pastor Julie

HOLY WEEK-EASTER SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday Evening: 6:30 with Fifth Grade First Communion.

Good Friday Morning: *Prayers Around the Cross* – 9 A.M. in the Church Sanctuary.

Good Friday Evening: *Stations of the Cross* – 6 P.M. in the Parking Lot around a campfire.

(Indoors if it rains). Area pastors and Intern Lucas will participate in the Services which include Music, Prayers & Readings.

Easter Morning: Two Services – 9:00 am and 10:15 am. Drive-By Communion...**And..**

An Easter Treat from FLCW*.**

"In Lieu of Traditional Easter Breakfast the FLCW will be providing a continental breakfast to-go. The breakfast bag will be available for you to pick up of Easter Sunday as you depart the 9:00 service, enter the 10:15 service, or in the church parking lot between 9:45 and 10:15 (drive-by communion window). We will be providing 1 bag per person. A free-will donation is appreciated but certainly not required. We look forward to seeing you on Easter Sunday!" [by FLCW]

CONGRATULATIONS - Fifth Grade First Communion Students

Hannah Kruger, Illah Rechtzigel and Peyton Temple receive(d) their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students will meet in person, wearing masks after Easter -- April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5th. We will take a half day retreat after the school year ends, to learn, connect and smile. Thank you to parents for being so patient this year. There have been so many learning processes in which you encouraged your student.

MOVING HELP NEEDED

Jim and Faye Marcuson will be moving this month. Let Pastor Julie know if you are able to help them make this move. When they get into their new home we will surround their home with love and offer a house blessing outside. Blessings to them in their year of so much grief and transition.

GOOD EARTH SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Check out options online at: <http://goodearthvillage.org/summer2021>

WORSHIP MOVING FORWARD - Church is Open with these Guidelines...

~ Masks are required. ~ Sanctuary is arranged so that we are social distanced from people who are not in our household. ~ Beginning Easter Sunday we will sing - with our masks on - one or two verses of a closing hymn. ~ Wednesday Night services will be back beginning June 2nd.

DEVOTION BOOKS: *Christ In Our Home* - APR-MAY-JUN – are available now

See Countertop Basket at rear of church OR Tote Container Outside handicapped entrance

SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE &/OR EASTER



Stewardship Committee encourages the congregation over the next few weeks to send out 5-10 written (cards or notes) – messages of Hope &/or Easter – to others who may need to hear encouragement or may be struggling to find meaning during these times.



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, March 17, 2021 @ 7:30 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Harris Haugen

Present: Harris Haugen, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bill Lewis via Zoom, Cindy Lewis, Pastor Julie Rogness, Jim Fountaine and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Sandy read The Legacy of St. Patrick by Cathy Irvin

Adopt Agenda: M/S Carmen/Jim, Approved

Secretary's Report: M/S Brad/Harris, Approved

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

02/28/2021: Checking Account Balance **\$4,703.60**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship - 4 (3 live streaming and 1 prerecorded), Lent - 5 prerecorded, Funeral service - 1 funeral - Lynn Fromm, Meeting with 5th graders preparing for First Communion on Maundy Thursday, Mwangaza Board - 1 meeting via Zoom, Lenten Theme Again and Again on Sunday, Wednesdays - Reflections of the Heart (weekly lessons being emailed out from the office) pre recording with Jim, Phone calls to check on people and mailings plus people stopping by church or out in public settings, In person Executive meeting, KAI in person meeting, Worship Committee Meeting viz Zoom, Zoom Continuing Ed - Faith In Pandemic through Church Anew, Round Table with Intern and pastors via Zoom, Visited at Kenyon Senior Living - 4 (will do more), 1 in home visit, Meeting with people in my office - 1 a soon to be new member, Received first vaccination (March 25 second dose), Helped with interviewing candidates for next year's intern, Planning for Area Church Good Friday Morning & Evening Services with Lucas and other area pastors, Holy Week planning going well. **Looking forward:** Easter, Confirmation begins again after Easter, Premarital meeting and April 12 wedding off site, Continuing Ed Event April 26-28, Time away - May 9-16 Pastor Chris Miller will cover Sundays, Baccalaureate Service May 26, Supervisor for Lucas during month of June.

Continuing Business:

1. Church reopening on March 7th has received positive feedback in a great setting with no issues. Many members report it "feels good to be back." Governor Walz has announced singing is permitted as long as congregants remain masked while our Bishop notes singing is strongly discouraged, however, technically allowed with guidelines and according to the Department of Health should be about a congregation's risk tolerance. The Worship Committee discussed in favor of congregational singing limited to the end of the service. Prerecorded music has been arranged for Palm Sunday.
2. Good Friday Morning: *Prayers Around the Cross* – 9 A.M. in the Church Sanctuary.
Good Friday Evening - *Stations of the Cross* – 6 P.M. in the Parking Lot around a campfire. (indoors if it rains). Area pastors and Intern Lucas will participate in the Services which include Music Prayers & Readings.
3. Easter Services will be held at 9:00 am and 10:15 am. Drive-By Communion and FLCW Breakfast Bags will be served from 9:45 am-10:15 am.
4. Treasury Update: a) A computer has been purchased for reporting purposes. b) 2 credit cards have been issued by Chase Bank with no annual fee to Pastor Julie and Bill. c) The original safe is reportedly cumbersome, but deemed fine for now while a replacement key is required for another existing safe which Brad is working on obtaining.

New Business:

1. Stewardship - Jim announced an open position available on the committee.
2. Wednesday evening services will resume outdoors June 2, weather permitting, otherwise indoors.
3. Jean Hiner Group Request to occasionally meet in the building at 2 hour intervals has been granted by the council. Masks and social distancing are required.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - will meet via Zoom on 3/22. A drive by breakfast will be offered on Easter morning.

Youth Representative - not present

Worship/Evangelism - met 3/9 to review feedback on reopening and noted Lucas' advisement of camera positioning to accommodate live streaming goals as well as in person presence. Replies from a recent survey sent to parishioners have aided in Easter service preparations.

Property and Management - The committee held an impromptu meeting on Friday, March 5 with four members present. The following topics were considered and discussed:

1. Church reopening on Sunday March 7th. Thanks to a number of our members, the sanctuary has been cleaned and again presentable for worshipers. A thank you goes out to those who volunteered their time. Committee members will be present and assist ushering on the 7th. Masks will be required and social distancing guidelines adhered to with only immediate family sitting in close proximity to one another.
2. Our church had recently been placed on notice by the City of Kenyon as to the possibility that the alleyway immediately east of the main church building be permanently vacated. If so, what might the impact or ramifications be on our church (?). Committee members agreed that a representative(s) should attend the upcoming City Council meeting set for 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on Tuesday, March 9th.
3. Some concern has been expressed as to bats being present in the sanctuary from time to time. Committee members will monitor going forward and take action to reduce any impact they might have on our building. [Brad Nesseth, Committee Chair]

Follow up Note : Two committee members did attend the Kenyon City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 9th. Among other things, council members did discuss the possibility of vacating the now city alley immediately east of the church (running between our main building and what at one time was the second parsonage owned by First Lutheran on 3rd Street). Following discussion amongst the council members with limited input from First Lutheran representatives, the council voted down the idea of vacating the alley. The City will therefore continue to maintain the surface including winter snow plowing.

Stewardship - Stewardship Committee met on March 16 at 5:30. Attending: Jim Fountain, Sue Wold, Pastor Julie, Dan Rogness, Tanya Short.

1) Meeting dates & time: continue to meet 2nd Thursday of the month. 2) Committee Chair - Jim Fountaine. 3) Stewardship Secretary - Tanya Short, subst. Sue Wold. 4) Council Rep - Jim Fountaine, other members as needed. 5) Review of Annual Report. 6) Looking forward to 2021: still awaiting full opening; looking forward to celebrations, graduations, memorials, area intern fund raisers, etc. 7) Other topics: (a) Pastor still receiving gift cards for local groceries, please expand that to include local gas cards. (b) Stewardship committee encourages the congregation during Holy week to send out 5-10 messages of hope and/or Easter to others they feel may need to hear encouragement. (c) Discussion of congregational Time and Talents Survey, has not been done in over 3 years, discussion of digital survey through email, Ideas or thoughts from Council welcomed. (d) Would like to resume Sunday worship volunteers clipboard when safe to do so. 8) Next meeting: April 8, 5:30pm. [Tanya Short, Committee Secretary]

Youth and Education - Pastor Julie is meeting with 5th graders preparing for their First Communion and staying connected with the Sunday School students.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - The intern committee interviewed eight promising candidates over 2 days and the midterm evaluation for our current intern Lucas who is working on a project he is passionate about went well.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 @ 7:30 pm.

Devotions: Brad Nesseth.

Adjournment: M/S Carmen/Harris, Approved.

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

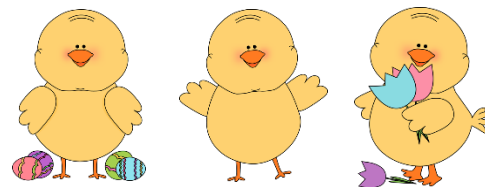
Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Doehling, Council Secretary

April Calendar 2021

Season: *Easter*

- Sunday Worship is In-Person & Live Stream
- Confirmation Classes Resume After Easter
- Wednesday Worship Resumes after Memorial Day



				1 <i>MAUNDY THURS</i> 6:30 Worship 7:00 AA	2 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> 9:00 Prayers Around the Cross 6:00 Stations of the Cross	3
4 <i>EASTER</i> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Worship 9:45 to 10:15 Drive-By Communion & Breakfast Bags 7:00 AA	5	6	7 6:30 Confirmation	8 5:30 Stewardship Committee 7:00 AA	9	10
11 9:00 Worship 7:00 AA	12 6 pm Wedding Off-Site	13 6:30 Worship/ Evangelism Committee	14 5:00 EdYou Committee 6:30 Confirmation	15 10:00 Round Table 7:00 AA	16	17
18 9:00 Worship 7:00 AA	19	20	21 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Council	22 7:00 AA	23	24
25 9:00 Worship 7:00 AA	26	27 7:00 KAI	28 6:30 Confirmation	29 7:00 AA	30	

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

APRIL
NEWSLETTER



Where flowers bloom, so does hope.
LADY BIRD JOHNSON