

## March 2021 Newsletter



### **Lenten Journey Again and Again God is Generous**

John 15:15 *"I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."*

God calls us friends not servants. People who live their entire lives inside of a system of competing, measuring, earning, counting, and performing can't understand how the win/win situation of the Gospel would even be interesting or attractive. Christianity has for the most part mirrored culture instead of transforming it. God's generosity of love poured out upon us is always inviting us to transform the world around us by seeing one another as friends instead of enemies, as partners instead of competitors. Loving and healing—is the very purpose of the Gospel. As we journey this month of March towards the cross of Christ notice where you are seeing and offering love and healing. Dear friend of Jesus - again and again be generous with love and healing.

### **Lenten Wednesdays Reflections on the Heart**

Each week throughout March an email will arrive. A devotion by Pastor Julie will be posted on our website on Wednesday for continued reflection.

### **Opening the Church For Sunday Worship** beginning, **Sunday, March 7th at 9 a.m.**

We will continue our live streaming online via the Website and Facebook page. Ushers will help usher you in and out. **Masks are required** and a 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. We will be open at 50% capacity.

### **Fifth Grade First Communion**

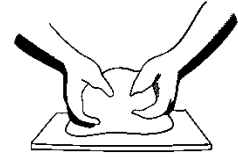
Classes are March 7, 14 and 21 as our First Communicants move closer to their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st. They will be invited to bake bread at home for their first communion. You might like to try it too. Here is the recipe they will use...*next pg.*

## A Recipe for Communion Bread

from the Monastery of the Holy Spirit - Conyers, Georgia

**Ingredients:** 4 C Whole Wheat Flour  
4 † Double-acting baking powder  
2 † Salt

**Honey Water:** (mix together in a bowl)  
½ C Honey, ½ C Milk, ½ C Hot water, ½ C Oil



Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the honeyed water gradually to the dry ingredients until you have a smooth, soft dough which is not too sticky to handle.

Knead the dough gently on a lightly floured surface. Roll dough to desired thickness. Don't roll too thin (1/4 inch). Cut out desired size and shape. The plastic lid of shortening can is about right.

Cut a cross shape into the surface of each loaf with serrated knife.

Bake on lightly greased baking sheet at 400 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Do not over bake. Let bread cool for about an hour. Wrap individual loaves in plastic and put in the freezer. Remove at least one hour before using.

## Good Friday – April 2 – Two Worship Opportunities

*Luke 23:44* It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

### Prayers Around the Cross – 9:00 a.m.

In the sanctuary, a reflective time including reading of scripture, music, lighting of candles and the sound of nails to remind us of Jesus death on the cross.

### Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m.

In the church parking lot around a bonfire. Area churches are joining together to remember the passion story of the last days of Jesus' life. We will journey together to the cross.

## Easter Plants



If you would like a plant in church for Easter in Honor/Memory of a loved one, please purchase your own and deliver it to the church. To be listed in the Easter bulletin, please provide the information requested below... leave in the offering plate or bring/send to the church office. **BULLETIN DEADLINE IS—Friday, March 26.**

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

## **First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, February 17, 2021 @ 7:30 pm**

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Harris Haugen

**Present:** Harris Haugen, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bill Lewis, Cindy Lewis, Pastor Julie Rogness and Sandy Doehling

**Devotions:** Carmen on Colossians 3:23

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

**Secretary's Report:** M/S Bill/Harris, Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** after brief discussion and clarity, M/S Harris/Carmen, Approved  
01/31/2021: Checking Account Balance **\$4,450.75**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

**Pastors Report:** Worship - 5 (3 live streaming and 2 prerecorded), Invited Jeff Andrews to come down twice to help us with the sound for live streaming, Attended Zoom Synod Council Meeting, First Lutheran Annual Meeting via Zoom, On Mwangaza Board - 2 meetings via Zoom (2 recent meetings), Confirmation via Zoom - 2, Preparing for Fifth Grade First Communion, Lenten Theme Again and Again on Sunday (sent Sunday School lessons to families), Wednesdays - Reflection on the Heart (weekly lessons being emailed out from the office), 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 via Zoom, Premarital meetings via Zoom - 2, Cannon River Conference meeting via Zoom, Family, Youth and Children's gathering via Zoom, Round Table with Intern and pastors via Zoom, Cannon River Conference Annual Meeting via Zoom, Sharing gift cards that are still being given, Drive by Ashes, Communion and Devotion Cards on Ash Wednesday, Clergy Coaching, Reflection and time away - Tuesday, February 16. I will not be the internship supervisor next year - Pastor Chad at Trinity in West Concord will be. I will help interview at least two possible candidates next week.

### **Continuing Business:**

1. Church opening is slated for March 7th. Parishioners are required to wear a mask, practice social distancing, refrain from singing and encouraged to print their own bulletin. Musicians and vocalists will perform behind plexiglass. A collection plate will be placed at both entrances.
  - a. Cleaning the church will occur on Tuesday, March 2nd at 10:00 am and Thursday, March 4th at 10:00 am. Committee chair members will secure 6-8 volunteers for the task. Cleaning supplies will be provided and volunteers will be masked and socially distanced.
  - b. Ushers will abide by the protocol set in place.
  - c. Communion will be postponed at this time, however, prefilled communion cups with wafers will be available to partake at home for your safety.

### **New Business:**

1. Church Credit Card - Bill proposed establishing a policy for use of two cards to include allowing only Bill and Pastor Julie access. Bill offered to create this policy guided by the hand out "Best practices for congregation or synod credit cards." M/S Carmen/Brad, Approved.
2. Cub Scouts are not in need of a meeting place at this time.
3. Treasurer
  - a. A computer has been purchased for the treasurer's use to maintain, develop and improve the reporting and monitoring techniques used to communicate the financial status of the congregation as outlined in the treasurer's job description. Bill and Julie Dyrdahl will share a software program.

- b. Bill recommended obtaining a safe to secure monetary gifts and contributions to the church. After thoughtful discussion, it was agreed upon that the current safe, if functional, will serve this purpose at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

*FLCW* - met 2/8/21 via Zoom to plan an Easter Sunday drive by breakfast to include cinnamon rolls, fruit and candy. Committee members are sending cards to shut-ins and plan to gift a devotional book to this year's graduates while the Love Day Ladies are making quilts for them. The committee wishes to relinquish Cradle Roll to the Youth and Education Committee. Gol Lutheran Church will host World Day of Prayer outdoors in August.

*Youth Representative* - not present

*Worship/Evangelism* - see Continuing Business for the church reopening. Pastor Julie will reach out to the Kenyon-Wanamingo band and choir for providing live music during worship.

*Property and Management* - did not meet. Providing snow removal as needed.

*Stewardship* - did not meet.

*Youth and Education* - did not meet.

*Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC* - Bill praised Intern Lucas for his service and stated we are blessed to have him. KAIC is discussing hosting a fundraiser event.

**Next Meeting:** March 17, 2021 @ 7:30 pm

**Devotions:** Sandy Doehling

**Adjournment:** M/S Carmen/Harris

**Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Doehling, Council Secretary



**Adult Ed/Faith Formation Opportunity**



***Intern Lucas Shurson to offer a forum after Easter on hospitality***

One of the unexpected joys of this year so far has been seeing how wide a group of people the Kenyon area congregations have been able to reach. With the crash-course we've all had in online worship and fellowship this past year, we've seen people from all over getting involved. I see people from the Kenyon area watching services at multiple places on a Sunday, and I know we regularly have people participate from around the country. I've heard that we have people watching from as far away as Oregon (Hi, Mom!) and Pennsylvania. Our churches have connected with people who we wouldn't otherwise be reaching on account of distance and on account of past baggage that can come with attending church in person, and it's been a great thing to see how this past year has opened up new chances for hospitality.

With that theme of hospitality in mind, I'm planning on hosting a forum on the subject in the weeks following Easter. It'll be a time to discuss what it means to be good neighbors, reaching out beyond our walls and helping those who are already here to feel more at home. We'll be focusing especially on what that might look like in the context of our LGBT neighbors. We're in the planning stages of what that forum will look like at this point, so be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks and months!

# March Calendar 2021

Season: Lent

- Sunday Worship is In-Person & Live Stream
- Confirmation Classes Resume After Easter
- Wednesday Devotions are On-Line



	1	2 10---Cleaning Church 6:30-Zoom Mtg Worship- Evangelism	3 Devotion <sup>2</sup> <i>Sharing Our Hearts</i>	4 10--Cleaning Church 7--- AA	5	6
7 - LENT 3 9 ----Worship 10---5th Gr/Class First Communion 7-----AA	8	9	10 Devotion <sup>3</sup> <i>Knowing the Good</i>  7----Exec Committee	11 9:30-Zoom Mtg- Cannon Rvr Conf. 5:30-Stewardshp 7-----AA	12	13
14 - LENT 4 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>  9 ----Worship 10---5th Gr/Class First Communion 7-----AA	15	16	17 Devotion <sup>4</sup> <i>Becoming Someone New</i>  7:30---Council  	18  7----AA	19	20
21 - LENT 5 9----Worship 10---5th Gr/Class First Communion 7----AA	22	23 7----KAI Mtg	24 Devotion <sup>5</sup> <i>Shifting Our Gaze</i>	25  7----AA	26	27
28 - PALM SUN 9 ---Worship 7----AA 	29	30	31	APR 1  <i>MAUNDY THURS</i>	APR 2  <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	APR 3
APR 4  <i>EASTER</i>						

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

MARCH  
NEWSLETTER



**One small positive thought  
in the morning can  
change your whole day!**