

## May Newsletter 2021



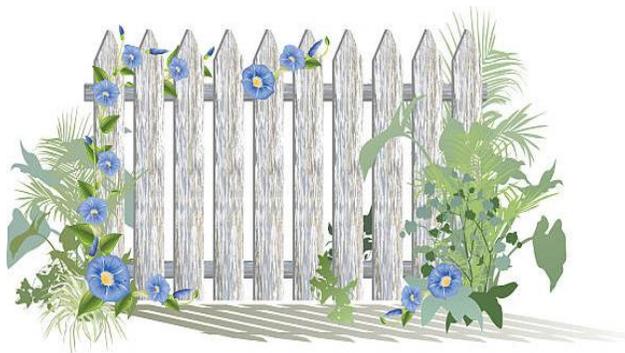
*I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone." The Enthroned continued, "Look! I'm making everything new." REVELATIONS 21:3-5*

### **Grief and Sorrow – Tears and Gardens**

I have been thinking so much about all the loss that has occurred in this past year. Driving in Chatfield a weekend ago, Dan stopped to take pictures in a cemetery. I noticed a new gravestone with a beautiful picture of a young woman. She was in college and died suddenly last April. She worked as an intern student in an area of Mayo Clinic. My heart broke for her parents, family, and friends.

A friend writes, "Given the weight of the days, it might be tempting to just seek escape. But while escape feels good for a moment, the problems still remain." Grief is a natural part of our healing process. Grief includes anger, sadness, and tears. It is said that our tears water the gardens of the earth. It is near spring now and something new and beautiful is about to grow – a garden of hope from our risen Lord – Jesus. So do not be afraid to shed tears today if you need to.

*Blessings – Pastor Julie*



**A Time For A Good Conversation - A Good Time For the Truth**  
**Join Pastor Julie on Thursdays May 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**

For conversation about true stories, shock, grief, dreams, activism, and recognition. You are invited to read a book, *A Good Time For the Truth*, secured from Pastor Julie (thanks to a gift from Thrivent Action Teams). We will listen and learn about one another's real lives in Minnesota.

During our Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> conversation Kao Kalia Yang will join the conversation. She is an award-winning Hmong-American writer, author of the memoirs *The Latehomecomer*, *The Song Poet*, and *Somewhere in the Unknown World*. She co-edited the ground-breaking collection *What God is Honored Here? : WRITINGS ON MISCARRIAGE AND INFANT LOSS BY AND FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOR*.

This is conversation you will not want to miss. Contact Pastor Julie to participate. This will be possible in person and on Zoom.

**Senior Graduation Sunday & Baccalaureate**

These Seniors from First Lutheran will be graduating in June:

*Tanner Angelstad, Luke Berg, Carrie Doehling,  
Tyler Haasnoot, Jonathan Kirchmann,  
Sam Lee, Michael Pliscott, Logan Thompson,  
Dan VanEpps, Katie VanEpps.*

We will celebrate their accomplishment on  
**Senior Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM worship.**

Baccalaureate will be Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM  
at Trinity Lutheran in Wanamingo.

**Chalk the Walk & Bonfire — Intergenerational Event**  
**Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM.**

Come enjoy time together in the church parking lot  
to feast on a smore or more!

Offered by the EdYou Committee for all ages.  
Bring a lawn chair and a smile.

## INTERN PASTOR LUCAS

Now that May is here, I've been feeling down that confirmation classes are winding down. I've enjoyed getting to know the kids and working with them as they grow into their faith. Soon enough, though, they'll have been confirmed, making that transition into being adult members of the church. The month of May is full of moments like that. Many churches hold confirmation that month, graduations are on the horizon, and in more normal years there would be lots of weddings to attend. This is a season where we and our loved ones find ourselves on the verge of stepping into something new.

It has me thinking about the thresholds of our lives, those times when we move from one way of being in the world into another way. The Bible is full of moments like that. Think of God giving Sarah and Abraham their new names. That was a time when their new future was opened up for them to be the parents to a great nation. Jesus was involved in times like these too; Jesus' first steps into ministry happened at a wedding, where the couple was starting a new life together. We could even think of Jesus having those experiences too. He made the transition from life to death and then back again, and everything was different after those moments at the threshold.

These moments of transition in our own lives, whether graduations, weddings, funerals, or whatever else, are places where God is at work with us. God rejoices with us when new possibilities open up and comforts us when old ways are no longer possible.

The church itself is a place where God is at work in the threshold of our lives, too. We might not think of a normal Sunday at church that way if we attend regularly, but this is how the early Christians saw it. In many ancient churches, the baptismal font was placed by the entrance to show how we find a new family as we start our life with God. The font reminded people that we are always stepping into something new with God. When that happens, the church takes on a big responsibility! The church's members make the commitment to make the love of new family a reality, both within and outside the walls of the church.

With commitment made at the threshold in mind, I'm going to be hosting a number of forums in May exploring what we mean when we talk about making that new family. What does it look like to welcome people to church these days? What makes church a comfortable place for people? What is God's place in making this hospitality? It will be a time of discussion and listening, and we'll be looking especially at what hospitality looks like toward LGBT people.

Three sessions with similar content will be offered, so feel free to choose the one that best fits your schedule. They will be Saturday May 1 at 10:00 am at First Lutheran, Sunday May 2 at 10:00 am at Vang Lutheran, and Wednesday May 5 at 7:00 pm at Holden Lutheran. A Zoom link for the May 1 session will be available as well, and you can contact me for that link at: [Ishurson001@luthersem.edu](mailto:Ishurson001@luthersem.edu)

I'm excited for those times of discussion and fellowship, and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Peace, Intern Lucas

### **Thank You from FLCW**

FLCW would like to thank all of our church family who donated to our Easter "Breakfast in a bag." It was so great to see everyone that morning and to celebrate the Risen Lord.

Blessings to all.

*First Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)*

## Stewardship Committee • MISSIONARY UPDATE • Karen Anderson in Chile

It is hard to believe that this will be our second Holy Week in a pandemic. Across the world we have all faced so much suffering and uncertainty. In Chile we are facing the worst moment of the pandemic so far. The entire country is back in strict quarantine. While the vaccination process has been massive, efficient and fair, everything else the government has done has been a disaster, i.e. leaving the border open. Through these trying times the work goes on. We have online webinars on health care access. During this Lenten season way, we ask ourselves who are the most vulnerable in poor communities and how we can support them both in their immediate needs and in the long-term work to create a more just society. Thank you again for your love and support. We pray that God keeps you safe and fills you with hope this Easter season.

Karen Anderson - karenleeana@aol.com



### *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*

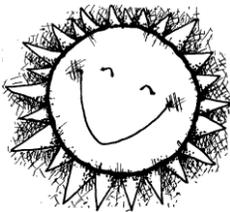
Presented by Kenyon-Wanamingo High School

**May 7,8, and 15 at 7 P.M.**

**May 9 and 16 at 2 P.M.**

Order Tickets online at <http://our.show/k-wtheater>

\$10 Adults - \$7 Students



### **Have a Happy May !**

Oh, what is so rare as a day in May,  
When the great sun shines like this!  
When the soft winds woo, all tender and true,  
And breathe on one's cheek like a kiss!  
When the sky is so blue—ah—heaven's own blue!  
And the birds in the greening trees  
Are bursting their throats with rapturous notes...

~Jean Wright, "A-Maying"



# First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, April 21, 2021 @ 7:30 pm

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

**Present:** Harris Haugen, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Tanya Short, Ben Short, Pastor Julie Rogness, Bill Lewis, Jackie Mortensen and Sandy Doehling

**Devotions:** Brad shared an excerpt from Faith Appetizers by Chris Brekke outlining the Peace Plan is Jesus.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** M/S Carmen/Brad, Approved

03/31/2021: Checking Account Balance **\$6,254.01**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

**Pastor's Report:** Worship - 8 including Holy Week and Easter, 8 - live streaming, Lent - 1 prerecorded, Holy Week - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (2), 5th Graders First Communion, Continue to seek Assisting Ministers for Sunday worship, Ensemble for Easter - thanks to Mike Aldorfer, KW Cares team met - planning fall collaborative event, Food Distribution Event Friday - 16 youth from First helped, KAI in person meeting, Worship Evangelism Committee Meeting via Zoom, Mwangaza Board Meeting - Mary Danielson Gates is now a member, EdYou Committee Meeting, On-call for Pastor Tim, Visits - phone calls, homes, Three Links, on the streets, Meeting with people face to face at Church, Helped with interviewing candidate for next year intern Al Aakre, Planned for Area Church evening Good Friday Service with Lucas, Planned for morning Good Friday service - joined by other pastors, Holy Week planning, Confirmation, Wedding April 12th, Funeral April 23rd, Moving Jim and Faye April 24th at 2 pm. **Looking Forward:** Council Installation, Continuing Ed April 26-28th, Boundaries Workshop April 29th, New Members and Baptism, Senior Recognition Sunday, May 23rd, Baccalaureate 8:00 pm May 26th at Trinity Wanamingo - preaching, Time away - May 9th and 16th Pastor Chris Miller will cover Sundays, Supervisor for Lucas during month of June, Vacation time May 7th-16th.

## Continuing Business:

1. Church opening has posed no concerns at this time.
2. Treasurer Update - Bill reports all is going well. The main safe is cumbersome while the existing file cabinet needs a new lock and key to function as a secure location and is recommended to be installed by a locksmith. M/S Harris/Bill, Approved. Bill will meet with Steve Johnson to retrieve data from the computer.
3. Synod Assembly - Harris and Carmen will attend via Zoom.

## New Business:

1. Senior Recognition May 23rd FLCW Jackie reports the Love Day Ladies are busy tying quilts to be presented to the seniors and Heidi Haugen will order devotional books to be purchased by the Youth Fund.
2. Pliscott Family Request to use the fellowship hall for Michael's graduation party has regrettably been denied at this time as the current protocol prohibits the preparation and consumption of food in this setting.
3. New Members and the Baptism of Aurette Bauer will be held Sunday, May 2nd.
4. Assessment Billing to be paid in full. M/S Carmen/Harris, Approved.
5. Hybrid Church continues to benefit all and has established adaptive leadership. Bill advises creating a committee to address the workload of the tech team whose diligent service is to be commended. The church has succeeded in multiple ways of giving and Tanya encourages engaging in connectivity to reestablish relationships in the church body.

## Committee Reports:

*FLCW* - over \$500 was generated from the Easter breakfast. FLCW Minutes 3/22/2021 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Minutes as follows: Call to Order: Jackie. Jill read devotions. Secretary's Report: February 8, 2021 meeting read and accepted and placed on file. Treasurer's Report: No change from 2/22/2021 with \$715.78

We need to keep in mind our disbursements of 2021 will be limited and prioritized because we have not been able to have our usual fund-raising activities.

Old Business:

1. FLCW Booklet: It will be sent as an email or a hard copy which can be picked up at church. Kaia L will set up the communion schedule for the upcoming months, should the decision be made to start serving communion at services.

2. Easter Breakfast in a Bag: 120 bags will be available. Items in the bag include Randy's roll in a clam shell, fruit cup, spoon, snack bag of candy, Thrivent stickers will be on the bags. Timeline: 4/2/21 Friday 9:00 pm Don and Candy set out the rolls; 4/3/21 Saturday 7:00 am Don and Candy bake the rolls. 4/3/21 Saturday 9:00 am Sherry, Bev, Jill, Sandy, Tammy frost the rolls; 4/3/21 Saturday 10:00 am pack the bags and set on trays or in the tubs to be taken up to hand out outside after the 9 am service. 4/4/21 Sunday after 9 am service Jill and Heidi and others will hand out. Tammy will prepare a memo for Annette to send out stating free will offering is appreciated.
  3. Easter Cards and Inserts: Mary, Carey and Marie will send them out to homebound members.
  4. KW Senior Graduates: Love Day Ladies will have a quilt for each of the 10 graduates, 8 boys and 2 girls. We are requesting \$100.00 from the youth account to pay for a book called "Truth: 365 Devotions for Teens". Annette will make labels for the books.
  5. Funerals: There will be no funerals with food served from the kitchen until notice is given by the council.
  6. Revised Constitution: Start looking at the 2009 revised copy to revise once more.
- New Business: None. Next meeting will be held when needed. Meeting adjourned & closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Cora Lee Monroe

*Youth Representative* - Ben Short was present and orientated on what he might report from a youth's perspective in relation to life outside the church as well as inquiries about church proceedings.

*Worship/Evangelism* - Funeral and wedding guidelines remain at 50% capacity or 75-100 people. The kitchen will not reopen to serve food for any event at this time. The church will retain a hybrid model with 30-45 minute services including children's messages by Pastor Julie.

*Property and Management* - did not meet, however, looking to purchase 6 Hybrid Maples to plant on the south side of the church in memory of Ed Matul.

*Stewardship* – Met 5:30 Thursday April 8. Attending: Tanya Short, Pastor Julie, Jim Fountaine

1. Old business:

a) Sending Easter greetings was well received. b) Time and talent survey - still in discussion as to how to survey the congregation - for now we encourage each committee to list their current need in the bulletin. Needs might include Assisting minister for worship, Soloists for worship, Ditch cleaning coming up, Help moving Jim and Faye on April 22, etc. c) Please continue with donations to food shelf and local gift cards this spring as you are able. We are grateful for your gifts to those in need.

2. Stewardship comm. is in need of another member. Discussion presented several names to call.
3. Next council meeting April 21 @ 7:30 -Tanya will attend.
4. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Short

*Youth and Education* - Plans are to resume Sunday School in the fall with 3 age groups participating in crafts, reading and music alternatively. An intergenerational event of sidewalk chalk art, a bonfire and yard games will be held at the church on May 23rd at 1:00 pm. Other upcoming events include ditch clean up and potentially Good Earth Village events being held daily. VBS has been cancelled. Next meeting is slated for May 19th at 5:00 pm.

*Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC* - Endowment clarified that original funds are untouched while only the interest dollars are distributed to approved requests. A scholarship form has been sent to this year's seniors inviting them to apply for tuition funds. The Personnel Committee will meet April 22nd and have a youth position available. KAIC will meet at the end of the month.

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2021 @ 7:30 pm. **Devotions:** Bill Lewis

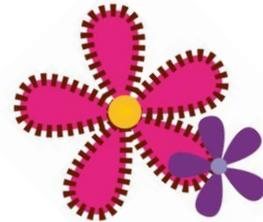
**Adjournment:** M/S Carmen/Jackie, Approved

**Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Doehling, Council Secretary

# May Calendar 2021

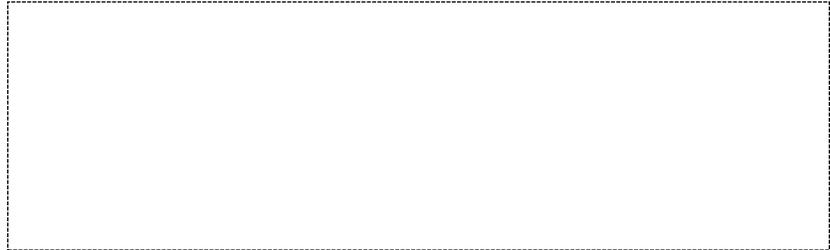
- Sunday Worship is In-Person & Live Stream
- Last Confirmation Class May 5



						1 10:00 Lucas/ Intern Project @ First
2 9:00 Worship 10:00 Lucas/ Intern Project @ Vang 7:00 AA	3	4 6:30 pm Worship/ Evangelism	5 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Lucas/ Intern Project @ Holden	6 5:30 Stewardship 7:00 AA	7	8 SYNOD ASSEMBLY Virtual
9 9:00 Worship 7 AA	10	11	12	13 7:00 AA	14	15
16 9:00 Worship 7:00 AA	17	18	19 5:00 Ed/Youth 7:30 Council	20 6:30 Book Grp: A Good Time for the Truth 7:00 AA	21	22
23 PENTECOST Sr. Recognition Sunday 9:00 Worship 1:00 Intergenera- tional Chalk the Walk & Bonfire 7:00 AA	24	25 7:00 KAI	26 Baccalaureate 8:00 Trinity/Wgo	27 9:00 Round Table 6:30 Book Grp: A Good Time for the Truth 7:00 AA	28	29
30 HOLY TRINITY 9:00 Worship 7:00 AA	31					

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

MAY  
NEWSLETTER



What is a weed?  
A plant whose virtues  
have never been discovered.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson-