

Newsletter

August - 2021



I have had the opportunity to take the tool called Strength Finders. I am almost always the same six strengths including Connectedness. Connectedness is defined as – occasionally feel a strong link to just about every human being. They believe there are few coincidences and that almost every event has a reason.

This was the case at a recent funeral for Ruth Jacobson. Of course, Ruth and Jake knew my mother and father-in-law from life together at First. Their friendship meant something so that my brother-in-law (Dan's twin) baptismal sponsors are Jake and Ruth. While planning the funeral service it was clear Steve Sviggum would be asked to speak. I texted his sister Missy to get Steve's number only to find out Missy's baptismal sponsors were Jake and Ruth too. At the funeral was Pastor Rolf Olson, a pastor I have known for some time, he is a good friend of Rolf Jacobson. And there is a strong connection between all of us to Two Inlet Lake in Northern Minnesota.

I suspect you can tell a similar story. And because of my Connectedness strength, I find great joy in these connections.

It always makes me ponder why we do not love each other more? We are all connected though Jesus Christ, family of God really. Why does there have to be so much hate in the world?

“He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”
Colossians 1:17-19

Today, I pray that we might see the fullness of God dwelling in each person we meet. I pray we might see our connectedness and give thanks.

Pastor Julie



Kenyon Area Internship Summer Community Gather & Fundraiser Sunday, August 1st, 2-4 PM at First Lutheran Kenyon



**Pies and Cakes for Sale
Dessert and Beverages Served
Games & Door Prizes**

GOOD 'PIE' to Intern Pastor Lucas!

May involve a chance to throw a pie his way as we prepare to say – Good (Pie) Bye!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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## MINI-VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Sunday, August 15, 2021, 1-3 pm

Grades K-6 (entering)



Join us for crafts, snacks, games, and camp songs!

RSVP preferred, but not required. RSVP on facebook or e-mail:

[smhildebrandt7@gmail.com](mailto:smhildebrandt7@gmail.com) or [sarah.g.vanepps@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.g.vanepps@gmail.com)

*Looking for youth entering grades 7-12 to volunteer with the event*

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YOUTH NIGHT



Friday, August 27, 2021, 6-9:30 pm

Grades 7-12 (entering)



Join us for games, movie (outdoor weather permitting, indoor if rain), and pizza at the church

INTERN PASTOR LUCAS SHURSON • • •

When I think back to last September when I started this internship, I remember most clearly the sense of uncertainty I had at what the year would look like. How would we worship? What would we do to find community when physical togetherness was dangerous? Could the church find its footing amidst the chaos? Looking back a year later as I finish my internship, I couldn't be more proud of the answers I found to those questions. I saw grace, resilience, and faithfulness abound this year as we made our way through the challenges we faced.

For this coming year, I'll be back in St. Paul finishing my degree at the seminary, with gratitude for the ways that you all have taught me about loving God and about loving our neighbor. Wherever I end up in a first call, I'll bring with me the memories and lessons of my time in and around Kenyon. Even after I leave this place physically, it makes me glad to know that we're all still going to be working toward the same ministry of reconciliation and love, as churches within the Church and as the faithful within the faith.

Through welcomes and goodbyes, I'm reminded of a sermon preached by Martin Luther. He wrote about the church saying, "But don't you forget the main point here, namely, that God wants to make his dwelling here. The church is a dwelling, in order that God may be loved and heard. Not wood or stones, not dumb animals, it should be people, who know, love, and praise God. And that you may be able to trust God with certainty in all things, including cross and suffering, you should know that it is the true church, even though it be made up of scarcely two believing persons. That's why Christ says: He who loves me keeps my Word; there I will dwell, there you have my church."

God's Word is here. I know that because I've seen it among the people here. May that Word be a blessing to you, to your neighbors, and to the world. God's peace along the way

—Intern Lucas Shurson—

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 21, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: Harris Haugen

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

Devotions: Harris on the River of the Spirit of God refreshes our soul.

Approval of Agenda: M/S Bill/Carmen, Approved. **Secretary's Report:** M/S Harris/Carmen, Approved.

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

06/30/2021: Checking Account Balance **\$3,795.76**, Memorial Account Balance **\$525**

Pastor's Report: Worship: 5-Sunday Morning, 5-Wednesday Evening (2 outdoors), 5-live streaming. Baptisms-1, Funerals/Memorial Services/Burial-3 (1 for Dennison Lutheran), Meetings: Council, Roundtable, Worship/Evangelism and EdYou, Supervision of Intern Lucas for the month of July, Phone calls and in person visits, Giving Statements - gratitude to all who have been generous, On call for Pastor Paul and Pastor Tim, Grandchildren time, Two day Continuing Ed up North, Attended Jim Boline's mother's funeral service. Upcoming: KAI event held at First - Pie and Cake auction and farewell to Lucas, Youth Events this Thursday River Trip and Friday Pool Party, Burial for Kathy and Bob Erslund at Lands Lutheran, Farewell for Lucas from First Lutheran on August 22. Vacation Time: August 3-6 Carmen Leading Wednesday Worship and August 26-September 1 - Pastor Chris Miller Leading Sunday Worship.

New Business:

1. A Good Pie Event to bid farewell to Lucas will be held August 1 in the First Lutheran Church parking lot 2:00-4:00 pm. Refreshments provided as well as an assortment of desserts to purchase. Free will offering to benefit the KAI program.
2. Opening of Church and Communion - Communion has resumed at the altar. See additional notes in the Worship/Evangelism report.
3. Worship Assistant - The Worship and Evangelism Committee recommends utilizing the Marty Haugen music once a month and is seeking volunteer musicians to sing during these services.
4. Internship Office - Council members agreed to table until next month the consideration and discussion of the potential transition of this office to accommodate the youth directors.
5. KW Cares - a program established in Kenyon in 2019 and led primarily by local pastors to mentor local youth. They have applied for a grant and are seeking additional funds to support their mission. First Lutheran Church will contribute \$200. M/S Harris/Bill, Approved.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Bill and Cindy Lewis have the new Bunn coffee maker up and running. The committee is seeking church members to assist with communion set up.

Youth Representative - Ben was recognized for actively participating as assistant minister and reported the highlights of summer to include Boy Scout Camp, the return of summer school and sports.

Worship/Evangelism - met 7/6/21. Members present (via Zoom): Pastor Julie Rogness, Bill Lewis, Tammy Fletcher, Shari Quam, Carly Tousignant and Sherry Sathrum. Devotions by Bill. Secretary minutes approved. Discussion points: (1) Communion-will use the remaining disposable wine/wafers. Will no longer use intinction but may use chalice symbolically with Pastor Julie and worship assistant using it. Pastor Julie will ask for 2 volunteers to assist Pastor Julie and a worship assistant to disperse communion. Wafer distributors will need to use hand sanitizer or gloves. Will need two people to hold tray and disperse wine. Pastor Julie will contact Kaia Lehman to begin to organize people to set up for communion. (2) Assisting ministers- Recommend Pastor Julie to continue to find worship assistants until September. In August will place volunteer book in the back of church/ narthex with Pastor Julie asking for volunteers beginning in September for worship assistant, greeters, communion helpers, musical offering and coffee servers. For the rest of summer will ask coffee servers to sign up on the sheet near kitchen. (3) Greeters- will phase back in. See above. (4) Offering plate- will remain at front and back of church and not passing. Allows opportunity to thank congregation for their generosity of giving. (5) Worship components. Can we do Marty Haugen 1-2 times per month. (6) Hymnals back in pews. (7) Wednesday service- discussion. Will continue this summer and reassess in fall. Next meeting: 8/10m at 6:30 via Zoom or in person in Joy room. Tammy will provide devotions. Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sathrum.

Property and Management - Once again our committee did not formally meet however members continued to address the needs of our church building and property. Tasks included - watering of plants, shrubs and new trees; working with the Monument Committee including removal of soils the contractor stacked on our property; arranged for a contractor to service our mini-splits (air conditioners) in the main church building. Three of our committee members continue to handle Sunday morning ushering duties as well. Brad Nesseth, P&M Chair.

Stewardship - July 16, 2021 Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes. Attending: Jim Fountaine, Tanya Short, Dan Rogness, Dave Kolsrud, Sue Wold.

[1.] Old Business - Strawberry shortcake coffee hour was well received. Donations from the coffee hour were used to purchase food shelf groceries. [2.] Set Fall Stewardship Festival date to October 3, 2021 - changed from October 10, 2021. [3.] Tentative Planning of Fall Stewardship Festival: Possible Title - Celebrating Members of First Lutheran, Together Again! (3.a) Brunch after regular service with all members invited. (3.b) Various Committees could bring the brunch items: examples - Stewardship members bring egg bakes, Worship committee bring muffins or cinnamon rolls, EdYouth bring fruit...etc. (3.c) Instead of a Silent Auction, we could have a large, celebration basket in which members may share/leave their "generosity." Members may label/specify where monetary gifts should go, and/or are free to bring local gift cards, or food shelf items. (3.d) Looking for feedback now from the church council to move forward with this plan such as- Do we need to plan something for the worship service that morning? Are there any restrictions on gathering like this that we know of at this point in time? [4.] Tanya to attend council meeting on July 21. Respectfully submitted, Tanya Short.

Youth and Education - Upcoming activities include Cannon River Canoe/Kayak, July 22. 6 kids from First are signed up to participate. Summer Pool Party, July 23 8:30 - 9:30 pm for all ages followed by S'mores. Good Earth Village summer day camp selected dates conflicted with other youth commitments this summer. Bible Day Camp with games and T-shirts August 15. Pizza, games and outdoor movies for students in grades 7 - 12 August 27 @ 6 pm. Nerstrand hiking on Sunday, September 12 @ 1 pm. Family friendly. First Sunday School lesson September 19. Next meeting August 11 @ 6:30 pm.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - The Personnel Committee is teaming with custodian Betty Redfield to create a list of job duties and responsibilities. KAIC is looking forward to the Good Pie Event on Sunday, August 1st.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2021 @ 7:00 pm. **Devotions:** Sandy. **Adjournment:** M/S Bill/Carmen, Approved **Closing with the Lord's Prayer.** Respectfully submitted, Sandy Doehling, Council Secretary.

STEWARDSHIP: The Bencke Family in Japan

Home Assignment. We were scheduled to return to the United States for a home assignment in 2020. However, due to travel restrictions in place all ELCA travel was cancelled. This has continued for 2021 and no home assignment this year either. This will continue until the Olympics are over and then vaccination would be available to all adults. Currently only those 75 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Family Updates. Our daughter Emilie successfully completed her first year at St. Olaf college. Hannah is in Jr High now and joined the track team. Patrick is remaining healthy one year after his heart ablation surgery. Jackie continues to serve at the college in music and English teaching and is halfway done with PhD studies.

In Japan it is hard to find video films. This is because films have different names, for example Frozen is called Anna and the snow queen in Japanese. Why do films get renamed? Many English expressions have no direct translation in Japanese. Now, try to explain Jesus' gospel message when the word that is used for sin means crime. The Japanese wonder how could they be guilty of a crime? What can missionaries do to proclaim the gospel? We seek every way possible to communicate in a way that makes sense. We find the stories that have the message. And slowly, slowly, we proclaim the good news.

—Jackie, June 2021, Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com—



AUGUST

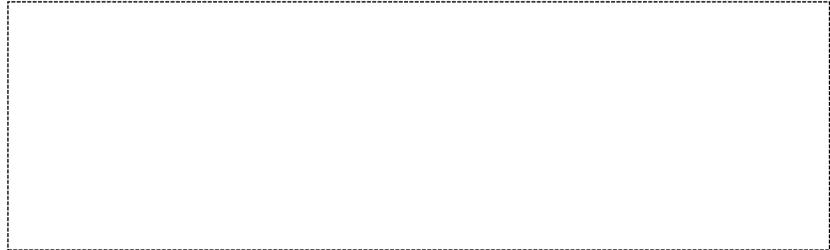
2021

Sunday Worship is In-Person & Live Stream

1 9 Worship Coffee 2-4 GOOD PIE - KAIC Fundraiser 7 AA	2	3	4 6 Wed Worship Outside	5 7 AA	6	7 <i>World Day of Prayer @ Gol Luth... (see more on pg 6)</i>
8 9 Worship “...what do you need?” Coffee 7 AA	9	10 9 KW Cares 6:30 Worship & Evangelism zoom & in-person	11 6 Wed Worship Outside 6:30 Ed/You	12 1 LOVE DAY 6:30 Steward- ship 7 AA	13	14
15 9 Worship “where do we go from here?” Coffee 1-3 Mini-Vacation Bible Camp 7 AA	16	17	18 Court Services 6 Wed Worship Outside 7 Council	19 7 AA	20	21 <i>Burial for Kathy & Bob Ersland</i>
22 <i>Lucas Farewell (Last Sun)</i> 9 Worship Coffee 7 AA	23	24	25 6 Wed Worship Outside	26 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	27 6 -9:30 pm <i>Youth Night Games Movie Pizza</i>	28
29 9 Worship w/Pastor Chris Miller Coffee 7 AA	30	31				

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

AUGUST
NEWSLETTER



2021 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Saturday, August 7th
GOL LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 to 9:45 am - coffee, muffins & fellowship
10 am – service

2021 WDP Materials Prepared by the Island Women of *Vanuatu -
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**Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation made up of 80 islands & 300,000 people*