

NOVEMBER 2021



The Colors of Fall – breath taking

As I drove to work today God's handiwork was all around me in the colors of the tree leaves and the blue and white of the sky. It was one of those drives that takes your breath away as you glance around with amazement.

Isaiah 55 writes: *For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

Creation was singing and the red, gold, orange leaves were clapping their hands this morning. What takes your breath away, amazes you and makes you want to sing or clap your hands?

Gracious God remind us daily to stop and see your beauty all around us even when our day is filled with too much. Keep our hearts focused on you and your grace. Amen.

Pastor Julie

Baptized on October 31, 2021

Gavin David Tousignant, son of Cole & Carly Tousignant

Confirmed on October 31, 2021

*Ross Aldorfer, Hayden Baka, Francis Cusey,
Jamison Hoffman, and Devon Kreisler*

Remembering the Saints

On November 7th we remember and name all the saints of First Lutheran who have died this past year.

*Carl Donald Hegseth
Colette Flom
Teresa Pittman
Sherman Benson*

*Beverly Nesseth
Lynn Ann Fromm
Barbara Schaller
Joan Forsberg*

*Christopher Montayne
Eloyce Berg
Matt Peterson
Ron Grose*

*Stephan Berge
Audrey Nesseth
Ruth Jacobson
Lila Grose*

Rock Painting – *back by special request*

If you would like to come and paint rocks and connect with each other join us on November 16th at 6 pm in the lower level of the church. Why paint rocks? Because it is fun and playful.

FLCW Thankoffering Service will be held **NOVEMBER 14** at 9 a.m. service. Thankofferings are a long-standing spiritual practice among women of faith. What are you thankful for? How will you act on that gratitude? Women of the ELCA Thankofferings are used to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Several of our women will be volunteering to help with the service that day and please join us for coffee and treats after church. Please bring in your Thankoffering.



FLCW NOTE: THE FLCW IS LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY. TO VOLUNTEER OR GET MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY LEWIS OR JACKIE MORTENSEN.



Advent and Christmas 2021

The innkeeper is a figure of our imaginations. Not referenced in scripture, we assume that since Luke said there was an "inn," then there must have been an "innkeeper."

Often our stories cast him in a negative light, someone who banished a pregnant woman to where the animals were kept. But what if, since we are engaging our imaginations anyway, what if he was truly an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, "outside the box" to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child? Instead of thinking "there's nowhere," he said to himself first, "there has to be somewhere."

Just like the innkeeper. Housing the holy work of God's Divine Love can happen in many ways. What if this Advent and Christmas we see our light at First as the light of the Star of Bethlehem that shone that night on an unlikely house for the holy – a stable. The light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. What is something we might do together to alleviate someone's suffering. We are called to "make room" in our inn – to create a welcoming space for all to flourish. That is what the inn, the stable, the manger, became that night.

- Advent One – Making Room ★ Hope
- Advent Two – A Place at the Table ★ Peace
- Advent Three – How Much Is Enough ★ Joy
- Advent Four – A Room with a View ★ Love

November/December — Youth Events

- ➔ **National Youth Gathering Informational Meeting** [MORE INFO BELOW]
Wednesday November 3, 7-8 pm at Vang Church
- ➔ **Bibles to 3rd graders: November 21st during Church**
- ➔ **November 28 - No Sunday School due to Thanksgiving break.**
- ➔ **We are accepting donations of new or gently used gifts and gift bags/gift wrapping supplies for the annual youth Sunday School Christmas Shopping. Donation boxes are in the Narthex in the Sunday School wing.**
- ➔ **Feed My Starving Children: Saturday December 18 at 11:30 pm**
Open to anyone (youth and adults) ages 12 and over. If under 12, need an adult chaperone. Must be over the age of 5. Space is limited.
Meet in Eagan by 11:30 am or meet at the church at 10:20 am.
Let us know if you need a ride.
Location: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121
Follow this link to register: <https://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=X0GD2>



2022 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING JULY 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

More information on the ELCA website: <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

Who: Youth currently in 8th - 12th grade in the fall of 2021. Also parent chaperones.

Cost: Early Bird Registration: \$150 dollars before November 20, 2021

Regular Registration: \$190 dollars until February 20, 2022

Late registration: \$240 dollars until May 21, 2022

- This covers the cost of attendance, food, and lodging.
- The remainder of the cost for each individual will be covered by fundraising and church contributions. Youth that are planning on attending are expected to attend ALL fundraising events and planning meetings.
- Checks to First Lutheran Youth. Non-refundable down payment is required at time of registration.
- Please note our registration deadlines are a day earlier than what is listed on the website because we will need to register you through the church.

Register by contacting Sarah Hildebrandt (smhildebrandt7@gmail.com) or Sarah Van Epps (sarah.g.vanepps@gmail.com).

ON NOVEMBER 11 by Intern Pastor Al Aakre

On November 11, the Christian Church recognizes the life and work of St. Martin of Tours—he is namesake of Martin Luther and the patron saint of soldiers. St. Martin was born into a Roman military family in the early 300s. Although trustworthy accounts of his early life are scant, it is likely that Martin was drafted into the Roman Army at 15 and served as a Cavalryman across the western Empire. While stationed in Gaul (modern-day France), St. Martin rode past a nearly naked beggar. Moved by the sight, he took his sword and cut his cloak in half, giving part of it to the man. Later that night, Jesus came to Martin in a dream, wearing the cloak that he had given away and praising the soldier's actions to the angels. At that point, Martin was a catechumen (someone studying the faith but who had not yet been baptized) but upon waking from his dream, he went to be baptized.

Sometimes we think that Christian duties are reserved for those in a collar or Thrivent t-shirt, but St. Martin was able to serve Christ and his neighbor while in a Roman uniform. It was Roman soldiers who physically crucified Christ as well as martyred the Apostles Peter and Paul, but it was also a Roman soldier who kept a beggar from freezing to death. The story of St. Martin's cloak is a story that teaches us that when it comes to acting as a Christian, it is less about our job and more about how we do it. No matter how we occupy our lives, we as Christians can act as Christians. We can bring charity to others' lives and reflect the love and Grace that was shown to us on the Cross.

Martin may have thought that his gift was a small sacrifice not worth mentioning; after all, he kept half of his cloak for himself. Likewise, we can forget how even the smallest acts of charity can impact the lives of others. Even half a cloak for someone in the cold can make the difference between life and death. A can of food, a donated hour, or even an invitation to Thanksgiving Dinner can impact those who receive it in large and unexpected ways.

November 11 now has a different meaning for many Americans: it is Veteran's Day. A day to honor sacrifices larger than a cut cloak. The First World War ended with the signing of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. Amongst the signers, there was no grand scheme to end the war on the Feast of St. Martin and so many saw it as God blessing the peace that followed. As we recognize that day, let us remember that peace is not static, it is something that has to be continually reinforced and maintained—even with acts as small as sharing a cloak with those in the cold.



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, October 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Harris Haugen

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

Devotions: Harris on John 3:16

Approval of Agenda: M/S Bill/Jackie, Approved

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

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

09/30/2021: Checking Account Balance \$7,519.48, Memorial Account Balance \$525

Pastor's Report: Worship: 5–Sunday Morning, 5–Wednesday Evening, 5–live streaming, Funeral–1, Pet Blessing Service–lots of pets to love, Meetings: Council, Worship and Evangelism, EdYou, Phone calls and in person visits and hospital visit, Sharing gift cards, Weekly meetings with Annette, Mentoring a seminary student, Confirmation, Creating Sunday School rotation curriculum, Trip to assist Pastor Sara Gorman end her first call well, Pre-marital meetings, Clergy planning for 2021-2022 joint worship services, Working with Confirmation students on stoles and faith statements, Helen Aase–100th Birthday Song in her front yard, Funeral Preparations for Ron Grose. **Looking Forward:** Next class to be confirmed on October 31, Fall Theological Retreat–Nov 7 to 9, Thanksgiving Service at Gol–Nov 23rd at 7:00 pm (bars to share), Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (LPGM) 25 +1 celebration–Nov. 13, Wedding–Nov 26th in St Peter, prayers for Jacob and Katie. Thank you for your support to be with Pastor Sara and Patrick Gorman this past Sunday. This weekend Intern Lucas Shurson will stay with us as he is supply preaching at Holden and Dale.

Continuing Business:

Monument Update - Harris reports the top portion of the monument will be finished by the end of October and pavers will be laid in the spring.

New Business:

1. Church Mutual Safety Proposal - A sensor system is available to download at no charge to the church for notifications in the event of a water leak preventing pipes from freezing. Insurance premium will not be affected if we choose not to install it. Decision pending.
2. Monetary Gift - contributed by the Bud and Joan Forsberg Estate to First Lutheran Church - council members are encouraged to thoughtfully consider how to utilize the generous gift in memory of the Forsbergs.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - next meeting slated for Nov 2 @ 6:30 pm to discuss our Thank Offering and year end disbursements.

Youth Representative - Ben highlighted the end of the KWHS football season fast approaching following a fun homecoming week held earlier this month. Students are looking forward to MEA break.

Worship/Evangelism - met 10/12/21

Members present: Pastor Julie Rogness, Bill Lewis, Tammy Fletcher, Carly Tousignant. Devotions read by Tammy, selected by Sherry S. August Secretary minutes: Motioned to approve by Tammy/second by Carly/Approved unanimously. Discussion points: Recap of Fall Festival. Feedback is that both the worship service and the brunch went very well. Worship/Evangelism committee provided an assortment of breads, cinnamon rolls, and muffins. Worship Assistants. Pastor Julie has a list of members who may be willing to sing the liturgy at two services per month. Next month our committee will revisit how/when to start a sign-up sheet for greeters/readers/communion assistants. Bill will look into when an usher schedule may resume. Music/Choirs. Reviewed music selections through October. Pastor Julie will check with the senior choir and bell choir to see when they might resume participating in worship services. Worship Services. Will continue with Feast & Celebration and Setting IV each once per month. Discussed ongoing Covid protocols. Motion: We will continue worship in the current format. A reminder to all members of safety guidelines, for instance, if you are sick please stay home and it is recommended that if you are unvaccinated please wear a mask. Motion by Tammy/Second by Bill/Approved unanimously. Evangelism Online: Discussed additional ways to be inclusive of those attending worship services streaming/online. Will continue to brainstorm

ideas. The church email will be added to contact information listed during the online services. Next meeting: Nov 9th at 6:30. Respectfully submitted, Tammy Fletcher.

Property and Management - Available committee members met on Tuesday, October 19th and discussed and have taken action on the following : 1. Securing two bids to replace one failed mini-split unit in the main church building. 2. Have again reached out to electrical contractor to request running electrical service under the floor to front of the church in order to provide a safer source of power for technical equipment needed to record Sunday services. Additional projects or maintenance worked on during October: Main church yard sprayed for weed control, continued watering of the trees planted earlier this spring, and fill brought in and spread along the entire length of the south side of the parking lot. Seeding will be completed this fall and likely again next spring. Special thanks to Troy Estrem, Don Herrlich and Dan Lexvold for providing the time and equipment needed to complete this work. Brad Nesseth, P&M Chair.

Stewardship - met 10/14/21

Participating members: Jim, Dan, Dave and Sue. Meeting focus: Evaluate the Fall Stewardship Festival - *Generosity and Gratitude—Together Again* which was held on October 3rd, 2021. The church service included 5 temple talks from church members that dealt with *Generosity and Gratitude*. (Harris Haugen, Cora Lee Monroe and Candy Herrlich, Lindsey Short by Tanya Short, Dave Kolsrud, and Mary Danielson Gates) The temple talks were very well received. In the future, additional temple talks would be welcome at services. It was wonderful to be Together Again! Donations collected at the Fall Festival totaled \$512.00. Our committee will be sending \$256.00 to Kenyon Area Food Shelf and \$256.00 to Sole Hope. We are thankful for your generosity! The food provided by CC committees was delicious and very much appreciated. Thanks to all who helped! Next Meeting: November 11th at 6:30 pm.

Youth and Education – 1) Update from Julie - KW Cares mentorship program - Providing services to youth in the district who may “fall between the cracks”, 4 mentors and 4 mentees this year, hope to expand in the future, Meeting twice a month in this school district. 2) Recap - Ditch cleaning completed on 10/10/21 - Good turnout, good weather, Will need more orange garbage bags for the spring: talk to Les Eggert. 3) Upcoming Events - Pumpkin decorating - Saturday 10/30 at 9:00 am - Painting mini pumpkins, Fall games, Wear costumes, Snack of apple cider and caramel apples, Gratitude pumpkins to go at base of tree in November, Bibles to 3rd graders: November 21st during church - we have enough Bibles, FMSC on December 18, Gratitude Tree - Display tree in the sanctuary for the congregation to see, Amy and Nicole to cut out leaves at school using die cut machine, Sarah H and Anna to make tree. Start displaying after Confirmation Sunday on 10/31. 4) Sunday School - 2021-2022, Advent Calendar from Trader Joe's, Influencer curriculum for 2022 (anti-bullying); display of helping hands or hearts in February. 5) Christmas - Pageant instead of Christmas program on Dec 12 or 19, Kids wear Christmas costumes, Christmas shopping - December 12 or 19, Start asking for donations, boxes in Narthex and SS hallway, Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. 6) Next meeting: Thursday 11/11 at 6:00 pm. 7) Church Council Meeting 10/20 - Erica. THANK YOU!

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC – Personnel Committee is finalizing a healthcare insurance plan for Pastor Julie.

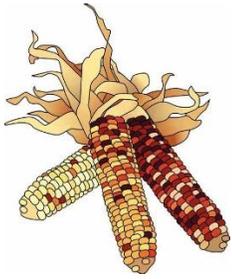
Next Meeting: November 17, 2021 @ 7:45 pm

Devotions: Bill

Adjournment: M/S Bill/Sandy, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Doehling
Council Secretary



NOVEMBER 2021

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:30 FLCW Fellowship hall	6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7 <i>Natl Youth Gathering Info Mtg @ Vang</i>	7 AA		<i>End of Daylight Saving Time</i> 
7 <i>All Saints</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	1:30 Literary Guild	6:30 Worship/Evangelism	6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation	1 LOVE DAY 5 Sons of Norway 6 EdYou 6:30 Stewardship 7 AA		
14 <i>FLCW Thankoffering</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA			6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council	7 AA		
21 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 Worship *3rd Grade Bibles 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	10-12 Stockettes (J.Hiner)	<i>Community Thnksg at Gol 7 pm</i>	<i>No Worship No Confirmation</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 7 AA		
28 <i>Advent One</i>	29	30				
9 Worship NO Sunday Sch 7 AA						



Faribault Area Hospice Foundation – *Light Up A Life Celebration*
 Monday December 6 at 7 p.m. – District One Hospital Surgery Center (NE corner)
 Outdoor Tree Lighting Ceremony & Memorial Service with music & refreshments.
 You may purchase a bulb (\$5) for the tree in remembrance of your loved one.
 Donation forms are available on our narthex counter or from the church office
 as well as District One Hospital Lobby. Proceeds benefit Hospice Patients.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER



O Give Thanks
to the LORD
for he is GOOD,
His steadfast LOVE
endures

Forever

Psalm 136:1
