



**LORD, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are GOD.
Psalm 90:1-2**

January 2022— Dwelling In Christ

Christ is our dwelling place, our home. Wherever we are, wherever we go we dwell in Christ and Christ dwells in us. I love both words “abide” and “dwell”.

Dwell describes both our God “dwelling” with us and our “dwelling” with God.

When we dwell with God, we are aware of God’s presence in our life. We are aware of God’s power, wisdom and love. We feel at home when we dwell with God, but we get easily distracted. When we are distracted, we miss out on a deeper relationship with God.

So where do you dwell? What keeps you mindful that Christ is your dwelling-place?

It was my grandma Hagen who taught me, showed me what it means to dwell in Christ. It was her prayer life, her volunteering at church, her reading books of faith with me when I was a child, and her *being*. She would listen to my stories of hurt and hope and then weave the reality of God dwelling with me in all things into her healing words.

Happy New Year. May this New Year be a year for you to find yourself fully dwelling with Christ. *“May we dwell in the house of the Lord forever”.*

Pastor Julie



IMPORTANT DATES

ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION – DUE BY JAN. 14

ANNUAL MEETING DATE – SUNDAY JAN. 30 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP

January Newsletter Article

“New year, new me!” I have said those silly words before—just as the clock strikes 12 and I welcome in a new year. They are usually paired with some plan for a better or healthier life—a new year’s resolution. I call the words silly not because change is something to be discouraged but because we create arbitrary start times for that change to occur. “Well, 2022 will be different—no more lies.” “I’ll start going back to church in January.” “Maybe I’ll sign up to serve coffee hour in 2022.” “I’ll be a whole new person then!” All good ambitions but ones unnecessarily pushed into the future. As Christians, we need not wait for the arbitrary start date of January first—God grants us a new beginning, a new life, through the waters of baptism.

And to this you may think, “well that’s swell but it’s been quite some time since my baptism.” To which I say, “Remember your Catechism!” In his *Explanation of Baptism*, Martin Luther reminds us that our baptism is ongoing. We may have begun the act as a baby but it will only be completed by Jesus Christ at our grave. In this endless washing, God offers the Church a chance to be reborn each day—each moment if you truly wish. Luther writes that in the waters of Baptism “the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Now those are dramatic words, but God’s action in the Sacrament of Baptism is just as extreme and dramatic—we die and are born again. In living, there is no arbitrary start time for us to wait for, we simply live. In our desire to repent, to see our neighbors as ourselves, to worship God, there is no time for us to wait for, we simply can at any moment. Luther’s reminder has power on the bad days; the days we lie and cheat or feel distant from God or our neighbor. We need not wait for a sign or day because we have already been invited by God into a blessed union with Him.

So as you think about a New Year’s resolution for 2022, remember that although the first of a month may be a good time to start a gym membership or subscription to a *cheese of the month* club—there is no need to wait for matters of faith and service.

Al Aakre
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, DECEMBER 21, 2021, 6:30 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: Harris Haugen

Present: Harris Haugen, Pastor Julie Rogness, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bill Lewis, Jim Fountaine, Sarah Van Epps and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Carmen on 'Be Thou My Vision'

Approval of Agenda: M/S Brad/Carmen, Approved

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

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

11/30/2021: Checking Account Balance \$241.14, Memorial Account Balance \$525

Pastor's Report: Worship: 4-Sunday Morning, 3-Wednesday Evening, 4-live streaming, Thanksgiving Eve service at Gol, Participated in Tree Lighting at Veterans Memorial, Wedding-1, Meetings: Council and EdYou, Phone calls and in person visits, Sharing gift cards, Weekly meetings with Annette, Mentoring a seminary student, Confirmation, Sunday School, Premarital meetings, Helped with Sons of Norway Set up. Christmas Schedule: Christmas Eve 4:00 in person and live stream. Christmas Day 9:00 prerecorded. Sunday, December 26 9:00 in person and live stream. December 29 Wednesday Evening Worship at 6 pm.

Continuing Business:

1. Personnel Committee Report - The custodial job description created by the committee was reviewed with Betty Redfield who will have assistance with expected duties.

New Business:

1. Final Budget Approval - Bill produced and presented a detailed handout of the proposed budget for 2022. Following a thoughtful assessment by the council members present, M/S Carmen/Harris, Approved.
2. Benevolence Giving - Generous contributions toward miscellaneous missions are noted to be very worthy and appreciated. It was advised that we be mindful of our giving while balancing these outreach opportunities and our fiscal responsibilities.
3. Finance Committee - Bill wishes to recruit 1 or 2 members from the personnel committee to aid in budget planning moving forward.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - did not meet

Youth Representative - not present

Worship/Evangelism - did not meet

Property and Management - No formal December meeting was held however committee members have once again this season been busy removing snow from church steps, walks and parking lot. Special thanks to committee members Troy Estrem, Don Herrlich and Dan Lexvold as well as Fred Barsness for volunteering their equipment and time to get this important job done. Additional maintenance related jobs in the sanctuary have been addressed including cleaning some of the upper reaches, light bulb replacement, and placing frames/candles in the windows for Christmas Eve services. Brad Nesseth, P&M Chair

Stewardship - met December 9 - In Attendance: Ed, David and Jim

1. Secretary minutes - Jim
2. Old business: looking back on pandemic
3. Discussed strawberry festival and fall festivals and should continue next year; meetings will be held 2nd Thursday. Date and time are flexible.
4. New business: looking ahead with generosity focus area, Missionary's home visit.

5. Terms expired are Ed, Tanya and Sue. Sue and Ed will continue to be on committee.
6. We discussed how to hold long distance meetings: zoom speaker phone; Food shelf was discussed and adding clothing drive like Nerstrand UM church.
6. Council rep Jim - Council Dec 15.
7. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Youth and Education - Ed You Minutes (Abbreviated meeting) Members present: Julie, Nicole, Sarah H.

1. Recap / Current Events
 - a. Gratitude Tree: On display in the sanctuary for most of the month of November. Congregation members were able to add to it. Pleasantly surprised at how nice it looked. Thank you, Amy for cutting leaves!
 - b. Operation Christmas Child boxes
 - c. Bibles to 3rd Graders 11/21: Will need to order more Bibles for next year.
2. Upcoming Events
 - a. Christmas Shopping 12/12: Set-Up Wednesday before during confirmation -Thank you. Saturday 12/11 set up wrapping room. Movie - The Star showing in downstairs Sunday School Room. Coloring Christmas cards/games in the fellowship hall. About 20 kids; 4-10 gifts each. Will recap event at January Ed You Meeting. Wrappers: FLCW & others. Thank you!
 - b. Christmas Pageant 12/19: Pancakes during coffee hour. Nativity scene - Kids will put on nativity costumes & be featured in the Christmas Day prerecorded service during the playing of Silent Night. Coloring nativity scenes. Hand out Faribault Woolen Mill Christmas trees.
 - c. FMSC on December 18: Cancelled - Not many people signed up. No Ed You leader available.
 - d. National Youth Gathering 2022: Fundraising to start January 2022. Intend to use that \$2000 donation towards this.
3. Sunday School
 - a. Sunday School 2021-2022
 - b. Handed out Trader Joe's Advent Calendars. Thank you Harris.
 - c. Christmas Shopping & Christmas Pageant during Sunday School
 - d. 2022 plans:
 - i.) Memorization of the Lord's Prayer
 - ii.) Influencer curriculum (anti-bullying)
 - iii.) Display of helping hands or heart in February
3. Next meeting: Thursday 1/13/2021 at 6:30 PM
4. Church Council Meeting: Wednesday 12/15/2021

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - Personnel Committee conducted a performance evaluation of Pastor Julie, arranged salary reviews for some of the staff and will reevaluate the youth directors next summer when they fulfill their first year in their new roles. KAIC will resume hosting their annual soup kick off at GOL Lutheran Church on April 3, 2022. Details forthcoming.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2022 @ 7:45 pm

Devotions: Harris

Adjournment: M/S Harris/Carmen

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Doehling, Council Secretary

JANUARY 2022

						1
2 <i>Epiphany</i> 9 Worship NO Sun Sch. 7 AA	3	4	5 6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation	6 7 AA	7	8
9 <i>Baptism of Jesus</i> 9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	10	11	12 6 Worship 6:00 Sr.Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	13 9 Conference Mt <i>Pine Island</i> 1 Love Day 6 EdYou 6:30 Stewardship 6:30 Scouts/Den 7 AA	14 <i>Annual Report Info Due</i>	15
16 9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	17	18 7 KAIC	18 6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council	20 11 Round Table 6:30 Scouts/Den 7 AA	21	22
23 9 Worship 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	24	25	26 6 Worship 6:00 Sr.Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	27 1 Love Day 6:30 Scouts/Pack <i>Derby in Fellow- ship Hall</i> 7 AA	28	29 <i>Wedding</i>
30 9 Worship ANNUAL MTG 10 Sunday Sch 7 AA	31					

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January Newsletter



GOD BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME
GOD BE THE PRAYER TO MOVE MY VOICE
GOD BE THE STRENGTH TO NOW UPHOLD ME
O CHRIST, SURROUND ME

RICHARD BRUXVOORT COLLIGAN
