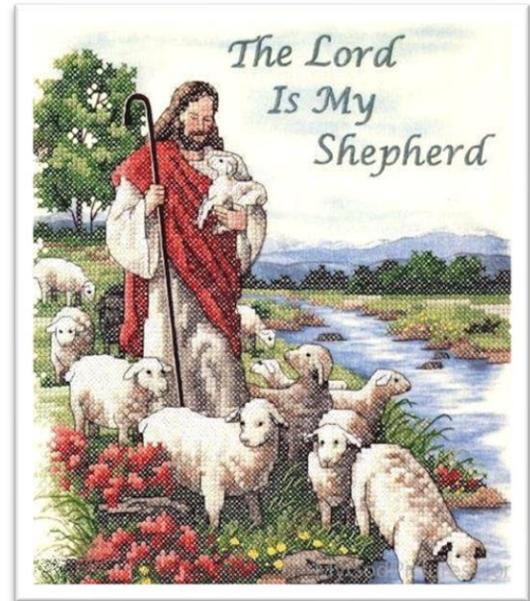


february 2022

THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

Looking toward our Lenten Journey, even as we bask in Jesus' signs and wonders of Epiphany, there continue to be days filled with uncertainty and I find Psalm 23 gives me comfort. Read it anew in the rewritten words of Shellie Ross.

Oh God, you are my shepherd.
I should not desire much more.
(But I desire to visit my isolated grandma.)
I have my share of comforts,
and knowing you are there offers peace.
(Especially in the chaos, crisis and unknown.)
You calm my inner being and soul.
I recognize your voice, God, encouraging me to always do the right thing.
Even though life is surrounded by death, sickness, solitude and unsafety,
I am not afraid,
(But really I am, sometimes.)
for I trust that I am not alone.
You are always prepared and keeping watch —
And knowing this brings comforts even on the darkest of days.
Even when it seems that others do not think of me or wish me well,
You are there, providing and caring for me.
When I feel down, you remind me of your love;
If I'd just look, I'd see my life has such goodness and blessing!
May I always be able to identify kindness and goodness in life,
And forever, be in the presence of you, the Good Shepherd.



During Lent we will look deeper into this familiar Psalm. Even though many of us can recite it by heart there is still so much here. Come, walk in green pastures. Follow the Shepherd. Come, lie down in green pastures. Trust the Shepherd. Come, eat at the table of abundance. All are fed by the Shepherd. Come, dwell in God's house. We live each day, no matter what, in the Shepherd's care.

Pastor Julie

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes, January 19, 2022 @ 7:45 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Harris Haugen

Present: Harris Haugen, Pastor Julie Rogness, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Jim Fountaine, Jackie Mortensen, Tammy Fletcher, Sarah Hildebrandt and Sandy Doehling

Devotions: Harris on loving relationships. John 13 and 1st Corinthians 13.

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

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

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

12/31/2021: Checking Account Balance \$8,826.69, Memorial Account Balance \$525

Pastor's Report: Worship: Sunday Morning (4) Wednesday Evening (1) – Christmas Eve, 7 livestreaming Christmas Eve & Christmas Day included), 2-Funerals (one for Dale). Meetings: Council and EdYou. Phone calls and in person visits, Sharing gift cards, Weekly meetings with Annette, Mentoring a seminary student, Confirmation, Sunday School (helped with pre-record for Christmas Morning), Pre-marital meetings, On Call with Pastor Paul for Holden and Dale during January. Looking Forward: Lent 2022 – Several churches will work together (Gol, First). Intern Al, Pastor Marv at Gol, Services will all be held at First, Theme: Psalm 23. I will attend a Virtual event on the theme this coming Monday. Confirmation Classes Joining together on Feb 2 at Vang - A Migrant's Journey was developed by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for the 2018 Youth Gathering. It will be led by Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry. Conference Assembly February 13 held via Zoom.

Continuing Business:

1. Executive Committee Report - The Annual Meeting of FELC will be held on Sunday, January 30th in the fellowship hall following the 9:00 am worship service.

New Business:

1. Stimulus Program - A government grant is available to be used at the discretion of the church council. M/S Harris/Carmen to have Bill follow up with the representative working on our behalf to apply for these funds. Approved.
2. Funeral Discussion - Carmen proposed Pastor Julie be appropriately compensated for her time and energy preparing for and conducting funeral services. Tammy presented a document drawn up by the worship committee outlining fees, will review with committee members and provide an updated version to Michaelson's Funeral Home to inform families of funeral expenses.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Cora Lee Monroe and Candy Herrlich will act as co-presidents in the coming year. A sub-committee is developing a list of funeral working service groups to include all members of the church.

Youth Representative - not present

Worship/Evangelism - did not meet

Property and Management - The committee wishes to replace the lightbulbs in the fellowship hall at a cost of \$200 for efficiency and uniformity. They also proposed the aged and worn carpet in the fellowship hall be replaced with high quality, commercial grade carpet squares from Emerson's Furniture for an estimated \$5,600 from the repair fund. M/S Tammy/Jackie. Approved.

Stewardship - did not meet. Exploring opportunities to discuss stewardship approaches for the year ahead.

Youth and Education - Ed You met 1/13/2022. We had a busy but very good December! Pleased with how everything went. Thanks to everyone who donated gifts. It sounds like this was a fun experience for the kids and then for their families to open their gifts! Sunday School resuming after Christmas/Covid break Sunday 1/23. Next 6 weeks are planned- 4 weeks on influencer curriculum (online sunday school curriculum, anti-bullying) + movie. Looking forward to 2022 National Youth Gathering. Youth serving coffee during the annual meeting on 1/30.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC - Endowment Committee met on January 4 with all members present. There were no new requests for funds. We ended 2021 with a total of \$2,265 donations. We had a request of \$400 paid to Sole Hope. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6. Request Application forms are available in the church office or contact committee secretary, Carmen Nesseth at carmenflyf@icloud.com.

KAIC will take a sabbatical year due to the absence of local pastors available to educate interns. The annual soup fundraiser will be held on April 3rd. Watch for details!

Next Meeting: February 16, 2022 @ 7:45 pm

Devotions: Carmen

Adjournment

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Doehling
Council Secretary

The Bencke Family — Japan, January 2022

Growing up in Hastings MN I had a circle of friends with which I would make good relationships that would last over time. When we moved to Japan, God would bless us with a special gift he gave us in Mr. Nishi. He was an avid country music fan and a grandfather to a bunch of kids. We spent countless evenings together. We shared every New Year Eve with Mr. Nishi. He would give us lessons about what it was like in Japan during World War II. He had an opinion about politics and a belief that country music could solve the world's problems. One just needed a good dose of country great Merle Haggard.

He drove our daughter Emilie to school for 3 years. He was a compassion listener with years of experience. Mr. Nishi has been a steadfast friend to our family for 13 years. We were devastated when a diagnosis of stage 4 lung cancer, was confirmed. Mr. Nisha is facing death squarely in the eye. When people talk about mission it is about evangelism, 'God is a missional God and outpours his love to us through others. Mr. Nishi, our beloved Japanese grandpa, we love you and may God call you home with dignity and may you rest from the pain of life and may Merle Haggard be there to greet you.

Jackie — Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com

February



2022

		1	2 6 Worship 7 Confirmation @ Vang	3 7 AA	4	5
6 9 Worship 10 Sun Sch. 7 AA	7	8	9 6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation	10 1 LOVE DAY 6:30 Scouts/Den 7 AA	11	12 <i>KWHS Choir Waffle Fund- Raiser</i>
13 9 Worship 10 Sun Sch. 7 AA	14	15	16 6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council	17 6:30 Scouts/Den 7 AA	18	19
20 9 Worship 10 Sun Sch. 7 AA	21	22 7 KAIC	23 6 Worship 6:30 Confirmation	24 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	25	26
27 <i>Transfiguration</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun Sch. 7 AA	28		<i>Lent Begins... Mar. 2 Ash Wed</i>			

Happy Valentine's Day

May God's love be abundant in your life



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February Newsletter



***Blessed be God, who chose you in Christ.
Live in love as Christ loved us.***

ELW #215
