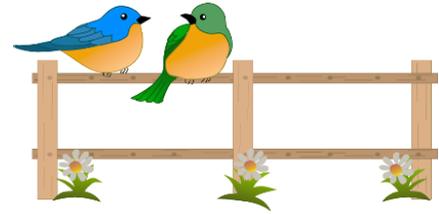


JUNE 2022



What's Growing in YOUR Garden ?

Whether you are an expert gardener, a mediocre one, or just wish you were a gardener - like me - here are some clips about gardening to ponder, as we watch the earth come to life. Abt

—GARDEN QUOTES—



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." – MARGARET ATWOOD

"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them" – A.A. MILNE

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." – AUDREY HEPBURN

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade." – RUDYARD KIPLING

"Help us to be ever faithful gardeners of the spirit, who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth, and without light nothing flowers." – FROM A Prayer BY MAY SARTON

—FUNNY GARDEN SIGNS—

"And into the garden I go to lose my mind and find my soul"

"Please don't die"

"I Will Survive"

"A dirty hoe is a happy hoe"

EXOTIC HERBS (They just look like weeds)



— 'THE GARDEN SONG' —

*As sunshine to a garden, your love revives my soul
warm light for withered branches, again to make me whole
As water to a garden, life-giving to dry ground
Your word is rain upon me, each little drop, profound
Lord, I will be your garden that you can tend each day
So fruit grown from the garden may feed someone, some way
-Rusty Edwards - ALL CREATION SINGS*



— BLESSING OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH—

Facing East: May God the Creator and Sustainer of all,
bless the pastures and meadows, all growing grass and green fields.

Facing South: May the soil be wholesome and the crops good.

Facing West: May the weather be favorable and the workers of good heart.

Facing North: May God who gives breath and life to the sower, multiply the seed sown and increase its fruits.

Facing the People: May God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you and among you and around you, now and forevermore. Amen.



Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity-GCHFH



[PICTURED] *GCHFH Family Services Rep. Connie Wendt, Construction Manager Bob Bidon, and approved family: Rachel Turner with daughter Liliana, who turns 5 in September.*

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on April 21 for a new home in Pine Island at 108 – 6th St SW. The approved family will contribute 200 hours of training and building before purchasing the home at appraised value with an adjusted, affordable mortgage.

GCHFH relies on faith communities, businesses, service organizations and local volunteers to help with construction. Volunteers will be working on the home Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays with the addition of Saturdays beginning in June.

VOLUNTEER HELP IS NEEDED – training provided. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact: Anna Kohrs at 651-327-2564.



‘Whom Will You Serve’

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if you be unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” JOSHUA 24:14-15

It's a famous line with two ever relevant questions: “Who do you serve? If not God then who?” It sounds like an easy-enough question to answer, “I was baptized and confirmed, I serve the Lord my God—there is no other! I just heard about Him at Easter.” But truly I tell you that we often place other gods above God without knowing or intending it. At the risk of sounding Rumsfeldian, there are gods that we know, gods that we know we don't know, and then gods that we don't know we know. I am well versed in the God of the Cross and Empty Tomb, I know that I know Him. And I know that there are other gods that I know absolutely nothing about—I could not tell you a single thing about any of the Aztec deities. But that third god is different. What are the gods that we don't know that we know?

A “god” doesn't have to control the wind and the rain, it just has to control you. Humans can deify nearly anything—by giving away our time, attention, loyalty, love, devotion, and energy—we create false gods in this world. “Idol” is another name for them but something about that term masks its true danger. Money, politics, sports, drugs, consumerism, cars, fitness, even birding can become our chosen savior. I doubt that Joshua believed in the existence of any of the gods that he warned the people about but he recognized their danger. Even the people, whom God delivered out of Egypt, who had seen the power of the Lord first hand, doubted and strayed. See we can have certainty in our faith but still slip into worshiping other gods—hoping that they will deliver us from ourselves. This is not an attack on hobbies or pastimes; Martin Luther was an avid bowler and beer stein collector. It is ok to find happiness outside of the Church just as long as that source does not banish the God that has formed and claimed you.

How do you spend your time? Your energy? What gives you hope in this life? The dream of any minister is that the congregation they serve becomes a place of hope. Hope is the message of the Gospel: hope over hate, over fear, over Sin, over death. But what distinguishes our Hope from other's is that it has been made certain in the life and death of Christ Jesus. And although Joshua paints a dramatic picture, one where the people gather in a field and profess their devotion to the Lord, choosing between God and a god happens in the mundane moments of our life. It happens when we rise in the morning, or have the chance to speak to our neighbor, or the opportunity to live out our vocation—what deity do we allow to guide us then? *Intern Pastor Al Aakre*

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes - May 18, 2022 @ 6:45 PM

Present: Jill Paulson, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Emma Paulson, Chris Cordes, Caralee Monroe, Bill Lewis and guest, Rev. Barb Streed.

Welcome and Call to Order: President Carmen

Devotions: Carmen

Adopt Agenda: M/S Coralee/ Chris

Secretary's Report: M/S Brad/ Bill

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance \$7661.75 Memorial Balance \$118464.09 M/S Chris/ Brad

Pastor's Report: Worship: 3 Sunday Morning plus livestreaming, 2 Wednesday Evening, 1 Baptism. Meetings, Phone calls and in person visits, Weekly meetings with Annette, SEMN Conference WELCA event, Synod Assembly, Mentoring a seminary student, Peer support to a couple of women in seminary, 2 Confirmation plus a pizza party, KARE- help, Prayer time in remembering Raymond Berge, Madelyn Lothert baptism, Looking Forward: Weddings in Oregon and NYC. Thank you for time away.

Continuing & New Business:

***Rev Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop-** Presented an Intern possibility for First Lutheran and submitted the financial information for taking on an intern. A board member asked if there were any assistance to help support an Intern. A decision needs to be made by July. Bill motioned to table the conversation, until more board members are present to discuss. Jim/ second the motion.

Recap of 2022 Synod Assembly - *Imagine...endless possibilities in God's Grace Chris, Carmen and Julie attended. The speaker was very good. Be creative and use imagination to share God's word. We as people always want to fix. Fixing is temporary and we should try to heal. Wanting to heal is long term and more permanent.

***May Food Drive Continues;** challenge to members to bring at least one item/donation

***Give away items:** chairs, chalk boards, small desks.

***Upcoming events:** Kenyon Farmers Market, 4-7on May 19 Cancelled due to impending inclement weather, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 located in our church parking lot.

Committee Reports:

FLCW – April was a very busy month. World Day of Prayer was held in May, instead of April. Turn out was very low, but donations were excellent. Quilts and books were handed out to the Seniors. We have a funeral we are preparing for, on the 19th.

Youth Co-Reps Prom was excellent. Already looking for a 2023 venue. Sectionals are coming up for Track Golf softball and baseball. We are both working at the pool for the summer, as lifeguards. CAPSTONE projects are happening.

Worship/Evangelism -Worship/ Evangelism Committee met 5/3/22: Members present: Pastor Julie Rogness, Tammy Fletcher, Linda Cordes, Brenda Angelstad and Sherry Sathrum. Devotions read by Pastor Julie and provided by Amy Lee. Agenda items:

1. Greeters, readers, coffee servers, worship assistants: Passing the signup sheet has worked well. Will add assisting minister to the sheet. Will put information in the newsletter and at the bottom of the sheet describing the worship assistant's duties. No worship assistant needed on June 5th as Bill Lewis will assist (Pentecost).

2. Summer worship planning: Discussed monthly outside service possibility with the first one on June 26th. Discussed location of parking lot vs north side of building. Also discussed challenges of sound system and possibility of using recorded songs. Recommend use of disposable communion cups for service.

3. Special Music: Tammy reached out to Holden group (Kristin, Terry and Deb and they are willing to provide special music. Tammy also contacted Claire Larson and Mrs. Schumacher for some possible high school students that may be willing to provide special music. Discussed possibility of Katie VanEpps and/ or St. Olaf students who may want to provide special music. Sherry will reach out to Tom Ermland to see if he has any contacts.

4. Evangelism: Tammy reminded committee members that evangelism continues to be part of our role. May want to add in a new member service as one new family has expressed desire to join FLC.

5. Friendly visitors: Pastor Julie has a list of members that could benefit from the return of our previous Friendly Visitor program. This was tabled until our June meeting to possibly begin in July. *** Regarding music, discussed use of intentional leadership for songs. Pastor Julie will not be available 5/12 to 6/1 and 7/29 to 8/1. Next meeting: Thursday, June 9th at 6:30.

Property and Management – Did not meet this past month. Boilers were shut down for the summer. We are still waiting for estimates from L&M Const. Trees were mulched. Vacuum got fixed. Zumbro Valley is completing the monument out front.

Stewardship- May 12 attendance Jim, Sue, Dave, Donna. 1. Recycling going well- one bench is assembled and in the H.S Commons. 2. Habitat have blessing board in Narthex .Make check to FLC memo line Habitat for Humanity. Groundbreaking in Pine Island. Rachel Turner and 5 y/or old daughter Liliana. 3. Benckes from Japan will be at FLC Sunday, August 7, will do message and have a presentation in fellowship hall during coffee hour. How to have more people come down? Stewardship will do coffee etc. 4. Karen Anderson from Chile will be on home visit - recommend invite her for Sunday July 10, 17 or 24 for message during service and coffee hour after. 5. Stephen Diel- First Lutheran's longest standing missionary with First, will be here August 21. PowerPoint. Stewardship comm. will do coffee etc. Next meeting Thursday, June 9.

Youth and Education – The EdYou committee is looking for youth volunteers in grades 7-12 to help with the last day of Sunday School on 5/22. We have several games planned, and we would love to have some of our older youth assist with the games. We also know the younger kids would love to have the older kids there to play too. Please contact Sarah H. or Sarah V. if available.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECAP 2021-2022: Resurrection Gardens went well! Intergenerational Sunday School (early fall). Spark Activate:Green Spring. Grades 3 and 4 curriculum. Last day of Sunday School May 22. Julie and Sarah H gone.

EdYou Upcoming Events...

MAY ACTIVITIES:

Last Day of Sunday School May 22---Older kids to lead stations/activities- Sarah V sent email; Sarah H will be gone- but will drop off ice cream and lemonade. Yard games at church - Hula hoops, chalk; Erica- Cornhole, balls, other games. Hand out Summer activity flyers & Sunday school packets .

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Ditch Clean-up---June 12th. 10 AM. 7th grade and above. Bring gloves. Ice cream treats afterwards. Sarah Van Epps

Chalk the Walk---June 12th. 10 AM. Chalk decorations, games, treats. (Sarah H will be gone.)

Share Good Earth Village Day Camps--Share to Facebook.

JULY ACTIVITIES:

Possible Camping--4 days/3 nights, Willow River, Boundary Waters, 7th grade and above.

Treetop Adventures--If camping doesn't work). Team-building. Taylor's Falls. Eagle Bluff .

Rafting down the Cannon River--Second half of July, 7th grade and above, Sign-up ahead of time, Fee \$20 (or funds available).

Pool Party: Wednesday night in July.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES:

Possible Outdoor Movie Night--PreK to 6th grade, Wednesday night in early August

Bible School Mini Camp--August 7 or 14. 2-4 PM.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

Nerstrand Woods Family Hike--Grill hotdogs? 1 PM.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel/KAIC – *Soup Cookoff: First Luth. placed 3rd. Raised \$5880. Scholarship letters went out. Personnel did not meet.*

Next Meeting: June 15, 2022, at 6:45 pm

Devotions: Julie

Adjournment: M/S Chris/ Jim

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jill Paulson, Secretary



2022

			1 <i>NO Wed Worship</i>	2 7 AA	3	4
5 <i>Pentecost</i> <i>WEAR RED</i> 9 Worship 7 AA	6 1:30 Literary Guild	7 6 Senior Lvg Board/Brd Joy Rm	8 6 Wed Outdoor Worship	9 1 LOVE DAY 6:30 WorshEv 6:30 EdYou 7 AA	10	11
12 <i>Holy Trinity</i> 9 Worship 7 AA	13	14 5 Sons of Norway	15 6 Wed Outdoor Worship 6:45 Church Council	16 4-7 Farmers Market-Prkg Lot 7 AA	17	18
19 <i>Time after</i> <i>Pentecost</i> 9 Worship 7 AA	20 	21 <i>Summer</i> <i>Begins</i>	22 6 Wed Outdoor Worship	23 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	24	25
26 9 Outdoor Worship 7 AA	27	28	29 6 Wed Outdoor Worship	30		



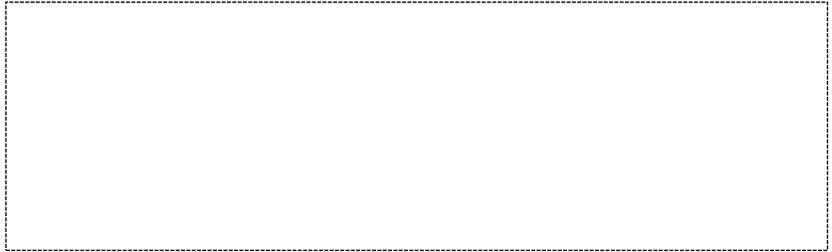
*Spring being
a tough act to follow,
God created June.*

Al Bernstein

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June

Newsletter



BLESSED BE GOD
in all his gifts and
holy in all his works