



JULY 2022

Grateful

Thankful

Blessed

As you will note in the Church Council Minutes, I will move to reduced hours beginning September 1st. And Kris Kincaid will become First Lutheran's full time intern September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023.

I had been considering retirement so when the council approved my reduced hours it felt like a win for all of us. I am excited to continue being your pastor and to have the opportunity to supervise another one of God's called-to-ordained-ministry children (adult).

Kris and I have already met once to dream together, and I believe we are in for an exciting year. Thank you for the ways you are always blessing me. I give thanks to God daily for you.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. — Colossians 2:6

We are also excited to welcome all three of the missionaries we have supported for many years. They will bless us with stories of their work in Chile, Japan, and Central America. More information on their visits, and who they are, can be found in this newsletter and posted at church.

Pastor Julie

You are invited to join Intern Al Aakre for a

FORUM ON PRAYER

This program will explore the models of prayer that we find in Scripture and the Christian tradition, provide strategies for their use in our own lives, as well as allow members of the internship-province to share their own experiences and practices connected to prayer. There will be two opportunities to attend:

August 9 at Trinity Lutheran in West Concord – 7 pm

August 11 at First Lutheran in Kenyon – 7 pm

(Internship Project)



Sunday July 17 – We Welcome Karen L. Anderson - Missionary to Chile

KAREN served as a missionary with the ELCA in Chile from 1982 to 2000. In 2009, she returned to help the staff of Popular Education in Health (in Spanish, EPES) design, launch and direct its international training course, which, among other important tasks, explores the role of the church in the struggle for health and human rights. EPES works to build a sustainable health care organization dedicated to promoting the health, dignity and rights of the poor in Chile. CHILDREN: Camila and Elsa.

EDUCATION

B.S. Nursing St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. – M.Ed. International Education University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Mass. – M.P.H. International Health Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

CALENDAR Karen’s Birthday April 5 - Camila’s Birthday May 16 - Elisa’s Birthday Dec. 17

SYNOD CONNECTIONS

Companion synods: Western Iowa (5E), Indiana-Kentucky (6C) *Home synods:* Minneapolis Area (3G), Southeastern Minnesota (3I), New Jersey (7A), Metro New York (7C)

CONTACT Karen.anderson73@gmail.com karenleean@aol.com

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE’S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to “[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)” with “[Karen Anderson MSG0676](#)” in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.](#)

By credit or debit card: See [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](#) or call 800-638-3522 and specify “[Karen Anderson MSG0676.](#)”

By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2820, or globalchurch@elca.org.



Sunday, August 7 – We Welcome Patrick and Jackie Bencke – Missionaries to Japan

THE BENCKES work in Kumamoto, where Patrick serves as a teacher of English at Kyushu Lutheran College and Jackie serves as an assistant for music programs (organists, choir, etc.). Both work with the Lutheran church community, serving two parishes with music ministries and related support work. CHILDREN: Emilie, Hannah.

EDUCATION

Patrick: B.S. English Education, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa. – M.Ed. English Education, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. Jackie: B.A. Music Education, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. – M.A. Music/International Education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN – Ph.D. (incomplete) Comparative and Interdevelopmental Education, University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, MN. Hobbies: Musical theater, fitness, ethnodoxology

CALENDAR

Patrick’s Birthday: March 8 – Jacqueline’s Birthday: March 6 – Wedding Anniversary: July 31 – Emilie’s Birthday: Jan. 16 – Hannah’s Birthday: Sept. 22

SYNOD CONNECTIONS

Home synod: Northwestern Minnesota (3D), Saint Paul Area (3H), Southeastern Minnesota (3I), Northeastern Iowa (5F), Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)

SPONSORS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

The Benckes love hearing from members of their sponsoring congregations. They began serving in Japan in 2006.

CONTACT Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com Patrick.bencke@elca.org

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE’S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to “[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)” with “[Patrick/Jackie Bencke MSG0021](#)” in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.](#)

By credit or debit card: See [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](#) or call 800-638-3522 and specify “[Patrick/Jackie Bencke MSG0021.](#)”

By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2820, or globalchurch@elca.org.



Sunday, August 21 – We Welcome Rev. Stephen Deal and Marta Girón - Missionaries to Central America

STEPHEN serves as Global Mission regional representative in Central America, where he works closely with the leadership of our companion churches to identify ways for ELCA synods, congregations and members to accompany their holistic ministry among the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded. Since 2014, he has been deeply involved with ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (see <http://www.elca.org/ammparo>), helping ELCA members understand the root causes behind the massive emigration of children, youth and families from Central America. He has also been building a network of relationships with ecumenical partners who are welcoming the sojourner" and defending the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees.

EDUCATION

B.A. Political Science, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, N.C. M.A. Public Policy Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

CALENDAR

Stephen's Birthday Sept. 16 - Marta's Birthday April 12 - Wedding Anniversary Feb. 22

SYNOD CONNECTIONS

Companion synods: Sierra Pacific (2A), Southwest California (2B), Northeastern Minnesota (3E), Saint Paul Area (3H), Southwestern Texas (4E), Greater Milwaukee (5J), North/West Lower Michigan (6B), New England (7B), North Carolina (9B), Southeastern (9D) *Home synod:* Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

CONTACT Stephen.deal@elca.org

SPONSORS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

Stephen began his service as an ELCA missionary in 1992 with the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. He was ordained as a deacon pastor by that church in 1997 while serving marginal communities on the periphery of Guatemala City. His service as regional representative began in 2003. His current missionary responsibilities are concentrated in four countries: Costa Rica plus the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras).

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" with "Deal MSG0098" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

By credit or debit card: See ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving or call 800-638-3522 and specify "Deal MSG0098."

By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2820, or globalchurch@elca.org

◆ **LODGING NEEDED** ◆

Stephen and Marta Deal, our missionaries to Central America, will be arriving Saturday Afternoon, August 20 – It's Rose Fest Weekend and we need a place for them to stay on Saturday night. On Sunday morning they will share their stories with us at church service and afterwards in the fellowship hall. If you can help out, please contact Jim Fountaine 507-330-1333 – thanks.

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 15, 2022 @ 6 :45 PM

Present: Carmen Nesseth, Chris Cordes, Pastor Julie Rogness, Reagan Androli, Sarah Hildebrandt, Tammy Fletcher, Candy Herrlich, Jim Fontaine, Brad Nesseth, Bill Lewis

Welcome and Call to Order: President Carmen

Devotions: Pastor Julie – Christikon is flooding in Montana). John 15:16. Song by Carrie Newcomer.

Approval of Agenda: additions: 1. Kris Kincaid as Intern, 2. Pastor Julie part time, 3. Create Intern Committee. M/S Tammy/Chris, Approved.

Secretary's Report: M/S Jim/Brad, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Bill)

1. Checking Balance \$5721.74
 2. Memorial Balance \$150,592.69
- M/S Chris/Brad, approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie

1. Thank you for the time away to attend weddings on both coasts including daughter and son-in-law.
2. Worship: 2 Sunday morning services, 2 Wednesday evening services.
3. Funerals: Liz Groth (covered by Pastor Paul Graham, not Julie)
4. Meetings: few misc meetings, phone calls and in-person visits, two weekly meetings with Annette, 1 pre-marital meeting, Zoom meeting with Synod rep and (Holden/Dale) interim pastor Dustin.
5. Thank you to Chris Miller for preaching.
6. Looking forward: God's Work our Hands collaborative service 9/18, June 26 outdoor worship, missionary visits, Wedding July 29-31 in Wisconsin.

Motion to compensate Pastor Paul Graham \$200 for being on call for 3 weeks. M/S Bill/Brad, Approved. (Julie to check if Michaelson Funeral Home paid Pastor Paul \$200 for Liz Groth's funeral).

Continuing and New Business:

1. Discussion: Kris Kincaid to become a full time intern for FLC and will receive the salary amount proposed by Seminary. Julie to move to a reduced work schedule with commensurate compensation. Bottom line stays the same for FLC. Exact distribution of duties/expectations to be determined by Julie/Kris/personnel committee.
2. Motion to move Julie to a reduced work schedule starting 9/1/2022. M/S Tammy/Bill, Approved
3. Motion to accept Kris Kincaid as intern starting 9/1/2022. M/S Tammy/Bill, Approved.
4. Create an internship committee – executive committee to discuss; 6 people at least 1 from council.

Committee Reports:

FLCW – Candy

1. Working on 2022-2023 FLWC booklet
2. September 17 – SE MN WELCA Convention at Bethel Lutheran in Rochester (sign-up forms available)
3. Triennial Convention in 2023 in Arizona. (sign-up forms available).

Youth Co-Reps – Reagan

1. Finished Junior year. Working at the pool.

Worship/Evangelism – Tammy

1. Readers/greeters/worship assistant coverage going well.
2. June 26 – Worship in the parking lot.
3. August 21 – Rose Fest, missionary here, regular inside service.
4. September 18 – Collaborative worship being planned.

Property and Management – Brad

1. Grounds/entire church property have been sprayed for weeds.
2. Mini-Split (AC unit) will be installed next week in the sanctuary.
3. Waiting on L&M for basement estimate.
4. We are ready for the Farmer's Market to start 6/16 and agreed to leave the door open for vendors.

Stewardship – Jim

1. KW community recycling: first plastic bench done and working on second.
2. HFH blessing board signed. The one day build was canceled because of heat (Rachel and Lydia Turner in Pine Island).
3. Three missionaries visiting this summer (Karen Anderson July 17, Patrick and Jackie Bencke August 7, Stephen Deal and Marta Girón August 21.)
Stephen Deal and Marta Girón need lodging August 20.

Next meeting: July 7 at 7 PM

Youth and Education – Sarah H

1. Last day of Sunday school (May 22) was fun!
2. Summer Pool Party. July 20, 8:30-9:30 PM All ages.
3. Ditch cleaning: June 26, 10 AM
4. Mini Bible School Camp. Pre-K to 6th grade. Sunday August 7. 2-4 PM.
5. Next meeting: Tuesday June 28, 6 PM??

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/KAIC –

Personnel Committee: See new business above regarding Kris Kincaid/Julie changes. Personnel, Kris, and Julie to discuss exact distribution of duties.

No news from Long Range. Endowment met, no requests. KAIC on hiatus until Sept. 2023.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2022 at 6:45 pm

Devotions : Bill

Adjournment: M/S Sarah/Candy, Approved

Closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary,
Sarah Hildebrandt

>>> YOUTH ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT <<<

First Lutheran Church Youth Pool Party

Wednesday, July 20th 8:30-9:30 PM! Kids of all ages and families are welcome!

Join us in the park before or after for snacks.

Mini Bible School Camp

Pre-K to 6th grade. Sunday August 7th. 2-4 PM.

Sign up ahead of time by emailing

smhildebrandt7@gmail.com

TALKING TO GOD

Abraham answered, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Wilt thou destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And the Lord said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." GENESIS 18:27-28

These two verses come from a lengthier conversation between Abraham and God concerning God's plan to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:20-33). God originally told Abraham that He was simply going to destroy Sodom. Abraham, fearing that this will "destroy the righteous with the wicked" begins to negotiate a number of "righteous" citizens that, if found, will spare the city. God and Abraham go back and forth before landing on the number ten. It is an odd story but it teaches us something about our relationship with God and our use of prayer.

Make no mistake, in Genesis 18, Abraham is praying. Any time that we raise our concerns to God, we pray. Yet the way that Abraham goes about prayer is different from the man in the *Grace* photo—for every inch that Abraham receives, he asks God for another. Western Christians often veer towards a joyful passivity when it comes to prayer—but prayer in the Bible comes in many other forms.

Prayer practices can become indolent when we forget the covenantal bond that is shared between Creator and Creation. Our God claimed us as His heir in the waters of our Baptism, our God sealed the union with His own death and resurrection, our God forgives us of our Sin—we have a union that overcomes more than a few obstacles, but yet we often pray as if it were a most fragile relationship. Abraham made the Covenant in Genesis 17; it was fresh in his mind so he understood that because there was a union and so he pushed a little harder. Through Christ Jesus, we have been made heirs of the same Covenant and should not be afraid to do the same.



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In accordance with the expectations of the project portion of the internship program, I will be conducting a forum on prayer in early August. This program will explore the models of prayer that we find in Scripture and the Christian tradition, provide strategies for their use in our own lives, as well as allow members of the internship-province to share their own experiences and practices connected to prayer. There will be two opportunities for you to attend: August 9 at Trinity Lutheran in West Concord and August 11 at First Lutheran in Kenyon—7 pm for both.

Intern Al Aakre

JULY 2022

SEASON:
After Pentecost.

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|--|---|----|---|--|----|----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9 Worship 7 AA | 4  | 5 | 6 6 Wed Outdoor Worship | 7 7 AA 7 Stewardship | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 9 Worship 7 AA | 11 | 12 | 13 6 Wed Outdoor Worship | 14 1 LOVE DAY 5:30 WorshipEvan 7 AA | 15 | 16 | |
| 17 9 Worship 7 AA | 18 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Missionary Visit - - Karen Anderson/Chili</div> | 19 | 20 6 Wed Outdoor Worship 6:45 Council 8:30-9:30 Pool Party- All ages  | 21 4-7 Farmers Market-Outside 7 AA | 22 | 23 | |
| 24 9 Worship 7 AA | 25 | 26 | 27 6 Wed Outdoor Worship | 28 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 Pr. Chris Miller 9 Worship 7 AA | <p>~ ~ ~ IN AUGUST ~ ~ ~</p> <p>Sun Aug 7 – Mini Bible School Camp 2-4 - PreK to Gr.6 Sign up ahead by email – smhildebrandt7@gmail.com</p> <p>Sun Aug 7 – Visit: Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke/Japan Thurs Aug 11 – Al Aakre-Prayer Forum, Fellowship Hall Sun Aug 21 – Visit: Steven Deal/ Central America</p> | | | | | | |

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JULY

Newsletter



*“When you can’t find the
Sunshine be the Sunshine*

POSITIVE QUOTES EVERY DAY