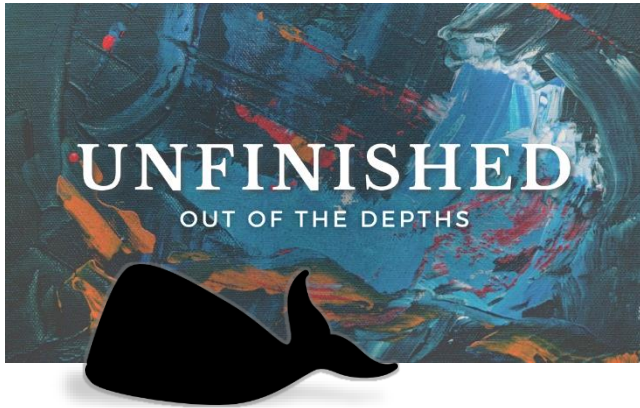


February



—Lent 2023 —

*Unfinished
Out of the Depths*

The Lord spoke his word to Jonah. He said, “Leave at once for the important city, Nineveh. Announce to the people that I can no longer overlook the wicked things they have done.” Jonah immediately tried to run away from the Lord by going to Tarshish. He went to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He wanted to go to Tarshish to get away from the Lord. JONAH 1

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Soup Suppers are back, and our theme helps us dive deeper into Jonah and his Lenten path. We are all prone to wander from God’s hopeful path for us. God calls us to take risky paths and confront things that get in our way of deeper relationships with God and each other. Lent gives us space to find ourselves pondering trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy. Ash Wednesday, we find Jonah running from God.

Pastor Julie

XX



**KW CHOIR WAFFLE FEED — AT 1ST LUTHERAN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 8 - 11
HELP OUR CHOIR YOUTH RAISE MONEY
FOR THEIR GIFTS BY ATTENDING.**

A Message from Intern Kris

Matthew 4:17 “Repent, God’s Kingdom is near!”

When leading a small group, I often invite members to check in by sharing what has been good, what has been hard, and where they have seen God. God is mysterious and for many of us it is difficult to put into words where we have seen God. We think of heaven as coming, but not yet here. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus’ first words in his public ministry were, “Repent, God’s Kingdom is near!” “Repent” in this use means, to be changed. “Near” in the Greek can be translated “within arm’s reach, next to and all around you.” Where do we see God? Through Jesus and his teaching, announcing the good news, and healing, we witness God. When we follow Jesus, God brings us beyond the self we know and frees us to live our lives following the greatest commandments. These are, as Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence ... and ‘Love others as well as you love yourself,’ (Matthew 22:37-40, *The Message*).

How is the kingdom of God near today? How are you being changed by God? Today, as always, lean back in faith and lean forward in God’s promises. From Jesus’ first words, we learn God’s redemption is for each of us. Thanks be to God.

POURING FAITH INTO LIFE WITH SUMMER MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

Information Meeting: Wednesday February 8, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

This summer the EdYou team is supporting opportunities for 6-12th grades to experience faith through outdoor adventure and summer camp. Youth and parents are encouraged to come to the information meeting to find out more about the BWCAW and Summer Fest Camp.

SIP AND PAINT - Sunday, February 26, 4-6 pm - Fellowship Hall

\$30 per person, to be paid on or before Sunday, February 19

Gather for Sunday fun! Led by Suzanne Schwichtenberg we will paint a Spring Gnome. Your fee includes painting supplies, light refreshments, wine, beer, and/or other beverages. Friends are welcome. *This is an event for ages 21 years and older.*

To register, call the church office, 507-789-5261 or sign-up on a sheet at the back of the church. Checks may be made to FELC, indicate sip and paint in memo. You may also pay with Venmo, using @Amy-Alisa-Lee. Questions? Contact Intern Kris. *This event is sponsored by the Worship and Evangelism Committee.*

BWCAW, youth completing grades 10-12, (2022-23), Dates TBD

On this trip, enjoy the woods, water, friends, fishing, and more. Our group will travel through a chain of lakes and portages before setting up camp. We will include daily devotions and discussions on faith. *BWCAW permits limit group size to nine.* Rich Kincaid is leading this trip.

SUMMER FEST CAMP, youth completing grades 6-9, (2022-23), SUN JULY 16 -WED JULY 19

Summer Fest Camp offers high-energy inspiring worship, creative large and small group fun, and exploring faith with friends. It’s held at Gustavus Adolphus College and led by Summer Festival Camp, Minnesota. Kris Kincaid or another adult leader will accompany the youth.

Welcome and Call to Order: President Carmen

Present: Kris Kincaid, Chris Cordes, Bill Lewis, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Tammy Fletcher, Emma Paulson, Reganne Androli, Jill Paulson, Sarah Hildebrandt, Coralee Monroe

Devotions: Kris Kincaid, On the move with Jesus, John 8:12.

Approve Agenda: Bill asked to add Benevolence to the agenda. M/S Bill/Chris, Approved.

Secretary's Report: In Newsletter/emailed to council. M/S Tammy/Brad, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance: \$8,226.67 Memorial Balance: \$151,641.58
M/S Tammy/Brad, Approved.

Pastor's Report: Worship: Preached– 3, Participated-2, Cannon River Conference– 1, Baptism–1, Home Visits – 5, Funeral- Ellingson, Gift Card generosity- Amazing!! Caring Fund, Working with the tech team changes. Jim is stepping back. Thank you for all you have done Jim! Transition – August 31st. Jenna Graduation from NYU- master's in social work on May 17th, Upcoming trip to Switzerland June 02 through 20th.
Ash Wednesday February 22 (Soup Suppers), Lenten theme for Wednesday worship; Unfinished out of the Depths (book of Jonah). Waffle feed February 25th 6am to noon
Baccalaureate at First May 24th @ 7:30 pm. Resignation August 31, 2023/ Last Sunday is August 27th.

Intern Kris's Report:

Worship: Sundays, preached and presided (2), Assistant Leader (2) Sundays and Christmas eve. Three Wednesdays canceled because school was cancelled.

Pastoral care included phone calls and in person visits, communion visits, and 1 nonmember funeral. Staff, meet weekly, with Pastor Julie & Annette, and with Pastor Julie, attended CRPC meeting Jan. Committee meetings attended were Internship Worship & Evangelism, and Stewardship. Youth, three Confirmation sessions were canceled due to snow, and we held the Nativity House Contest Sun, Jan 15 with the potluck, K-12th grades participated It was very well attended. I accompanied the EdYou crew to Feed My Starving Children.

Continuing and New Business:

*Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 29. Encourage committee members to attend. Still need committee members for Worship/Evangelism and Stewardship.

*ELCA and SEMN Synod end of the year monetary request. Stewardship recommendation, see report.

*Lent and Soup suppers. Sign-up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall.

*Benevolence: Bill explained where Benevolence dollars go. First Lutheran is very generous with designated giving but short on current expenses.

Committee Reports:

FLCW – Continue to serve funerals, New Altar Care 2023 schedule is set and will be sent out soon! Lutheran World Relief quilting has been busy and quilters growing in numbers. We meet when needed, generally, not monthly.

Youth Co-Reps – Prom Prep is under way-May 6. End of Semester. Sports are ongoing and doing good. Christian Athletes has been well attended.

Worship/Evangelism – We need new leaders. Only have 1 new member coming on. Sip and Paint Sunday, February 26th 4 pm to 6 pm. Need minimum of 15 to sign up.

Property and Management - committee met on January 16th. The members primary focus continues to be removal of snow and more recently ice from the church parking lot and sidewalks.

Sand including salt has been applied. A 'thank you' goes out to Mitch Sathrum who donated his services. The basement wall project is now complete, all bills received are paid. Going forward the committee will focus on janitorial services for our church building.

Stewardship – the committee met January 12. They review and approved the Annual Report. There was much discussion on goals for 2023; to be continued at the next committee meeting. Carmen presented the letters from the ELCA and SEMN Synod requesting monetary support. The Stewardship Committee recommends that we incorporate this giving into the “Souper Bowl of Caring” event happening between now and February 12, Super Bowl game day, giving where needed most; half of the funds raised to the ELCA and the other half to the SEMN Synod. “Souper Bowl of Caring” is a campaign promoted around the Super Bowl, where folks are encouraged to collect dollars in soup pots leading up to the Super Bowl Game. Donations can go to the charity of our choice.

Youth and Education - Ed You Met 1/16 -Informational meeting for summer events for grades 6-9 will be in early February. Tentatively planning a BWCA with Rich Kincaid, Gustavus Camp. Continue working on Spark curriculum. Intergenerational Sunday School, Planting flower project (early April). Last Day of Sunday School 5/21/2023
Spring ditch cleaning. Intergenerational Sunday on Palm Sunday Breakfast Palm Sunday. Next Ed You Mtg 2/13 at 7pm.

Endowment-met in January. Scholarship funds were approved for 3 students.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2023 at 7:45 p.m.

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: M/S Chris/Sarah, Approved.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Paulson, Secretary

FEBRUARY

			1 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation	2 7 AA	3	4
5 5 aftr Epiph 9 Worship 10 Sun School	6	7	8 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Summer Trip Info Mtg	9 1 Love Day 6:30 Scouts 7 AA	10	11
12 6 aftr Epiph 9 Worship 10 Sun School 2 Cannon River Conference- Trinity	13 7 EdYou	14	15 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council	16 6:30 Scouts 7 AA 5:30 Worship Evangelism	17	18
19 Transfiguration 9 Worship 10 Sun School	20	21	22 ASH WED 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Ash W. Worship 6:45 Mentors	23 1 Love Day 6 Scouts--- Fellowship Hall 7 AA	24	25 8-11 KW Waffle Feed
26 Lent 1 9 Worship 10 Sun School 4-6 Sip & Paint	27	28				

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 FOREST STREET, KENYON, MN 55946
PHONE: 507-789-5261
E-MAIL: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com
WEBSITE: flckenyon.org

February Newsletter



God Has Come Near