

March

2023



Sharing our Faith Through Stories

Intern Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

*Sharing and receiving stories is 'an act of generosity and love'
... Journeying in the Wilderness, Rev. Dr. Terri Martinson Elton*

Since the earliest times faith has been passed on through sharing stories. Dr. Andrew Root, an author and theologian who focuses on ministry in the secular age, believes the future of the church depends on telling stories. It is important for us to hear and share, "Behold, God has been at work."

In the last several decades, our society has become more secular. Many people are constructing a society and living their lives without God at the center, yet they also indicate they are seeking deeper meaning in life. When we share stories of faith, it provides opportunities to reflect on God's presence in our lives, and when we hear stories of faith, it points to God's presence in the world. Stories lift-up the deeper meaning many of us seek. This encouraged me to create an internship project with sharing stories at the center. My internship project will invite the people of God of First Lutheran to share stories of faith in these ways:

Story Sharing Sunday, April 30, 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

People of all ages are invited to an *Intergenerational Story Sharing time* following worship and during coffee fellowship. You will be invited to share a story to one other person, in 1-2 minutes, about God’s creation. Prompts will be offered. For instance: Is there something in nature that makes you feel closer to God? Mentors and youth will also be invited to share stories as part of a mentor night.

“**Our Stories.**” I will meet one-on-one with approximately eight members representing different generations and learn about their faith and life. This information will be shared in an “Our Stories” post in the newsletter, and on Facebook and Instagram. If you wish to volunteer to be interviewed – please let me know.

As one storyteller mentioned, “There are no right or wrong stories, there are only experiences that we offer and receive as holy time.” I look forward to growing in faith together as we share and receive each other’s stories.

THANK YOU - Received from Sole Hope - December 2022

This year at Sole hope, we have seen 6,255 lives changed, more than 130,00 jiggers removed, and we have given out 13,438 shoes! This is because of YOU, and we could not be more thankful. Because of your financial support, prayers, sharing about us on social media and having shoe cutting parties, we can continue education, medical treatment, and shoe distribution to the most vulnerable. You changed this precious life.

LOVE DAY QUILTS

LOVE DAY Quilting Ladies have assembled square kits to be sewn together by willing 'stitchers.' They are in a large basket in the fellowship hall. Instructions have been attached. You may pick them up at any time and sew at home, or we would be happy to have you join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Thank You! For more information contact Cora Lee Monroe or Candy Herrlich

| **KAIC Soup Cookoff — Annual Fundraiser** |
| *Kenyon Area Internship Committee* |
| **Sunday March 26 — Gol Lutheran Church** |
| **Beginning 11 a.m. Live auction at 12:30** |

Welcome and Call to Order: Chris Cordes

Present: Chris Cordes, Erica Aronson, Carmen Nesseth, Tammy Fletcher, Pastor Julie Rogness, Intern Kris Kincaid, Candy Herrlich, Mason Torgeson, Sherry Sathrum, Brad Nesseth
Sara Hildebrandt

Devotions: Kris read a prayer that the confirmation students composed from Sweethearts candies, sharing how we grow in faith through relationships with each other.

Approve Agenda: M/S Carmen/Erica, Approved.

Secretary's Report: M/S Tammy/Sherry, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: M/S Carmen/Erica, Approved. Checking Balance \$2,143.12 Memorial Savings Balance \$140,902.68. Tammy presented print outs of expense trending. We are running behind \$9,000 in current expense giving. Currently 6 items listed under benevolence are paid out of current funds. Benevolence giving is good. Motion that the 6 items (LSS, CRC, GEV, Kenyon Cemetery, FL Caring Fund, KAIC Fund) under benevolence be paid out of benevolence contributions, M/S Tammy/Carmen, Passed.

Pastor's Report: Worship-preached 2, participated 2, 1 funeral. Attended CRC. 6 Home visits. Finding music/pianist coverage for Jan 29-April 30th (cost \$100/Sunday, includes mileage). Creating Lenten Liturgy and worship-Unleashed Out of the Depths (book of Jonah). Tom and Kristine Erslund doing music. Lent starts Ash Wednesday, Feb 22. Soup Suppers each Wednesday, sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall. KW Choir Waffle Feed Feb. 25, kitchen/fellowship hall 6am-noon. At FLC rehearsal/wedding April 14/15-Brice and Sarah (Eggert). Shower March 11. Rehearsal/Wedding May 5/6 at FLC for nonmember. Pulpit supply on May 21-Pastor Chris Miller (daughter's graduation from NYU), Baccalaureate at FLC May 24.

Intern Kris's Report: Preach: 3 Sundays/3 Wednesdays, assisted 1 Sunday and 1 funeral. Confirmation: January 25, Feb 1, Feb 15, Feb 8 Confirmation (6) with HS Mentors (7). Summer Trips Meeting – Feb 8 (about 12 attended. 3 signed up for BWCAW). Pastoral care – 1 small group at Northridge, 4 homes, 1 conversation and 1 text. Internship committee – Met to work on the intern's 6-month evaluation that goes to ELCA. church wide, synod, and seminary. Also reviewed Kris 'internship Project, *Sharing Our Faith Through Stories*. Social media posts to market Sip and Paint, Summer Meetings, Lent mid-week services, and general happenings. May 21 graduate from Seminary.

Continuing and New Business:

*Tech Team, Pastor Julie, Executive and Prop/Man committee met prior to council to discuss where we are at with equipment to livestream worship. Several proposals were presented but there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered before going forward. Tabled.

*Council secretary will get a thank you card to be available at worship for as many members as possible to sign thanking Jim Braaten for his help and support these past few years.

*Cannon River Conference 2/12/23-Chris, Erica, Kris and Pastor Julie attended. 14 new leaders/interns or new calls within the conference. The Treasurer noted we will receive our assessment letter in March via the mail. Project Neighbor- provides assistance to persons with emergency needs in a three-country area, within the boundaries of the conference. Assists with food, shelter, clothing and other essential needs. Last year they assisted 12 families for a total of \$5,343.29. Habitat for Humanity- Goodhue county has been active for 43 years, helped 46 families. They are having a fundraiser diner/silent and live auction on April 25th in Redwing. Tickets are available for purchase \$125.00/each. FLC was given a Blessing board to get signed and raise funds for. SEMN Bishop Rev Emily Carson encouraged members to attend the March 19th, Councils as Leaders at First Lutheran in Albert Lea. She talked about ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, and the synod's "40 Together"-a Lenten initiative to give \$1 for each congregational member to support ministries both local and abroad. Forming a Commission for a renewed Lutheran Church "CRLC"-Submit a nomination. Synod Assembly is Saturday, May 6, in Mankato, Chris, Erica, Intern Kris and Ps Julie to attend. Theme for this year's assembly is "Help me Flourish", each congregation to get a plant. Nominations for the Synod Assembly Ballot may be submitted online. Pastor Inger Hanson was voted in Dean of Conference, Pastor Kira Anderson as Secretary. 2024 CRC Assembly will be at Urland Church.

*Organ Update-Prop/Man presented a letter from R.W. Draeger & Co regarding the repair needed on the organ. This project would take 3-4 months to complete, at an estimated cost for the chest restoration/ replacement, new solid-state switching system, cleaning and reinstallation would be between \$85-95,000. Warranted for 5 years. A more specific price and detailed proposal of the work can be provided if the church is ready to proceed with a purchase agreement.

*Farmers Market-Park & Rec requests the use of FLC parking lot 2 times a month, starting June 1. Motion to allow Park & Rec to use parking lot for Farmers Market 2 times a month-M/S Carmen/Tammy, Approved.

*Motion to Authorize Tammy, our elected Church Treasurer, to sign for Bank Signatures. M/S Brad/Candy, Approved.

*Habitat for Humanity-Goodhue County is placing 6 families this summer. They are asking First Lutheran to provide a contact person from the congregation.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- met Feb 5, 7 in attendance. Valentines were sent to shut-ins. Talked about yearly plans & events-no definite dates yet. Plan to make Lefsa. April 15 is Cannon River Conference at Welch, registration sheets available. Ideas discussed for a summer event (i.e., Festival of Tables).

Youth Rep- Welcome Mason! He shared that it is snow week at KWMHS. He's involved in football and baseball. He is also a high school mentor to confirmation youth at FLC.

Worship/Evangelism—have not met this month but have been working on the Sip & Paint event.

Property and Management-No formal meeting. North wall/windows/electrical/painting is complete. Furnace has issues that need to be worked on.

Stewardship-no meeting/no report.

Youth and Education—Ed/You met 2/13/23). Members present: Kris K, Sarah H, Alyssa Samlaska. Recap: Summer Trip Interest Meeting 2/8/2023. Upcoming events: Summer trips- Boundary Waters (3 of 6 spots filled), Summer Fest. Palm Sunday 4/2: Offer intergenerational activities/craft after FLCW meal. Intern Kris project- Intergenerational Story Time on 4/30. Fundraising: Mother's Day 5/14/23 Cinnamon Rolls. Next Ed/You Meeting: 3/13/2023 7 pm

Kenyon Area Intern Committee-Soup Cook-off Fundraiser at Gol church on Sunday, March 26. We need to supply 4 chefs for soup, 2 desserts and 4 workers. Please contact Cindy Lewis if you can help out with soup, dessert or working that day.

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee - these committees did not meet.

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

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: M/S Tammy/Sherry, Approved.

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Nesseth, Secretary

MARCH

2023

			1 5:30 Soup 6:15 Worship 6:45 Mentors	2 7 AA	3	4
5 Lent 2 9 Worship 10 Sun School 7 AA	6	7	8 5:30 Soup 6:15 Worship 6:45 Mentors	9 1 Love Day 5:30 Worsh/Ev 7 AA	10	11 Eggert Shower  Daylight Savings Time Begins
12 Lent 3 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 1st Communion Class 10 Internship Committee 7 AA	13 10 Stockettes 7 EdYou	14	15 5:30 Soup 6:15 Worship 6:45 Mentors 7:45 Council	16 5:30 Sons of Norway 7 AA	17 	18
19 Lent 4 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 1st Communion Class 7 AA	20	21	22 5:30 Soup 6:15 Worship 6:45 Mentors	23 1 Love Day 7 AA	24	25
26 Lent 5 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 1st Communion Class KENYON AREA INTERNSHIP FUNDRAISER @ GOL 7 AA	27 10 Stockettes	28	29 5:30 Soup 6:15 Worship 6:45 Mentors	30 7 AA	31	

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MARCH NEWSLETTER



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May the early spring
Awaken your soul and
Remind you to
Celebrate the season with the
Hope and joy it brings !