

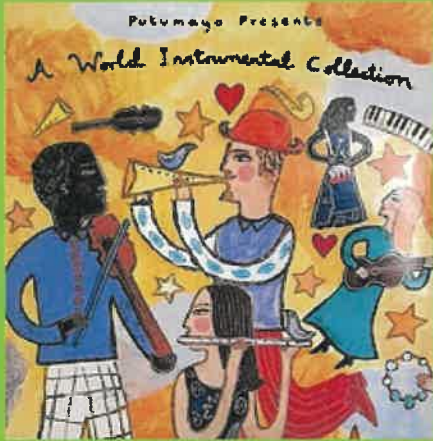
The Voice

August 2022

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA



International
Strange Music Day
recommendations,
page 9.



FLW news and info
page 5.



The first group of campers went to Hiawatha for hockey. L-R: Andrew Eide, Landon Basaraba, Zach Youso, and Nick Schultz.

VBS scheduled for August 8-11

Get ready to learn about the boundlessness of God!

A day camp style vacation Bible school to be hosted by Zion Lutheran, First Lutheran, and Camp Onomia is scheduled for August 8th through the 11th at Zion Lutheran Church.

Children in kindergarten through grade five are welcome to attend. The cost is

\$10 per child or \$20 per family.

For more information, see the announcements on page 7, and the poster on page 8.



From the Pastor's Desk

Colossians 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

"Gratitude" is the word that best describes what's in my heart when I think about the ministry at First Lutheran Church. To be a pastor in the midst of gracious and generous people, like you, fills me with gratitude.



"I don't know what the future holds"

At this point, I don't know what the future holds for me. But then again, none of us do. I have always trusted in the Lord to open opportunities and bless God's people.

"There is Joy and Excitement"

As I am writing this, the Christmas in July celebration will be next week on Tuesday.

Vacation Bible School is set for the week of August 8- 11 for youth in grades 1-5.

We look forward to the counselors from Camp Onomia to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. The energy and excitement in youth is wonderful.

This is what I believe to be an example of God's blessing for God's people.

I invite you to be in prayerful discernment as you are in conversation with one another and especially with the Call Committee and Council. God will use you to become a blessing to others ... that's what God has always done.

It is with deepest Gratitude that I remember the prayers, the concern, and the compassion you showed me as your Interim Pastor.

**In Christ's Service,
Pastor Paul J Erdal**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES June 16, 2022

Present: Pastor Paul Erdal, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Fellowship Linda Martin, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Secretary Carol Bass, President Kathi Henrickson, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilsson and Discipleship Betty Henrickson

Guests: The Call Committee members attending are Harold Schumacher, Laurie Lindberg, Dennis Martin, Marc Glowack

Opening Devotional: "Jesus Calms the Storm". This is a Synoptic Gospel story as it appears in several of the Gospels. We all hope the waters recede and trust in God and His Mercy.

Pastor's Report: Funerals upcoming; Bunny Katrin the last Friday in July, Gravesite services for Vernon Reuter, and Denise Romanowicz, Pastor visited several ill parishioners and asked that he be notified if you know of members who are ill or hospitalized.

Minutes and Financial Reports from last month's meeting were reviewed.

Motion: to accept the minutes of the last council meeting (May 18, 2022)

Motion by: Betty Henrickson

Second by: Linda Martin

Carried

Treasurer's Report: Some confusion on elevator check. Has been written but not yet sent. Past month not the greatest for income.

Motion: to accept financial reports of the last council meeting (May 18, 2022)

Motion by Nancy McBride

Seconded by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

Call Committee: Members of committee would like to get the profile listed as soon as possible as 21 other churches are currently looking for pastors. Council members were given copies of the profile. Suggestion was made that council approval be given contin-

gent on a 48 hr, window in which council may study profile and ask questions or ask for correction.

Motion: that the profile be accepted with the 48 hr, window allowed.

Motion by: Brad Ettestad

Seconded by: Kathi Henrickson

Carried

President Report: See agenda

Vice-President Report: See Agenda.

Service/ Outreach: There is a regular core of volunteers at Community Café. Much work packing all items for convention including quilts, blankets, kits. Pictures and numbers will be given to the "Voice". Card was sent to hospitalized member, There was a Ladies' Night Out last Monday, hosted by Littlefork Lutheran. Very good turnout with salad supper and speaker. Hope is that these get together can continue quarterly among our local churches.

Discipleship: VBS Week of August 7. It will be at Zion this year. Camp counselors from Camp Onomia will teach it. There will be a potluck on August 8th.

Fellowship: Cake and ice cream served on Pentecost Sunday in honor of the church's birthday. Further projects are on hold at present due to the flooding.

(Council, continued on page 4)

Interim Pastor:

Paul J. Erdal

Office Administrator:

Stacy Murphy

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

218-283-2208

www.firstlutheranifalls.org

firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council, continued from page 3—

Building and Grounds: Lloyd reported that the elevator ship date is now October. The electronic sign is still not working properly. We need to purchase an upgraded communication module. Lloyd will follow up with Stewart Signs. Cost \$500. Back door from Northern Lumber not here yet (two weeks late). Will need to have someone install it. Would like list of people who could help with building and ground issues. These could be called on to help with things and would be welcome at our meetings. Emmett and Parker Olson are our lawn crew. Pictures of them have been taken and will be put into "Voice" to show our thanks and advertise their lawn care business. We are looking into the feasibility of an "on demand" water heater. We now have two heaters but only one works. The "on demand" would be more cost efficient. Possibly need some re-plumbing to cover more area. Steve Lindberg will do feasibility study. Clean-up of storage areas and Sunday school rooms needs to be complete by July 4th or things left may be disposed of. Steve Early says his son would like to plan a youth canoe trip when lake conditions improve. Lloyd has all the stickers, paddles. They would need to find life jackets. Trailer needs tires pumped up.

Worship and Music: There were some issues with music on Sunday. Nancy says that all the needed music was there but perhaps some confusion on which buttons to push. Lloyd said his son, Ryan, could help and he will ask. Nancy will set up songs. Acolytes, ushers, readers and coffee hosts are needed. Encourage sign up. Several council members said they would sign up.

Smart Team: Continue to monitor cases. No added restrictions at present.

Old Business: Call Committee Profile. See above.

New Business:

Articles of Incorporation: We are known by three different names:

***Evangelical Lutheran Bethel Church (AOI),**

***Bethany First Lutheran Parish (ELCA)**

***First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Int'l. Falls (Synod)**

Kathi has contacted synod to see procedure for changing to one name. This may need the involvement of an attorney.

Motion: that Steve Shermoen or other attorney be contacted if needed to get the legal name change.

**Motion by: Nancy McBride
Seconded by: Lloyd Skogstad
Carried**

Motion: that the name will be First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Int'l. Falls

**Motion by: Kathi Henrickson
Seconded by Brenda Bertilson
Carried**

Agreements: Kathi and Laurie Lindberg are doing comparisons between Midco and Frontier for bundling phone and internet. Will get back to council with results.

Property Insurance: Our agent has informed us that we should consider adding to our policy to cover increased cost of replacement materials and our new improvements (Memorial Hall and elevator) Renewal is July 1st and will add \$400 to our bill.

Motion: to extend coverage as recommended by agent.

**Motion by: Betty Henrickson
Seconded by: Linda Martin
Carried**

Next Executive Committee Meeting: July 19, 2022, at 5:00 PM

Next Council Meeting: July 21, 2022, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Bass, Secretary



Shop for school kit needs

The FLW will be preparing school kits again this year for Lutheran World Relief. It may seem out of place to be thinking of school supplies at this time of year, but the best sales of these items are usually in August.

Supplies needed are 70-count notebooks, 24-count crayons, blue or black pens, pencil sharpeners, and blunt or semi-blunt edged scissors. When shopping, please consider picking up a few extras for these kits.



This year's FLW Christmas in July declared another significant success



Brenda Bertilson and Mike Carey are pleased with the sale.



Bits from Bethany



**Ruby goes to Camp Hiawatha!
Left: Ruby Olson and other campers tie-dye shirts with Danny Thureen!
Above: Ruby and friends...**



Happy Birthday, Arlysse Palm!!

Announcements

Community Café

If you are able to volunteer one evening a month at the Backus Community Cafe, please call the church office at 283-2208.

If you are in need of Community Cafe meals, call 285-7225 by 4 p.m. on Cafe day. Meals can be picked up between 5 and 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Backus Community Center.

Second Tuesday Bible Study

You are invited to a Bible study with Bette Simon at 11 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at her house. The Bible study is from the *Gather* magazine. If anyone wants to participate but doesn't have a subscription to *Gather*, there are a few extra copies at the church that people can pick up and use. For more information, please call the office at 283-2208.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9, join us for a casual Bible study in Memorial Hall. Bring your favorite Bible and take part in eye-opening discussions about some familiar, and not-so-familiar stories.

Can you help?

As the flood waters recede, we know people will need help with many things, yard work, not the least of it. If you need help, or know someone who does, please call the office. Or, if you are willing to help with some of the clean-up, etc., please call the office. We will try to coordinate a list of people and the needs so we can make a dent in what can seem an over-whelming situation. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School is back!

Zion Lutheran and First Lutheran churches have hosted Vacation Bible School/Day Camp in the summer for many years. Because of COVID, that has not happened for the last two years. But this summer we will be hosting Vacation Bible School again.

First through fifth graders are invited. It's happening at Zion Lutheran Church August 8th through the 11th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family for the week. Lunches will be at Backus and morning and afternoon snacks and juices will be provided.

Counselors from the ELCA Camp Onomia will be leading this week of activities, songs and games. The theme this year will be: "God Beyond Measure."

To register call Heidi (218-684-5213) or Email Heidi at heidithompson@hotmail.com. This will be a week of learning about God's love and meeting new friends. Your child is welcome to invite a friend. We hope to see them there.

If you have questions, please call Heidi at 218-684-5213 or BettyJeanne at 218-324-2757.

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

Grades 1-5
For the week:
\$10/child, or
\$20/family

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AND CAMP ONOMIA WILL BE HOSTING:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

DAY CAMP:

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

DATES:
AUGUST 8-11
TIME: 9-3



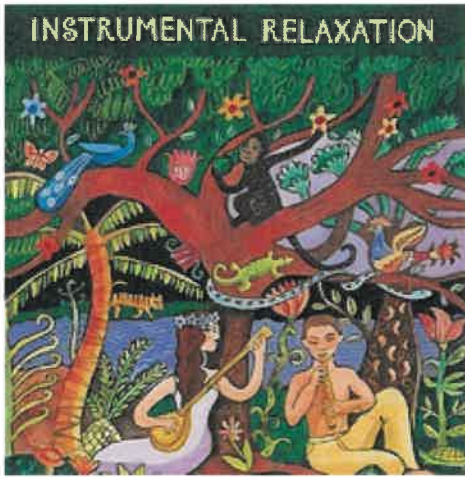
Get ready to learn about the boundlessness of God!
To register, please contact Heidi
Phone: (218)-684-5213
Email: heidithompson@hotmail.com

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 530 6th St., International Falls, MN

Listening recommendations

Celebrate International Strange Music Day August 24th

International Strange Music Day was created by Patrick Grant, who was a New York City musician and composer at the time. The premise of the day is simple: to get people to play and listen to types of music they have never experienced before.



Playlists curated by world travelers Dan Storper and Jacob Edgar featuring favorite new discoveries and songs from Putumayo albums past and present.
www.putumayo.com



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Did you know... If you are a Thrivent member, you can contribute to First Lutheran Church through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Actions Teams.

Log into your Thrivent account online, call 1-800-847-4836 or speak with your personal Thrivent representative for more information.

let's be friends



@FIRSTLUTHERANC



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA**

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
— Philippians 4:13*



Thank you to July’s Community Café volunteers: Kim Atchley, Carol Bass, Barb Bergh, Brenda Bertilson, Mikala Hansen, Sue Mathews, and Sharalyn Schaak.

To those who helped with worship in July, including: Denny and Linda Martin, Hoa Sobczinski, Don Nuthak, Pat Ettestad. To those who helped with fellowship, including: Sharalyn Schaak and family, BettyJeanne Henrickson and Barb Keeney.

To those who helped with music: Joe Belanger, Sue Hewitt, Brad Ettestad, and Kathy Thureen.

Prayer Chain

First Lutheran Church has four active prayer chains. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call either the church office at 283-2208, or Brenda Bertilson 283-2144; 240-4939. You must have permission to put someone on the chain, either from the person, or from a close relative. To put someone on the list for Sunday prayers, call the office at 283-2208. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

Remember in your prayers, those in need and those in care facilities.

Good Samaritan: Dutch Olson

Littlefork Nursing Home: Marlene Erickson, Betty Steinbach

General Fund Financial Information							
As of June 30, 2022							
Thank you for supporting First Lutheran Church!							
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Variance		Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Variance
Operating Income	17,156	18,428	(1,272)		98,241	110,567	(12,326)
Operating Expense	14,254	18,428	4,174		95,167	110,567	15,400
Operating Income Less Expense	2,902		2,902		3,074		3,074

August Birthdays

8/2—Betty Bergstrom
Elisha Boelk
Ryan Julien

8/3—Maureen Jackson

8/6—Lynda Tilander
Bryanna Wichner

8/9—Brady Strand

8/10—Paul Golnick
Havyn Pelland
Jackson Reinars

8/12—Adrion Mannausau
Teri Zub

8/14—John Cowman
Nathan Lynch
Ronna MacKay

8/15—Brenda Dault

8/16—Craig Bernath
Kendra Kalstad
Michael Pelland
Kya Scholler

8/17—Greg Harris
Kaeden Rostie

8/18—Knut Boerger
Anthony Cole

8/20—Marissa Meyer

8/21—Reid Hanson
Lauren Rautio
Christopher Scofield
John Slatinski

8/22—George Boe
Declan Clark

8/23—Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack

8/25—Carter Jensen
Tammy Lyon

8/26—Kaitlyn Kalstad

8/27—Thomas Arason

8/28—Stacy Harris
Robert Roeder

8/29—Cassie Thompson
Michelle Trappe

8/30—Tanya Kennedy
Donald Olson

8/31—Timothy MacKay



Silent Auction for campers!
This wolf print will be up
for silent auction to raise
money for next year's
camperships.

It will be on display
through August.

Put in your bid now and
help send some campers
to Camp Vermilion in Ely
or Hiawatha in Deer River
next summer.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
123 Wayside Lane
International Falls, MN 56649

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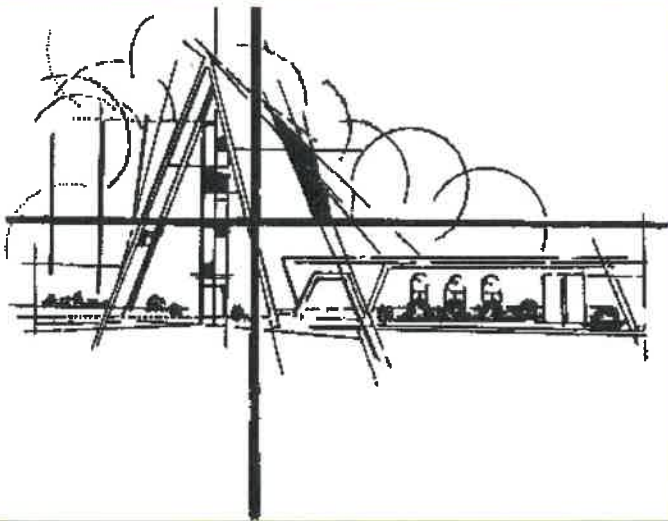
August 2022
NEWSLETTER

(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)



First Lutheran Church, ELCA

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



First Lutheran's Mission Statement *Sharing God's Grace*

First Lutheran's Vision Statement
*First Lutheran Church will be a congregation
that shares God's grace by:*

- + Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity.
- + Welcoming all to active involvement in ministry.
- + Offering a non-judgmental encounter with God through the celebration of liturgical worship with word and sacrament.
- + Responding faithfully to the Great Commission of Matthew 28 -- to grow.
- + Committing ourselves to serving the needs of our congregation and the community at large.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Available on our website
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to noon
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!
www.firstlutheranifalls.org

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.