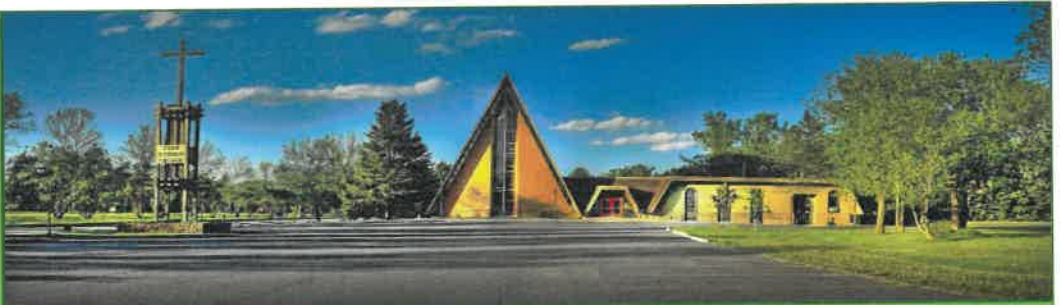


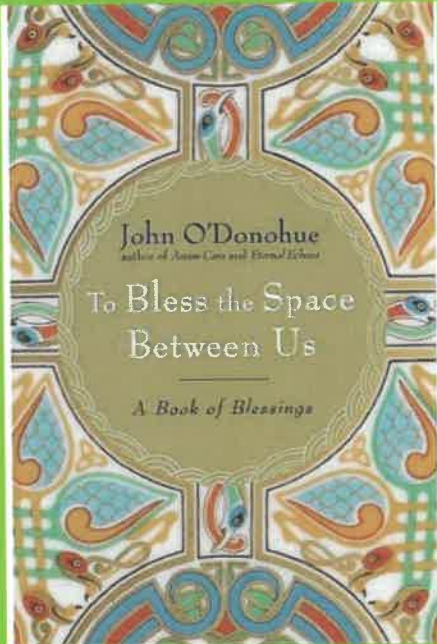
The Voice

June 2022



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*



**A book of blessings;
Recommendations,
page 9.**



**Meet our Seniors
page 8.**



Quilts from participating churches line the meeting area at the Northeast Minnesota Synod Assembly in Brainerd at Cragun's Resort. Photo courtesy of Linda and Denny Martin who were our delegates at the 2022 assembly in May.

Five receive FLC scholarships

The Endowment Fund was established in 2008 to enhance the outreach and mission of First Lutheran Church. A committee of five active members of First Lutheran has the responsibility of stewardship of special gifts to ensure the continuation of Christ's work. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, only the interest earned on the fund may be spent.

In recent years, this interest has been used to provide scholarships for higher education, assist in funding the basement lighting project, and help our youth to attend a national convention. This year, five scholarships in the amount of \$250 each were awarded. Receiving scholarships were Elisha Boelk, Jake Froemke, Ben Glowack (seen at left with Kris Lassila), Cohlton Schultz, and Jett Tomczak. Congratulations!

From the Pastor's Desk

"Happy Birthday Church!"

When I was a young elementary child, I heard this wonderful celebratory greeting from our pastor, "Happy Birthday Church." It surprised me, because I had only heard this said to someone who was celebrating their biological birthday.

I was aware of Baptismal Birthdays as a special day; to remember and celebrate just like biological birthdays. In fact, I still remember my baptismal birthday, April 14, 1974. It was on Easter Sunday. Imagine that! The day of celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord AND the Baptism of two adopted children from Korea, 5 and 7 years old. In fact, our baptismal family and relatives numbered over 50 people that Sunday. After, we had a gathering at the Holiday Inn for Sunday Brunch.



Pentecost Sunday this year is on June 5th. Happy Birthday Church! Pentecost Sunday is Seventh Sunday after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension. The Greek word, "pentekoste" which means fiftieth as Pentecost Sunday takes place on the 50th day of Easter.

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of flames to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:1-31). The Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak in other languages, and they started preaching the word of Jesus to the Jews who were in Jerusalem. Many Christians recognize the Descent of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church.



So as a congregation, we will celebrate with a Birthday Cake after worship in Memorial Hall on June 5th. You are all invited to join us for this wonderful celebration as we remember the Gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 21, 2022

Present: Pastor Paul Erdahl, 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 Bertilson and Discipleship Betty Henrickson

Called to order at 5:00 PM.

Opening Devotional: "Christ in the Home" Psalm 18 v. 24. This is the Day the Lord Has Made.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be at Synod Assembly at Cragun's from April 29th to May 1st. He will be gone May 6-16 (back on 17th) attending his daughter's graduation. He will also be gone June 3-12 assisting his daughter to move to her new job in the state of Virginia. Pastor recommends we look into a web-based management system and suggests Church 360. Research will be done as to cost, pros and cons.

*New members: there will be a new member orientation on Wed, May 5th from 4-6 PM. Installation of new members will be on May 22nd.

*Care Corps: Pastor has asked Brenda, Betty and Cynthia Warren to be part of this group to be available to members of the congregation who may be in need,

Minutes and Financial Reports from last month's meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were made to secretarial report. After correcting:

Motion: to accept the minutes and financial statements of the last council meeting (March, 17, 2022) as corrected.

Motion by: Nancy McBride

Second by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

President's Report: Nothing further cur-

rently

Vice-President Report: Will report under Old Business.

Service/ Outreach: There were 6 volunteers at Community Cafe in March. Meal numbers still high. Changes made at the café outlining the ordering of meals. Now when calling person must indicate to whom each meal is going. There have been some people taking advantage of the café by ordering many meals to stock their pantry.

One meal sent through Helping Hands. Three cards sent out. Easter cards sent to shut ins. Note cards were donated and are in office to send messages to members.

* Endowment Committee: There is currently \$43,104 in the fund. There will be 5 scholarships of \$250 each awarded to local graduates who are members of First Lutheran. Suggestion was made that this be publicized perhaps with a photo to be put in the "Voice".

Discipleship: VBS Week of. August 7. Camp Onamia Monday through Thursday. Currently there are two campers. We should publicize this to parents. Costs could be shared with Zion. Pie and Perennial Sale suggested for early June with proceeds to go to youth programs. Averaged 15-20 soups delivered on Wednesdays. Had fewer Wednesdays than usual due to spring break and a snowstorm.

(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, from page 3

Fellowship: Assisted with home visits. Planning an event for May possibly for New Member Sunday

Building and Grounds: Lloyd reported nothing new with elevator, but deposit was sent. When Lloyd hears when they are coming, he will ask if there is prep work we need to do such as painting. He will notify council when they are coming so that they may give input. There are still problems with the sign making it impossible to re-set. Seeking a new communication module. The storage units downstairs are in the process of being organized. Everyone who has something down there is asked to label it and if it needs to be moved elsewhere let him know by June 1st. For the Christmas trees, he suggested purchase of storage boxes at a cost of \$60 each. Canoes – something needs to be done with them as they have been just sitting on lawn and are in the way. They are still useable. Suggestion was made of youth activity on Rainy Lake.

Finance: Some more activity on our donation button - \$750 so far. Memorial Hall is now complete. There is still money designated for this project. Suggestion we move this money to another project.

Motion: That the left-over monies from the Memorial Hall project be shifted to another needed project:

Motion by: Hoa Sobczynski

Second by: Lloyd Skogstad

Carried

Worship and Music: Joe Belanger will continue to record music throughout April or longer if needed. Sue Hewitt will be available to play beginning May 1st. The choir sang for Holy week services and was well received.

Smart Team: Team continues to monitor Covid statistics.

Old Business:

***Transition Team:** Team has met 3 times. Survey is finished and will be shown to

Deacon Brenda. Survey Monkey is in process of completion. Will give updates at Sunday

services.

*** Call Committee:** Packets were sent out to committee members. First meeting is May 3rd.

*** Elevator:** As reported by Lloyd Skogstad matters are underway. Suggestion was made to begin fund raising. Suggestion that perhaps Nancy could make a picture of elevator with places to indicate progress (Elevator going up).

*** Council Terms:** Hoa compiled a chart listing all officers, length of terms and dates of service. After a couple of changes, the chart is as follows:

Carol Bass	Secretary	2022-2025	3 yrs.
Brenda Bertilson	Serv/Outreach.	2022-2023	1 yr,*
Brad Ettestad	Treasurer	2022-2024	2 yrs.,
Kathi Henrickson	President	2022-2025	3 yrs.*
Linda Martin	Fellowship	2022-2025	3 yrs.
Nancy McBride	Worship/Music	2022-2023	1 yr.
Lloyd Skogstad	Bldgs/Grounds	2022-2024	2 yrs.
Hoa Sobczynski	Vice President	2022-2024	2 yrs.

*These were items changed.

New Business:

***Pastor Vacation:** During his absence Nancy will take services. She will begin May 1st but said she may have a conflict on later June dates. She will know by May 10th. Pastor will be back June 13th.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 17, 2022 at 5 PM

Next Council Meeting: May 19, 2022 at 5 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Carol Bass, Secretary

Women ^{of the} ELCA

FLW Minutes May 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Brenda. She read devotions based on Thessalonians 5:11.

The mission and purpose statements were read.

Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Correspondence was read.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Laurentian Conference at Zion Lutheran in the Falls on April 23rd was attended by five members of our FLW. The theme was "Garden of Prayer" and Gloria Hagg, a storyteller, entertained us. A string ensemble played beautiful music and we were served a delicious lunch.

An update on Ukraine from Lutheran World Relief stated that the quilts and toiletry kits are being given out. Items for refugee toiletry kits are still being collected.

Summer convention: discussed a blessing and packing of quilts and kits

at a Sunday service before they are taken to the convention. Date to be decided. Carol made a motion to give \$100 to WISE at the convention. This stands for Women in Seminary Education. Kitty seconded, motion passed.

Christmas in July: Set up Sunday, July 24th, after church. The pricing date is Monday, July 25th from 1-5 p.m.

New business: A planning meeting for Christmas in July is scheduled for June 21st at 5 at the church.

Kitty made a motion to buy material for three fleece blankets for Camp Noah, which is a boys camp for kids who have experienced trauma. Carol seconded the motion and it passed.

A ladies night out is scheduled for June 28th at the Junction. We will meet at the church to ride-share.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 13th at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Harju

**Christmas in July
is scheduled for
Tuesday, July 26th!!
10 a.m.— 1 p.m.
Start your crafting
now!**

**The sale will be baked goods
and crafts only.
No luncheon will be served.**



Bits from Bethany

Congratulations to the Graduates!



Corrine Dahl has graduated from the RRCC nursing program with her RN. She has been hired as a Med-Surge Nurse at the Baudette Hospital. **L-R: Laura, Corrine, and Tony Dahl at RRCC graduation.**



Chase Steinbach, son of Chuck and Myndi Steinbach, graduated as the 2022 Valedictorian at Indus High School. He will pursue a Criminal Justice degree at UND.

Sloppy Joes and quilts galore!!

'Thank you to everyone who came out for our sloppy joe feed and quilt sale. We sold a lot of quilts, took some orders for quilts, and are still at it. Thank you to everyone who helped.' —Linda Sutch



Announcements

Community Café

The Community Café is once again asking for volunteers. If you are able to volunteer one evening a month, 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.

Holy Communion

If you have not participated in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a while, please contact the church office or Interim Pastor Paul. The pastor would be honored to bring and serve you Holy Communion.

Happy Birthday, Church!

June 5th is Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church. This is the day when the Holy Spirit descended to earth as our helper and advocate! We will be celebrating this event following worship with a birthday cake and you are invited!

Christmas in July

The FLW is planning their Christmas in July for Tuesday, the 26th. Please attend the organizational meeting June 21st at 5 p.m.

**Worship will be a Hymn-Sing June 12th!
Tune up your pipes
and make a joyful noise!**

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

Meet First Lutheran's high school graduates



Elisha Boelk



Knute Boerger



Jake Froemke



Ben Glowack



Alex Larson



Adrion Mannasau



Havyn Pelland



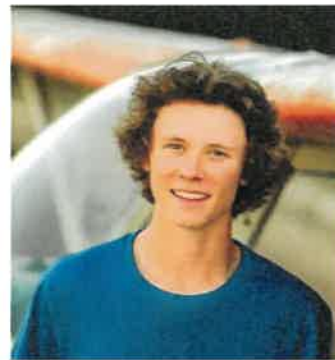
Parker Rousseau



Cameron Schulz



Cohlton Schultz



Jett Tomczak

Bryanna Wichner



Bella Willmarth

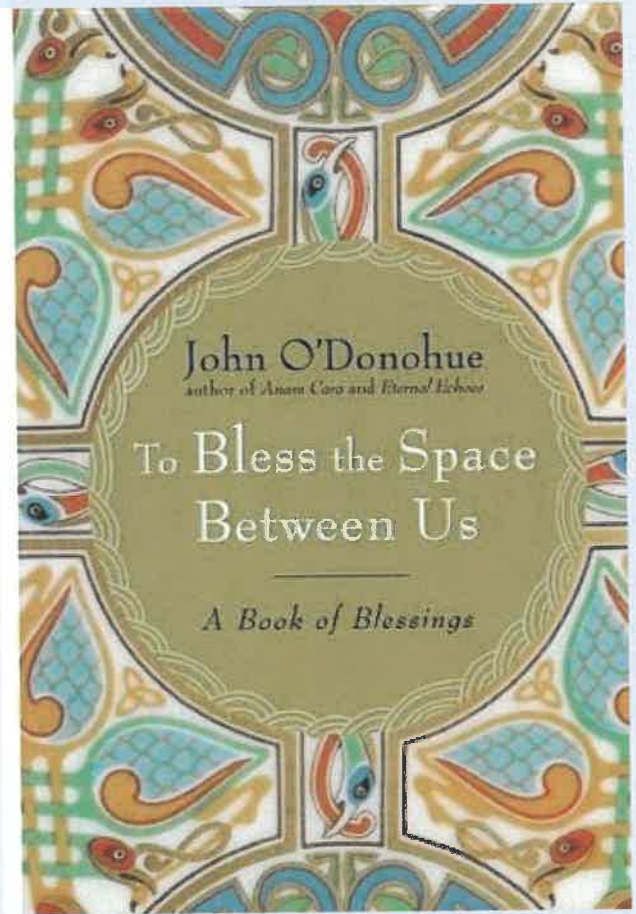


Book recommendations

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

To Bless the Space Between Us is a compelling blend of elegant, poetic language and spiritual insight to offer readers comfort and encouragement on their journeys through life. John O'Donohue, Irish teacher and poet, looks at life's thresholds—getting married, having children, starting a new job—and offers invaluable guidelines for making the transition from a known, familiar world into a new, unmapped territory.

Most profoundly, however, O'Donohue explains “blessings” as a way of life, a lens through which the whole world is transformed. He awakens readers to timeless truths and shows the power they have to answer contemporary dilemmas and ease us through periods of change.



**THRIVENT
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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**

**The Perennial Sale will take place during the
Christmas in July sale, July 26th, from 10-1.**



To those who helped with worship in May: Amy Basaraba, Geoff Shuff, Landon and Lauren Basaraba, Darell Schmidt, Kathi Henrickson, Corey Eide, Essa Eide, Andrew Eide, Nick Schultz, Tricia Youso, Al Youso, Zach and Max Youso.

To those who helped with fellowship: Barb Bergh, Sandy Harju, Linda Torseth, Kathi Henrickson, and all the others behind the scenes.

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: Bunny Katrin and Dutch Olson

Littlefork Nursing Home: Marlene Erickson, Betty Steinbach,
and Gary Rasmussen

General Fund Financial Information

As of April 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	17,608	18,428	(819)		69,431	73,711	(4,281)
Operating Expense	18,634	18,428	(207)		65,034	73,711	8,677
Operating Income Less Expense	(1,026)		(1,026)		4,396		4,396

June Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 6/1 | William Roeder
Pacey Rousseau | 6/19 | Walter Green |
| 6/3 | Hazel Aasen
Joseph Glowack | 6/20 | Kole Bernath
Carlene Blair |
| 6/4 | Hannah Cook
Duane Olsen
Fred Smith | 6/21 | Adam Bergstrom |
| 6/6 | Tim Heinle
Steve Lindberg
Tara Long
Laurie Olsen
Charley Swanson | 6/22 | Ardel Henrickson
Bert Karasek
Courtney Klow |
| 6/8 | Ashley Shipley | 6/24 | Clay Bergstrom
Justin Shipley |
| 6/10 | Terry Bounds | 6/25 | Grace Haanen
Will Haanen |
| 6/11 | Stephanie Heinle
Robert Johnson | 6/27 | Barb Albert |
| 6/15 | Jodi Herberg
Whitney Bartholmy
Nancy Johnson
Carissa Shipley | 6/29 | Hunter Sobkowicz |
| 6/16 | Gina Rasmussen
Christopher Steinbach | 6/30 | Catherine Christensen |
| 6/18 | Savannah Olson
James Wood | | |



**Vacation Bible School at First
is scheduled for the week of
August 7th!**

**Mark your calendars and
Watch for more information!!**

**BACKUS COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES
FREE, HOT MEALS TO EVERYONE**

**Thank you to May's volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh,
Brenda Bertilson, Sandy Harju, Laurie Lindberg, and Sue
Matthews.**

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

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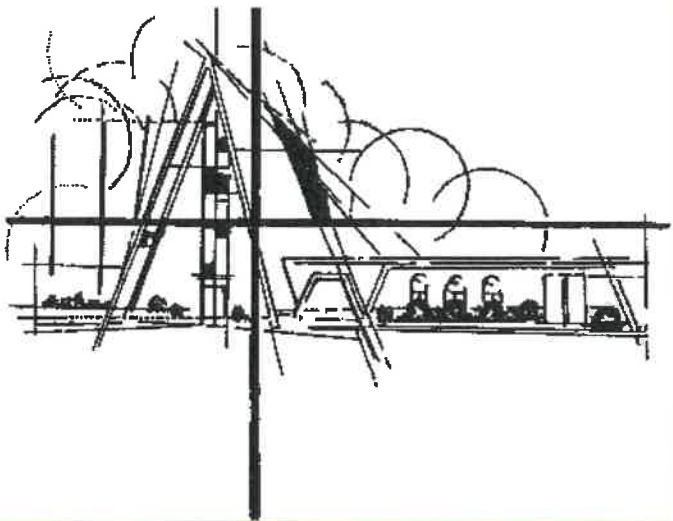
June 2022
NEWSLETTER

(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.