

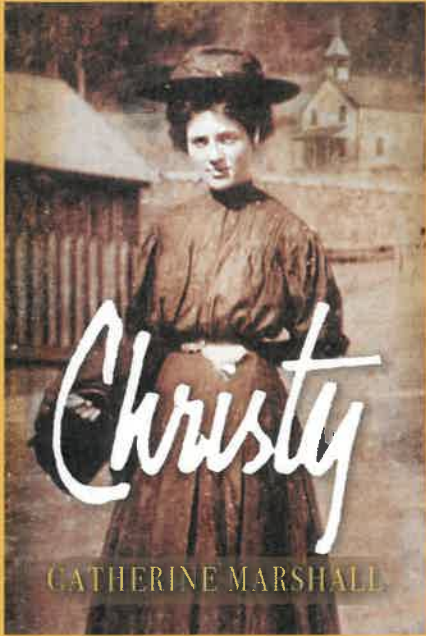
The Voice

May 2022

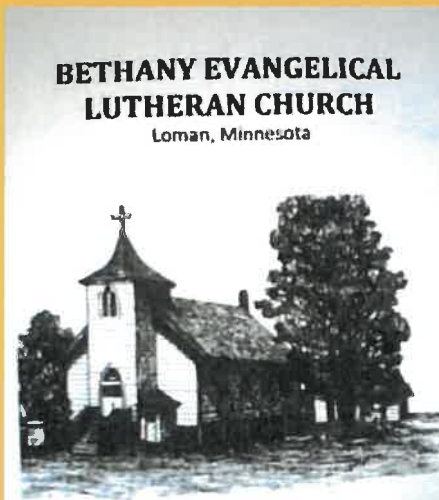


A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*



**A classic book
recommendation
page 9.**



**Bits from Bethany
page 6.**



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Holy Week was very busy at First Lutheran this year!

From Palm Sunday, with a full church of palm wavers and a choir, followed by a delicious repast provided by BettyJeanne Henrickson and Cynthia Warren, (see photo at left) to Easter Sunday complete with a full house and a “children’s sermon”, it was a meaningful time for all the attendees.

We are so thankful to be able to worship in person once again.



From the Pastor's Desk

"Do April Showers Bring May Flowers?"

Easter Sunday was such a joyous day with many smiling faces, colorful banners and paraments, and beautiful spring flowers. As our Psalmist says in Psalm 118:24, *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

I feel like we've had more snow than rain this year. However, the sunshine and longer days is a welcome relief. With the warming of springtime, I look forward to summer being upon us. I trust that April showers will indeed bring us May flowers. I look forward to finally getting out and visiting people and make Pastoral Visits. But most of all, I look forward to the beauty of summertime and the opportunity to get more familiar with the beautiful Rainy Lake Area.

+++++

More about Pastor Erdal's Ladies

I've had several people inquiring about my family, especially from those who were not around this winter. YES, I am married and do have two beautiful daughters (Lily 25 and Claire 16).

After giving up her 7-12 grade music teaching position in Montevideo, following me to seminary, and 20 + years of following me to various communities ... **my wonderful and faithful wife, Stacy, finally said "Paul, I would like to go back to fulltime teaching."**

It didn't take me long to say, **"Wherever you get a position, we will follow you."** My wife in finally leading the Erdal family. This is the reason our household has a home in Brainerd. This is her 8th school year and Stacy loves her school, churches, and community.

Our oldest daughter, Lily, graduates from Medical School this May in Boise, Idaho. She really enjoyed her academic learning and especially her "Clinical Rotations" which took her to Orlando, Florida and Aberdeen, South Dakota, and other interesting and fun places. Now we will be moving her to the State of Virginia for her 3 years of Residency in Internal Medicine. That move will be the first full week in June.



Our younger daughter, Claire, is joining the "driving crew" as she just received her license. That is good news for us as parents, as she is very active. She especially enjoys playing tennis year-round and for Brainerd High School.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 17, 2022

Present: Pastor Paul Erdahl, President Kathi Henrickson, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilson, Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Fellowship Linda Martin, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Secretary Carol Bass

Absent: Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski and Discipleship Betty Henrickson

Called to order at 5:00 PM.

Opening Devotional: taken from Christ in the Home from Wed. March 15th. "House Rules".

Pastor's Report: 1st Communion: Emails and post cards sent out to possible candidates. An olive wood chalice will be given to each person receiving first communion. Holy week Services: Maundy Thursday: 6:30. Good Friday: 6:30 (Tenebrae). Vacation: Pastor will be gone for first 3 Sundays in May. Nancy will take services. New members: Orientation of new members will be 6:00 PM on May 4th with installation on May 22nd Book Discussion: These have been cancelled..

Motion to accept the minutes of the last council meeting (Feb. 17,2022).

Motion by: Nancy McBride

Second by: Linda Martin **Carried**

Motion to accept February Financial Statement:

Motion by Nancy McBride

Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson
Carried

President's Report: Orientation of both Transition Team and Call Committee will be either March 28th or 29th. Council members should plan to attend as well.

Vice-President Report: Absent

Service/ Outreach: 86 lbs. of soup were collected and given to Food Shelf. Food Share is still on for the month of March for those who wish to donate food or money.

Discipleship: Kathi reported for Betty that reminders had been sent to possible First Communion candidates all the way up to 6th grade.

Fellowship: Linda reported that slots for Welcome/Readers and Acolytes are filled up thru May 29th. Need a coffee volunteer for April 24th. Confirmands still doing home visits or making soup. Only 2 pots of soup are needed for soup suppers..

Building and Grounds: Lloyd reported the bid for elevator was \$40,180 which was later amended to \$39,052. His committee recommended we accept this and borrow money from a financial institution. The Finance Committee suggested instead we borrow the money from our restricted funds and then replenish through fund raisers, thus avoiding interest. Project would take 3: months to complete. Lloyd said he needed to make a motion per his committee's recommendation.

Motion: Moved we accept bid and proceed to borrow money from a financial institution.

Motion by: Lloyd Skogstad

There was no second.

(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)

Motion: Moved that we accept the bid and borrow the money from the restricted fund and replenish through fund raising.

Motion by: Kathi Henrickson

Seconded by: Nancy McBride

Carried

Brad recommended that before we move any money from fund we should begin fund raising efforts.

The sum of \$16,072 needs to be sent with contract,

-. Back door replacement will cost \$1,300.

- Sign Has been malfunctioning. Lloyd found that melting snow had been causing problem and it is now fixed.

- Outside lights had been coming on at noon. This problem is also being looked at.

Finance: Brad reported we need to find some way to encourage those not attending services to continue contributing in order to meet our budget goals. Our donation button has had some success. Kathi said she will see about donation option being put on Facebook. There are a number of envelopes that haven't been picked up and they are costly to mail. Suggestion that the confirmands could possibly deliver them. Brad answered the question raised at last council meeting concerning money from Zion. It was for Confirmation expenses. We will be receiving an Employee Retention Credit in the amount of \$3,400. This should be in by summer.

Worship and Music: Nancy has been playing her guitar at Lenten services. Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted Nancy would like to start up the choir again. She hopes to have them ready to participate in Holy Week services. She would like to meet with the Altar Guild to co-ordinate.

Smart Team: Duayne Johnson is the new team member, Recommendations of the team are that masks are now optional. Beginning April 3rd, we will resume regular services with

communion at the rail.

Motion: Moved that Smart Team recommendations be accepted.

Motion by: Nancy McBride

Second by: Linda Martin **Carried**

Old Business:

***Transition Team:** Transition team is now complete.

*** Council Terms:** All officers serve for two years. Terms will be staggered so that no more than two officers are up for re-election at a time. Have not yet learned the terms for other officers. Tabled until information found and brought to next meeting.

*** Call Committee:** Still need an alternate member in place of Jack Bartlett. Kathi is council rep on the committee.

***Synod assembly** The Martins will be attending as our representatives. Pastor will also attend.

New Business:

*** Lutheran World Relief Eastern Europe Crisis Response:** Pastor shared information on this program to help refugees of the Ukraine. This organization is first in and last out of needy areas and 100% of donation goes to relief. He asked if this info could be shared with the congregation so that those interested could contribute.

Motion: That this information be shared with the congregation

Made by: Brad Ettestad

Second: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

Next Executive Meeting: April 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Carol Bass, Secretary



FLW Minutes from April 12, 2022

Brenda called the meeting to order and read devotions from 1 Peter 4.

The mission and purpose statements were read.

Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Correspondence: none.

Treasurer’s Report was reviewed.

Old Business: Items are still needed for the refugee kits.

The Spring Gathering is April 23 at Zion Lutheran in the Falls. Registration is at 9:30 and

lunch will be served. All women are encouraged to attend.

Summer convention: June 6-8 in Grand Rapids. Three of our members will attend and a motion was made and seconded to pay for all three. Motion carried.

Christmas in July Bazaar: to be held July 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No luncheon will be served. Baked goods and crafts will be offered.

New Business: Prayer shawls, scarfs, and afghans are offered to anyone who would like one. Contact Sandy Harju at 283-5733.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 10th at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sandy Harju



Help the FLW compile refugee kits

- Components include:
- 1 regular size bottle shampoo
 - 1 regular size bottle conditioner
 - 1 regular size bottle lotion
 - 2 deodorants—men’s or women’s
 - 1 regular size bar of soap
 - 1 large pack of feminine

- pads
- Or
- 1 package of razors and regular can of shaving cream
- 1 regular size toothpaste and toothbrush
- Comb
- Please ensure these are not travel-sized, but regular-sized units.

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

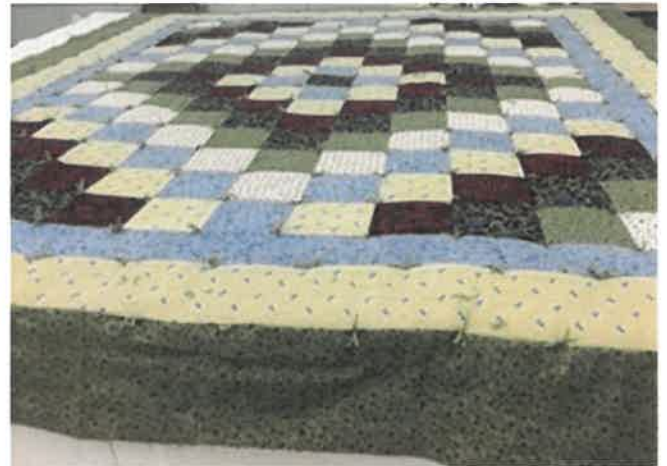
**The sale will be baked goods and crafts only.
No luncheon will be served.**



Bits from Bethany

Quilt Sale offers fun, fellowship, and food!

May 1, 12-2



The beautiful handiwork of the Bethany Lutheran Ladies will be on display and available for purchase on Sunday May 1 from 12pm-2pm. The ladies will be hosting a luncheon of Sloppy Joes, Beans, and chips too! Please come out and enjoy fun, fellowship, food and find a beautiful quilt to keep you warm!



Sunday School Surprises

Please join us for Sunday School after worship!

Northern Options receives baby quilts



Linda donates Baby Quilts from Bethany to Becky at Northern Options for Women

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.

Sunday Bulletins

Copies of Sunday Bulletins are available prior to Sunday Worship. These will always be available to you prior to our worship services. Especially with COVID-19 being a concern, we are willing to mail our bulletins to you. Call the church office before noon on Thursdays prior to Sunday's Worship Service.



New Member Orientation is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4th. A light meal will be served.

This is for anyone new to First Lutheran Church. If you are a member of an ELCA congregation, you will need to contact your previous congregation to let them know you are transferring your membership.

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?



Peep Trees!

Fifth and sixth graders (L-R) Riley Gilbertson, Jax Donnell, Aubrey Eide, and Ava Gilbertson created trees made from Peeps candy for display on the Easter fellowship table.

Vacation Bible School at First is scheduled for the week of August 7th! Mark your calendars and Watch for more information!!

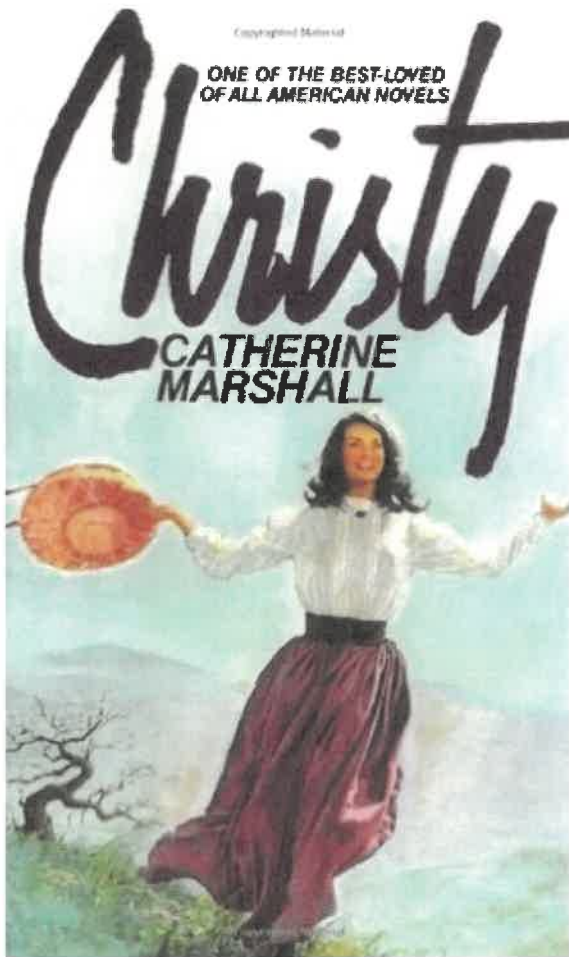
Have you registered for Camp yet? Do it today!!

Spring is here!!

A pie and perennial sale is in the works. Think of setting some things aside as you clean out the garage and shed and clean up your garden spaces. This is a fundraiser for camperships!



Book recommendations



An inspirational classic

In the year 1912, nineteen-year-old Christy Hudleston leaves home to teach school in the Smoky Mountains -- and comes to know and love the resilient people of the region, with their fierce pride, their dark superstitions, their terrible poverty, and their yearning for beauty and truth. But her faith will be severely challenged by trial and tragedy, by the needs and unique strengths of two remarkable young men, and by a heart torn between true love and unwavering devotion.

—Amazon

"My father always told us that if we will let God, He can use even our disappointments, even our annoyances to bring us a blessing. There's a practical way to start the process too: by thanking Him for whatever happens, no matter how disagreeable it seems."

— Catherine Marshall, *Christy*



**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**

New Member Sunday

is set for May 22 at the 10:30am worship service.



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 March 31, 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	19,415	18,428	988		51,822	55,284	(3,461)
Operating Expense	14,371	18,428	4,057		46,400	55,284	8,884
Operating Income Less Expense	5,045		5,045		5,422		5,422

May Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 5/3 Dorothy Johnson | 5/12 Wendy Hanson | 5/25 Lisa McKenzie |
| 5/4 Kallie Briggs | Anna Jensen | 5/26 Wilson Johnson |
| Douglas Dault | Cammi Jensen | 5/27 Barb Craig |
| 5/5 Colin Hebner | Soren Lindquist | Sharla Eide |
| 5/6 Andrew Bergstrom | Craig McKenzie | Marlene Wagner |
| Neil Fittje | 5/13 Gary Coran | 5/28 Mary Perala |
| BettyJeanne Henrickson | 5/14 Dwayne Mannausau | Miranda Templeton |
| Payten Rousseau | 5/15 Tim Bright | 5/29 Callen Short |
| Darcie Schulz | Thomas Sether | 5/30 Irene Johnson |
| Piper Tomczak | BethAnne Slatinski | James Miggins |
| 5/7 Skylar Kucera-Schneider | 5/16 Savannah DeMars | 5/31 Roger Luettjohann |
| 5/8 Darlene Fittje | JoAnn Wuollet | |
| 5/9 Dawn Kruger | 5/17 Loni Bright | |
| Lilly Skoglund | Alexander Rousseau | |
| Iris Steinbach | 5/18 Dena Bergstrom | |
| 5/10 Lloyd Skogstad | 5/19 Melissa Voigt | |
| Emily Treat | 5/20 Allen Rasmussen | |
| 5/11 Elizabeth Blight | 5/22 Bailey Herberg | |
| Gracie Froemke | 5/23 Patrick Rein | |
| Grace Weisz | 5/24 Walter Buller | |



Let everything
you do be
done in love.

~
Corinthians 16:14

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

Thank you to April's volunteers: Sandy Harju, Carol Bass, Nancy and Duayne Johnson, Steve Earley, and Brenda Bertilson.

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

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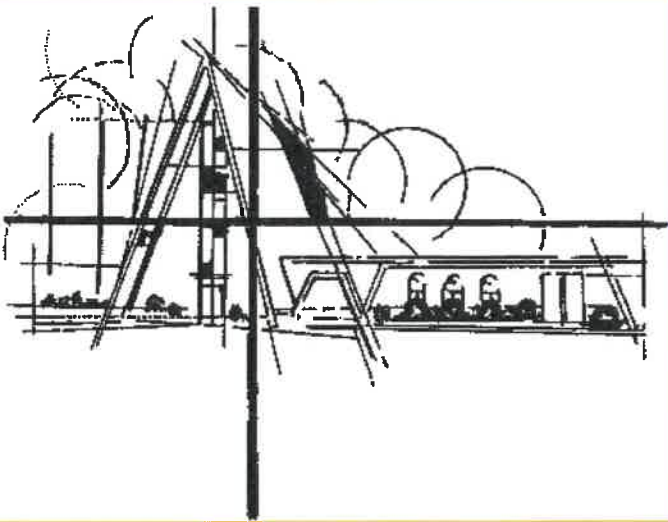
May 2022
NEWSLETTER

(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.