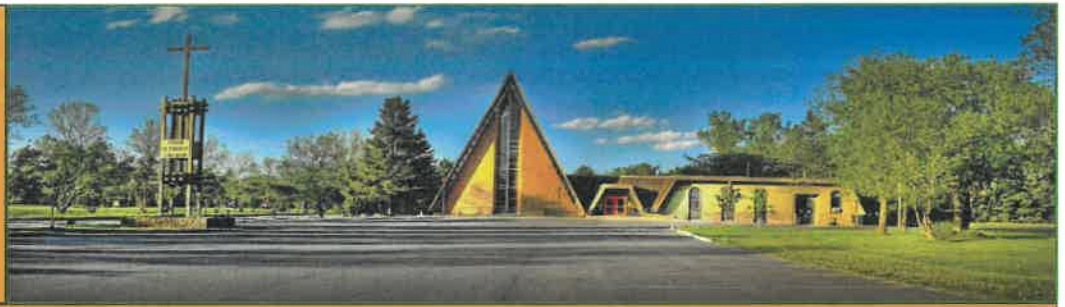


The Voice

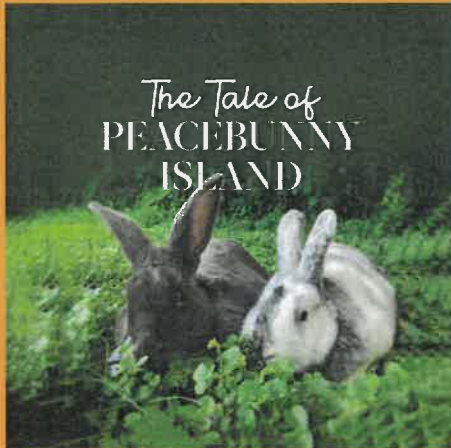
November 2022



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Neighbors helping neighbors



Book recommendation
page 9.



The community gathered together in the Elks' Hall to help fire victims Vonette and Kevin Mills. Serving up a delicious pulled pork dinner are, left to right: Frank Swendsen, George Fraik, Pastor Paul Erdal, Brian Briggs, Kallie Briggs, and Doreen Swendsen.



Youth News page 8.

First and Zion join forces once again to raise money for the Thrivent Food Drive



First Lutheran and Zion Lutheran Churches are participating in the Thrivent Food Drive through November 13th .

If both churches combined raise 500 items, the local food shelf will receive a \$500 donation from Thrivent. A table is in the narthex to place your donations.

Please consider donating food, paper products or hygiene products for this great cause.



Personal care kits
page 5.

From the Pastor's Desk

Thanksgiving ... Is it still a National Holiday?

I'm still a traditionalist when it comes to Thanksgiving. When you think of Thanksgiving, what comes to mind? Or how do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

I think people think about gathering with family and friends. I think people start to salivate at the thought of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, apple pie, pecan pie, and of course gravy, everything smothered in gravy! At least I imagine people thinking about these things.

I imagine people think back to Thanksgivings past, those fond memories of how Mom used to make such and such, and how you could always count on Dad carving the turkey and something would happen – oh, do you remember the year when Dad did such and such!?

My earliest memories of Thanksgiving were gathering with relatives eating lutefisk, lefse, and Swedish meatballs. As a child, the best part was eating kringla, rosettes, and krumkaker.

I have to remind you that I may look Norwegian or Swedish, but I'm not (hahaha). I'm Korean by birth and Norwegian and Swedish by adopted heritage. If you recall, I was 7 years old when I was adopted on August 30 of 1973. My first large family encounter with the extended sides of the family was Thanksgiving of 1973. I had three Thanksgiving meals in the Twin Cities (two Norwegian meals and one Swedish meal) and then we traveled up to Duluth for another Swedish meal. It was obvious they were proud to show off their Erdal and Wellberg heritage to their new 7-year-old boy and 5-year-old girl from Seoul, Korea. I was richly blessed and have so much to be thankful for in my lifetime.

Not all families experience Thanksgiving as a time to remember with thanksgiving. In fact, most families experience difficulties during these family gathering occasions, especially during the months of November and December (Thanksgiving and Christmas). It is difficult for me, as I remember that all four of my parents and in-laws died in the months near Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, I am hoping that we can all still remember to give thanks during these traditional times.

We can also be mindful of those families who are not able to be together – life circumstances make it impossible. Remember that service men and women are deployed and some have job shifts so others can enjoy the holidays.

So, what is Thanksgiving for you? What is it really? Is it the importance of family getting together? Is it the necessity of having turkey, dressing, etc.? For some people/families the definition of Thanksgiving or Christmas never will be about these things. (Think about that).

No matter how much or how little we have – this is a time to give thanks for what we do have. It is also a time for Christians to remember and give thanks to the One who is the giver of all good things – our Lord God Almighty. We are to do this every day, but Thanksgiving gives us a special time to focus our thanks.

Luke 17:15-16

¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2022

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

Devotion – “Gods Economy” Amos 5 & 6. No one has too much that all may have enough.

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

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

Motion by: Brenda Bertilson

**Second by: Linda Martin
Carried**

Treasurers Report: Question was asked if we have a breakdown of giving from those who do not attend services but still contribute. We do not.

Motion: to accept financial reports of the month of August 2022.

Motion by Kathy Henrickson

Seconded by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

President Report: Thank yous were received including one from Red Cross for \$25 donation. There is a benefit for the Northern Houseboat fire to be held on October 6th at the Elks.

Vice-President Report: No report.

Service/ Outreach: Women of church are making cookies for the benefit dinner at Elks. We continue to work Community Café the first Thursday of month. “God’s

Work, Our Hands” is going to collect food items for school pantries. Food items should be grab and go variety. We also have a variety of food items such as soup, stew and hotdishes in our freezer for anyone who needs them. If you donate an item, please date it and say what it is. Brenda will be out of town for regular committee meeting date, it has been re-scheduled.

Discipleship: Group is considering entering a float in November parade and taking crew out for refreshments after. Met with parents concerning religious instruction. Confirmation classes to begin October 5th.

Fellowship: Rally Sunday has been postponed until Oct. 2nd. Food list is done with food for 75-100. Barb Bergh will coordinate as Linda will be out of town. Confirmation students may be asked to help. We have 3 corn hole games and bean bags.

Building and Grounds: Lloyd reported that the elevator is scheduled to arrive the week of October 31st. The new back door has arrived and will be installed by Steve Lindberg when he returns from his trip.

(Continued on page 4)

Interim Pastor:

Paul J. Erdal

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday—9 a.m. to noon

218-283-2208

www.firstlutheranifalls.org

firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council (continued from page 3)

Lloyd did snow shoveling last year and can do this year but not always sure he can get to it before office opens. If office hours continue to be open at 10, that shouldn't be a problem. Ricky Russo will continue with plowing the lot. We would like to get a list of people who would be willing to help with building and grounds issues. They would be welcome to attend our meetings. Memorial Hall carpets due for cleaning. Downstairs televisions are working. Remotes need to be labelled. Electronic parts for sign are in process of being ordered.

Finance: Brad gave handout of proposed budget for coming year. Get your estimates of need to him ASAP so he can have budget ready to go before annual meeting.

Worship and Music: Music is going well. Thank you to Sue Hewitt for her continued contribution. If anyone knows of an organist that would add much to our services. Contact Nancy.

Smart Team: Continue to monitor cases. Numbers go up and down. Wear mask if desired. If fully vaccinated and exposed, quarantine for 5 days, mask for 5 more. If unvaccinated it is 10 days of quarantine and masking.

Old Business:

***Call Committee:** No responses yet.

***Articles of Incorporation:** Have left messages and waiting on call back from Steve Shermoen..

***Phone/Internet bundling:** Hoa is doing follow-up of comparison of services.

New Business:

Confirmation: There are 3 to be confirmed with Confirmation planned for Oct. 30th. Pastor will bring confirmands to

council next month.

New Member Sunday: Would like to have event planned for new members with a possible 1/2-day orientation and lunch to follow. Also, would like to advertise to see if there are more interested.

Office Position/Personnel: Two members of the congregation have expressed interest in position if they could job share the hours. Both highly qualified. In the interest of fairness and transparency, the position will also be advertised for two weeks to see if there are other candidates. Question was asked if Workman's Comp coverage is needed. Application will be given to Executive Committee and with approval be advertised with October 3rd being cut off date.

Pastor's Health Insurance/Covenant: During the discussion of these topics, Pastor excused himself from remainder of meeting. Pastor's current covenant ends on October 31st, and he is willing to negotiate for a new one. He would like a 3-month covenant rather than month to month. He would also like health insurance to begin in January 2023. Brad shared costs and after discussion, it was decided that Brad and Kathi will meet with Pastor to discuss a possible new covenant.

Motion: that a meeting be held with Pastor Paul to discuss a possible new covenant.

Motion by: Nancy McBride

Seconded by: Linda Martin

Carried

Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 18, 2022, at 5:00 PM

Next Council Meeting: October 20, 2022, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Carol Bass, Secretary

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Tour of Trees planned for December 3

FLW has regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. November's meeting is scheduled for the 8th at 5 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited and encouraged to join in for the fellowship and projects to help others.

FLW minutes — October 11, 2022

The meeting opened with Brenda reading devotions based on Psalm 118:24.

There was no correspondence.

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Fall Gathering is October 15th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia. Two items for the silent auction were a lap robe made by Kris Jackson and a crocheted afghan made by Sandy Harju..

Items are being collected for personal care kits to be brought to the 2022 Summer Gathering.

Items needed are posted on the church bulletin board.

Plans for a gathering of the four local churches has been postponed until the elevator is working.

Tour of Trees is set for December 3. Meatballs will be made at church October 29th at 9 a.m. Lefse will be made at individual's homes. Monetary donations for the meatballs, lefse, and pasties would be greatly appreciated. Contact Brenda Bertilson or Sandy Harju if you are willing to donate or to help with making these food items.

Profits from Christmas in July will go to:

\$1000 toward the elevator fund.

\$200 to the Mills family of Northernaire

\$100 to Friends Against Abuse

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Harju, secretary

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging
* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap



Bits from Bethany



My! how they do grow up!!

Charlie Steinbach prepares for his First Communion with Pastor Irv Arnquist. Charlie was confirmed on October 30th of this year. **L-R: Havyn Peland, Charlie, Pastor Irv, and**

The Johnson home where Bethany began

On January 23, 1909, Pastor Henry O. Hemming met with the Scandinavian settlers near the site of where the Black River joins the Rainy River. That meeting, four miles southwest of Loman, in the home of Erick Gustav Johnson, resulted in the founding of



Bethany Lutheran Church. The members gathered in this home voted to establish the “Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church of Watrous Township, Koochiching County, Minnesota. They chose the 1887 version of the Augustana Lutheran Synod’s suggested constitution as their own.

This Bethany congregation met as often as Pastor Hemming was able to come. Meetings were held in private homes and later in a schoolhouse known as the Norman School. The present Bethany Lutheran Church was built between 1926-1931 on land donated by John 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. Thank you to September's Community Café volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh, Brenda Bertilson, Mikala Hansen, Kris Jackson, Sharalyn Schaak, and Maci Zaren.

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.

Release Time

Release Time for First and Zion youth grades 2-5 is every Wednesday at Zion Lutheran Church during early out. The kids will take the bus from Falls Elementary to Zion. If you are able to help with snacks, please call the Zion Church office.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes have begun with a new twist this year. Grades 6-8 will be the new ages involved in Old Testament, New Testament, and the small catechism respectively. Ninth grade confirmation students will be focused on community service projects and their personal faith journeys.

Elevator Update

Work on the elevator continues. Your help is needed in the fundraising department to help pay for this very important apparatus. Many people rely on the elevator to enable them to attend worship and other activities at church. Thank you for your generosity.

New Secretaries at First

Kris Jackson and Kathi Henrickson are "job-sharing" the church secretary position. Thank you!

LOOK FOR THE FLC FLOAT IN THE "LIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS" PARADE!!!

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

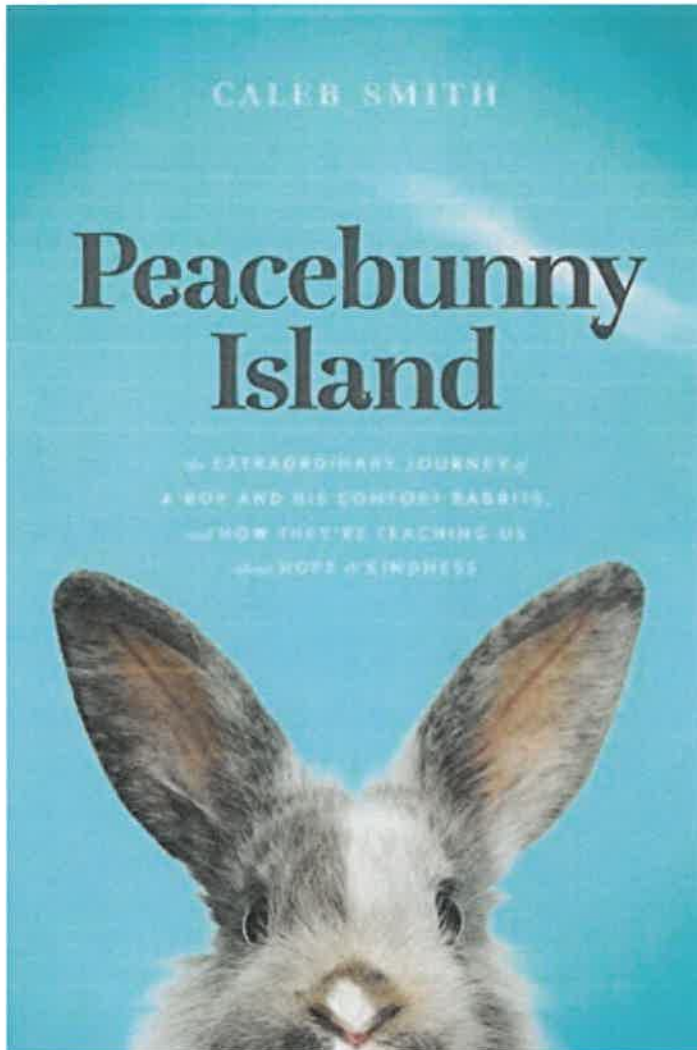
The **NE MN Synod All Youth Gathering** is planned for November 18-19, at Cragun's Resort in the Brainerd Lakes area. This is for grades 6-12 and their chaperones. Pastor Paul is hoping for a good turn-out for this fun activity, now that we can get together again as the family of God.



(From the synod website) All youth in grades 6-12 and their adult leaders are invited for a weekend retreat to grow in faith, build relationships, laugh and play, and worship with hundreds of youth from across the synod! We plan to gather once again at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, holding two events on the same weekend - Friday night through Saturday noon OR Saturday night through Sunday noon. The All Youth Gathering will include large group sessions for the entire group, learning opportunities by age group, hotel life, games, worship, and more! This event is planned and led by the LYO Leadership Team.



Reading recommendation



The incredible true story of a boy who is changing the world through kindness . . . one bunny at a time.

Meet Caleb Smith: a young man who, at age 8, decided to follow his dream to train endangered and rescued rabbits to become therapy animals. Caleb is a teenage entrepreneur who owns and operates a private 22-acre Mississippi River sanctuary called Peacebunny Island. The deal is simple: he saves the rabbits, and they help save us. Driven by an unbreakable desire to spread kindness and compassion, Caleb's adventures include:

- Founding a program of therapy rabbits who visit with veterans, senior citizens, families with special needs, and much more
- Embarking on a quest along the Mississippi River to develop the site that would become Peacebunny Island
- Overcoming challenges and obstacles along the way, while never giving up
- Becoming an advocate for animal rescue, comfort animal training, and endangered species preservation

Inspiring hope and possibility in the next generation of young people.

—Barnes and Noble



**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**



Thank you to October’s Community Café volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh, Mikala Hansen, Sandy Harju, Nancy Johnson, and Sue Mathews.

To those who helped with worship, including: Zach and Max Youso, Elizabeth Bright, McKenna Whelchel, Ashley Golnick, Megan Boe, Leah Boe, Pat Ettestad, Deb Nash, Brenda Sullivan, Barb Bergh, Kathi Henrikson, Cynthia Warren, Summer Froemke, and Henry Carey.

To those who helped with fellowship, including: Sue Mathews, Randee Roketa, Kris Jackson, Duane and Nancy Johnson.

To those who helped with music: Sue Hewitt, Joe Belanger, 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 August 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	8,728	18,428	(9,700)		132,856	165,851	(32,994)
Operating Expense	13,536	18,428	4,891		144,083	165,851	21,767
Operating Income Less Expense	(4,809)		(4,809)		(11,227)		(11,227)

November Birthdays

11/1 Douglas Arason
 Mary Christensen
 Timothy Rousseau
 11/5 Logan Weisz
 11/6 Evan Amdahl
 11/7 Christa Clark
 11/8 Douglas Bertilson
 11/10 Nick Jackson
 Hunter Osse
 11/11 Michelle Hebner
 Kristine Johnson
 Parker Olson
 11/13 Debra Landmark
 Sarah Valentine
 11/14 Laura Besch
 11/15 Kyle Sjoblom
 Chopper McBride
 11/16 Delphine Bernath
 Christy Earley
 Summer Froemke
 Kristine Lassila
 Gust Lorenson
 Trent Steinbach
 11/17 Harper Amdahl
 Jessica Bright
 Jordan Cook
 Riley Gilbertson
 11/20 Jeff Herberg

11/21 Jesse Besch
 Dean Cowman
 Barb Keeney
 11/22 Carter Germain
 11/24 Bill Germain
 Grady Larsen
 Nancy Shermoen
 11/25 Becky Roeder
 11/26 Shawn Mason
 Vicky Steinbach
 11/27 Ruth Herberg
 Jerrad Holenko
 Olaf Lindquist
 11/29 Jack Bartlett
 Erin Rousseau
 Hannah Rousseau
 Cindy Wichner
 11/30 Amanda Lassila



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

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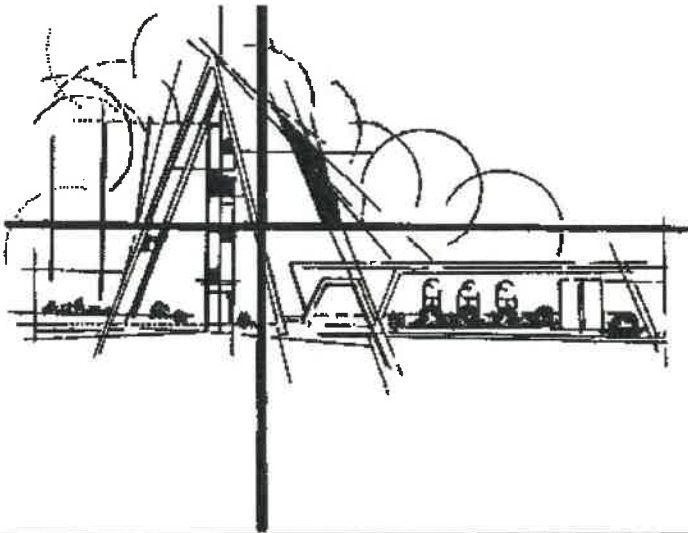
(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)

November 2022
NEWSLETTER



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, YouTube, and Facebook
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. through Thurs., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!
www.firstlutheranifalls.org

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.