



the Spire

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

September 2019 SPIRE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (651)388-9311
office@firstlutheranrw.com
www.firstlutheranrw.com

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Arthur Sharot: Senior Pastor

ext. 15 / arte42@gmail.com

Marilee Anderson: Director of Music

ext. 19 / marilee.a.anderson@gmail.com

Tina Goeman: Director of CYF

ext. 14 / tina@firstlutheranrw.com

Gina Nelson: Bookkeeper, PT

ext. 11/ bookkeeper@firstlutheranrw.com

Laurel Stinson: Administrative Assistant

ext. 10 / office@firstlutheranrw.com

Dial 6 to leave a message

Syl Andersen: Custodian, PT

H: 651/388-7453 C: 651-380-8663

Brian Fladhammer: Maintenance, PT

H: 651/388-2675

2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kathy Emery - President/Personnel

Alyson Kloeckner - Treasurer/Youth & Family/
Education/Finance

Joe Rice - Finance/Personnel

Wendy Erickson - Secretary/Life and Growth

John Laidlaw - Stewardship/Education

Cyd Mark- Vice President/ Worship

Tom Sasse - Worship

Matt Stinson -Stewardship

Mary Weberg - Christian Action

Mark Jaeger - Property

Bunny Kulstad - Life and Growth

Jon Ubbelohde - Property

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

10:45 a.m. Sunday School (*Sept- May*)

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Reset Wednesday

5:00pm Dinner (*Sept- May*)

5:30pm Worship (*Sept- May*)

6:00pm Education (*Sept- May*)

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Worship in the Norelius Chapel

PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Crystal Swanson, Marcia Krause, Jenny Edmonds, Donna Prescher, Bob Swanson, Joann Hosking, Janet Larson, Gerald Lein, Beverly Lein, Horst Radtke, Carol Peterson, Kandis Mendez, Juventino Mendez, Adair Palmatier, Doris Johnson, Eleanor Peterson, Abby Ritter, Bob Weir, Carl Meyer, Dan Jones, Arlan Johnson, Darrell Nelson, Cheryl Youmans, Holly (Dissell) Benson, Dylan Michel family, Carol Krie, John Oleson, Edla Bodelson, Ray Boggess

FUNERALS

Our sympathy and prayers go out to those mourning the loss of a loved one.

Joy Nygaard, who died July 31, 2019. A funeral service was held at First Lutheran Church, August 24th.

Shirley Ann Shultz, who died August 4th, 2019. A funeral service was held at First Lutheran Church, August 9th.

Lorraine Anderson, who died August 13th, 2019. A funeral service was held at First Lutheran Church, August 17th.

FROM THE PASTOR

My sister in-law gave me this little devotion: "God's Cake"

We all wonder many, many, many times over Why? "What did I do to deserve this?" Or "Why did God have to do this to me?" This is a wonderful explanation a mother gave her little girl.

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong, she is failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil." her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter. "How about a couple of raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom". "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky". To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way, many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times, But God knows that when He puts these things all in his order, they always work for good! We just have to trust him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful! God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise ever morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen, He can live anywhere in the universe, and he chose your heart.

Sandy and I learned a real-life lesson like this in history. The short version is that when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 72AD the gold that was plundered was used to finance the building of the Colosseum in Rome. Hundreds of years later the stone and marble of the Colosseum was used to build St. Peter's Basilica, the largest and one of the most beautiful churches in the world.

No one would say that it was all worth it, the death slavery, abuse and destruction. Yet something glorious came out of it. The building touches the hearts and souls of millions and millions of believers as well as others.

No one should say this is why God let all the horror happen but as the mother tells the little girl it encourages us to put our hope and trust in Christ through all the good and bad we experience in life. Through it all God loves us and walks with us.

Another thing to remember is that all the beautiful statues, paintings and architecture in St Peter's as well as the mother's cakes don't build themselves. God used real people to do all that. We are God's hands and feet in this world. You may or may not be an artist, a painter or a baker but there are many other things you can use your hands and feet to make God's cakes and basilicas in this world, sometimes out of its yucky ingredients.

May you walk in hope and trust in God.

Pastor Arte

30 Days thru the Old Testament

- Day 1 Genesis 1:1-2:3 *Creation*
Day 2 Genesis 3:1-24 *Fall*
Day 3 Genesis 6:1-22, 15-22 *Flood*
Day 4 Genesis 11:1-9 *Nations*
Day 5 Genesis 12:1-5; 15:1-6; *Covenant Family*
Day 6 Genesis 11:27-32 *Moving On*
Day 7 Genesis 12:1-4 *New Homeland*
Day 8 Genesis 16:1-4, 9-12; 21:1-5
Sibling Rivalry
Day 9 Genesis 25:21-28; 32:22-32 *Twin Sons*
Day 10 Genesis 45:3-15 *Joseph in Egypt*
Day 11 Exodus 3:1-12 *Bondage in Egypt*
Day 12 Exo 12:13-14, 29-42 *Plagues & Exodus*
Day 13 Exo 20:1-17; 25:1-9 *Law & Tabernacle*
Day 14 Leviticus 16:20-34 *Levites & Priests*
Day 15 Numbers 13:26-14:24 *Census & Spies*
Day 16 Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 10:12-13; 30:19-20
Moses' Last Days
Day 17 Joshua 1:1-9 *General Joshua*
Day 18 Joshua 24:1-15 *Dive & Conquer*
Day 19 Judges 2:10-23 *Judges*
Day 20 Judges 21:25; Ruth 1:15-17
Standing Alone
Day 21 1Samuel 8:1-22 *United Kingdom*
Day 22 2Samuel 12:1-14, 24-25 *Heart Trouble*
Day 23 1Kings 12:16-24; 18:20-40
Divided Kingdom
Day 24 Isaiah 40; Isaiah 53 *The Prophet Speak*
Day 25 2Kings 17:5-23; 18:9-12 *Israel Scattered*
Day 26 2Chronicles 36:15-21 *Judah Exiled*
Day 27 Ezra 1:1-4 *Judah Returns*
Day 28 Ezra 6:13-18; Nehemiah 8:1-9
Return & Rebuild
Day 29 Malachi 4:00 *Silent Years*
Day 30 Galatians 4:1-7 *The Coming of Christ*

Rally Days 2019

This year we will be celebrating Rally Sunday September 8th with "God's Work Our Hands". Join us for a special worship day that will include a group service project. We will be assembling kits for Lutheran World Relief. During worship we will also have a blessing of the backpacks for all of our students and teachers. They are encouraged to bring their backpack to church with them. We will follow this worship service with a light lunch in the fellowship hall. We hope to see you there!

Rally Wednesday, September 11th will start our Wednesday programming for the year. We will have dinner at 5:00, worship at 5:30 followed by the confirmation meeting for students & parents (7-9th grade families watch for a letter with more details). At 6:00 we will continue our "God's Work Our Hands" program with a service activity for all of our students and families participation. We hope to see you all there.

High School Students

Christ & Coffee is back! We will be starting up our weekly Bible study at 7:15 at Caribou Coffee. Students in grade 9-12 are encouraged to join us for weekly discussion. Beginning Wednesday, September 11th. Contact Tina Goeman or Marshall Laidlaw if you would like to learn more about this group. You can also find us on Instagram @rwchristcoffee

Confirmation Students

Students in grades 7-9 this year along with parent(s) should plan on attending a meeting on Wednesday September 11th to discuss the confirmation program for this school year.

August 13, 2019

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

On August 7 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), through its Churchwide Assembly, voted to become a sanctuary body.

The ELCA has a long history of advocating for immigrants and working to welcome and resettle refugees. In fact, several congregations in our synod sponsored refugees in the years after World War II and again after the Vietnam War. In line with our historic understanding and action responding to the needs of immigrants and those seeking asylum within our nation's borders, the ELCA has declared itself to be a sanctuary body.

This is a declaration of our continued commitment to "welcome the stranger." As a sanctuary church, the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country (<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8000>).

How each congregation lives into this commitment will vary. Some members will volunteer or donate to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), others may wish to host our synod's AMMPARO team to learn more about immigration (information can be found at <http://semnsynod.org/ammparo/>), still others may find ways to support immigrant families in their own communities.

As a denomination, we are still living into what this designation means. Part of the action the Churchwide Assembly took was to direct the ELCA Church Council to provide guidance and resources related to the question what does it mean to be a sanctuary body?.

To be clear, this action does not require congregations or individual members to engage in any particular activity and nothing in this action binds synods or congregations.

It is our hope that as individuals and congregations you will thoughtfully engage in prayer, discernment and conversation in light of this declaration. As you do so, a centering question might be: how can we best live into our identity as the people of God in this place?

May peace and courage be yours,

Bishop Steven H. Delzer and Bishop-Elect Regina Hassanally

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2019

Present: Kathy Emery, Mary Weberg, Pr. Arte Sharot, Mark Jaeger, Tom Sasse, Joe Rice, Wendy Erickson, Cyd Mark, John Laidlaw, Aly Kloeckner, Bunny Kulstad, Jon Ubbelohde, Matt Stinson

Treats and Devotions: Kathy Emery

Agenda: MSC (moved, seconded and carried) to accept as amended. Two items were added; letter from attorney and request to use kitchen.

Secretary's Report: MSC to accept as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Historically, July and August are the two months for lowest giving and so far, this year is no exception. However, we are still about \$500 ahead in the budget and this is great. Giving is down but so is spending. MSC to accept as presented.

Staff Reports: These were submitted prior to the meeting. There was some discussion about the format of the reports but no changes requested.

Ministry Team Reports:

Worship and Music—The team discussed the format for Rally Sunday (Sept. 8) and the plans for the Raise the Roof hymn sing (Sept. 15). The team has also been discussing switching to all gluten free communion wafers to accommodate those with gluten sensitivity or allergy. More research into the types will be forthcoming. It was recommended by the team and MSC by the council to discontinue, for 2019, the 10pm service on Christmas Eve. Attendance last year was: 3:30pm-222, 5:00pm-165 and 10:00pm-64. It is estimated that about 15-20 of those were the choir and ushers.

Property—The new basement stairs are complete. The roof repair is complete. Dale Sorenson has agreed to make a media cabinet for the fellowship hall. Sylvander Heating will be contacted to service the air conditioning system. The team is looking at replacing the carpeting in the youth room. There was a request for ramps to the altar area and further research will be done on this. The outside stucco wall by the playground area needs to be repaired and painted. Options are being considered for this.

Life and Growth—Plans are being made for the Sundaes Sunday on August 25th. The team is also working with Tina on plans for Rally Sunday's "God's Work, Our Hands" event.

Education—The church school year calendar has been set and was passed out to council members. The

committee has been working on Rally Sunday. They are also working on organizing Wednesday night meals.

Youth—The team is looking at curriculums for the upcoming year for the youth.

Christian Action—A date for "Feed My Starving Children" is set for September 21—look for more information and sign up. The crop walk is October 6th. We will be helping to provide meals for Americorp Volunteers in late September and early October.

Old Business:

Reconciled in Christ (RIC): The committee has met twice and are making plans for a congregational letter and some educational/discussion opportunities.

FLC Website: Information about the ministry teams has been collected and will be given to Dani Rice to put on the website. If any team has not turned theirs in, get them to Kathy E.

Embezzlement: The issue is moving through the court system and the next court date is scheduled for September.

New Business

Facility Map: Laurel had some communication with a company that produces facility maps and forwarded the information to the council. It is not known what the cost for this would be. The discussion centered on whether we felt there was a need for this and that we didn't want to spend much on this.

Council Terms and Intentions: We reviewed where all council members are in their terms and members are asked to think about their intentions, to stay on or go off council for the next term. It was noted that Kathy is finishing her second year as President and per the constitution can not serve in that capacity next year.

Wage Theft Law: This was referred to the Personnel Committee for further investigation.

Kitchen Request: A request was received to use the church kitchen for a bakery type operation. Matt Stinson will investigate the request further, both as to the expectation/need of the person requesting it and what would be needed as far as becoming certified as a commercial kitchen.

Legal Files: A letter was received from the Strobel and Hanson Law Offices saying that some of their files of work done for First Lutheran more than six

THANK YOU

years ago are scheduled for destruction. We will request that the files be sent to us to review.

The next meeting is September 10, 2019 and Mark Jaeger will provide devotions and treats. Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Erickson

Thank you so much for your donation. We are forever grateful for your support! Together we are making a difference in the lives of youth! -all of us here at Red Wing Youth Outreach

Thank you very much for your donation of 101# of food between April 2019 and June 2019 to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf. With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet the temporary hunger needs of families in our area. Sincerely, Sue Kelly, For the Red Wing Area Food Shelf

Dear People of God at First Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generous gift of \$250 at the synod assembly.

You joined with individuals and congregations from around the synod to allow us to FULLY meet our \$40,000 goal. This means that because of you we will:

-Provide \$5,000 to Good Earth Village, enough to pay the salary of two summer counselors, deepening their faith and leadership while they walk with campers to grow in faith

-Allow for \$10,000 for each of our Campus Ministries, growing their capacity to connect with college students, provide a space for faith reflection, and serve their communities.

-Give \$15,000 to Luther Seminary, enough to cover one year's tuition for a seminary student to prepare for ministry.

Thank you! Without generous supporters like you, this would not be possible. Peace and joy in Christ, Bishop Steve Delzer

Thank you to Dave Erickson for Lighting the Spire in memory of Ruth.

JULY 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2019

Thank you for your tithes and offerings

| | July Actual | Budgeted July | YTD Actual | YTD Budgeted |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| OPERATING INCOME | | | | |
| General Fund Pledges | 27,728 | 32,500 | 237,802 | 227,500 |
| Mission Support | 22 | 42 | 297 | 294 |
| Other Income | 1,035 | 3,694 | 32,179 | 30,904 |
| Total Income | 28,785 | 36,236 | 270,277 | 258,698 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | |
| General Operating Expenses | 30,707 | 36,716 | 245,608 | 258,108 |
| ELCA Benevolence | 2,083 | 2,083 | 15,083 | 14,583 |
| Other Outside Giving | 1,324 | 1,324 | 9,069 | 9,520 |
| Total Expenses | 34,115 | 40,123 | 269,760 | 282,211 |
| Income vs. Expenses | -\$5,330 | -\$3,887 | \$517 | -\$23,513 |
| Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/19 | \$ 124,476 | Operating Fund Balance 1/1/19 | | \$ 13,522 |
| Ending Cash Balance 7/31/19 | \$ 150,576 | Operating Fund Balance 7/31/19 | | \$ 14,036 |

September "JOY IN DOING"

BREW CREW

- 1 Charles & Carol Charbonneau
- 8 Bill & Barb Raw
- 15 Dick & Nancy Houghton
- 22 Murph & Lois Berg
- 29 Clark & Jean Fjelsted

ACOLYTE AND CLEAN UP

- 1 Allison Hoover
- 8 Nicholas Mahoney
- 15 Leah Ganzer
- 22 Alyssa Rice
- 29 Greta Stone

SATURDAY ASSISTANT

- 7 Larry & Jean Wiederich
- 14 Penny Oleson
- 21 Barry & Jean Dossdall
- 28 Sandy Sharot

LECTOR

- 1 Karen Strusz
- 8 Mary Weberg
- 15 Bernadette Galvin
- 22 Judie Bowes
- 29 Wendy Erickson

GREETERS

- 1 Arnold & Karen Strusz
- 8 Nancy Thorson
- 15 Jon & Kris Ubbelohde
- 22 George & Doris VanNorman
- 29 Mary Weberg

USHERS

- Gerry (Chair) & Holly Peterson
- Ron Holthe
- Dean & Linda Reinhart
- Dennis & Deb Rindels
- Diane Ringeisen
- Jerry Seivert
- Milt & Rosie Sorensen

COFFEE HOSTS

- 1 Gloria Solsaa, Michael Sorensen
- 8 Nancy Thorson, Kris Ubbelohde
- 15 George & Doris Van Norman
- 22 Norm & Nancy Wille
- 29 Murph & Lois Berg

COMMUNION

- 1 Kevin & Cyd Mark, Ellen Mackey
- 8 Bunny Kulstad, Diane Ringeisen, Daryl Mark
- 15 Linda Seivert, Neal & Barb Siewert
- 22 Carol Smith, Gloria Solsaa, Michael Sorensen
- 29 Peter & Peggy Sorensen, Kris Ubbelohde

TREATS

- 1 Gloria Solsaa, Michael Sorensen, Nils & Ellis Fauchald, Candis Fleck
- 8 Nancy Thorson, Kris Ubbelohde, Elaine Fosberg, Colin & Karen Graves
- 15 George & Doris VanNorman, Cheryl Guthrie, Pam Hallahan, Jim & Kay Halvorsen
- 22 Norman & Nancy Wille, Roy & Karol Harley, Mike & Sue Heller, Dick & Nancy Houghton
- 29 Murph & Lois Berg, Mark & Mary Jaeger, Arlan & Phyllis Johnson, Maureen Kees

MUSIC NEWS

For all music schedules, check out the music schedule at firstlutheranrw.com Look for Music Schedule and Updates

Music in worship for September

- September 8 - "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday*
- September 15 - "We Raised the Roof" Hymn Festival - Chancel Choir*
- September 22 - Praise Team*
- September 29 - Chancel Choir*

Imagine having you as a member of First Lutheran's Music Program and how AWESOME that would be!!! Come and Join us

- *Chancel Choir - Begins September 11*
- *Handbell Choir - Begins September 11*
- *Praise Team*
- *Children's Choir - Kids Rock Begins Sept. 18*
- *Soloist*
- *Instrumentalist*
- *Small Ensemble*
- *Accompanist*
- *Saturday Night Pianist*
- *Other?*

SEPTEMBER 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|----------------------------------|--------|---|
| 1 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 3:00pm Piano lessons 4:00pm-7:00pm Team Meetings | 4 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset | 5 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs | 6 | 7 5:30 pm Worship Music – Pastor Arte |
| 8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship God's Work Our Hands | 9 7:00pm Scouts | 10 10:00am Hospice 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons 4:00pm Finance 4:30pm Praise Team 6:30pm Council Meeting | 11 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 1:00pm Quilting 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation meeting 7:00pm Choir | 12 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs | 13 | 14 5:30 pm Worship Music – Sue Heller |
| 15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School | 16 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Scouts | 17 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons 4:30 Praise Team 7:00pm Eve | 18 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Martha 10:00am Mary 12:00pm Reset 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Education 7:00pm Choir | 19 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs | 20 | 21 5:30 pm Worship Music – Jean Fjelsted |
| 22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School 7:00pm Women and Wine | 23 7:00pm Scouts | 24 9:00am Spire Folding 10:00am Hospice 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons | 25 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 1:00pm Quilting 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Education 7:00pm Choir | 26 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs | 27 | 28 5:30 pm Worship Music – Marilee Anderson |
| 29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School | 30 7:00pm Scouts | <div style="border: 2px dashed black; padding: 10px;"> <p>GRIEFSHARE</p> <p>GriefShare is a nondenominational seminar/grief support group that is facilitated by leaders who have lost loved ones of their own. Our next session will begin on Monday, September 9, 2019 at First Covenant Church in Red Wing. We will meet from 7:00-8:30 P.M. For more information call Susan at 651-388-4109, Suzy at 507-398-3729 or www.griefshare.org</p> </div> | | | | |

First Lutheran Church

615 West 5th Street
Red Wing MN 55066
651.388.9311

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September 2019

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HAPPENINGS

LIBRARY PARTY

Sunday Sept 1st and Wednesday Sept 18th following worship come to the library for a video (by Marshall Laidlaw) cake and prize drawings. We're excited about the new additions to our library and we can't wait to share them with you!

HYMN SING

The "We Raised the Roof" Hymn Sing of older hymns will be Sunday, September 15. I have quite a list of hymns to work with. Thank you for your contributions and for raising the money to get our roof fixed.

SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION CONVENTION

September 21, 2019 Trinity Lutheran Church 609 Lincoln Avenue South, Owatonna, MN 55060
Registration \$25. See Flyer in Narthex for further info. Registration Deadline September 2.

LUTHERAN LEND A HANDERS

Truman Stehr is putting together a team of walkers and financial sponsors from First Lutheran Church to participate in the Saturday, September 21st Walk to End Alzheimers in Colville Park. He plans to set up an information table on Sept. 8th and 15th - or contact him at 320-221-3120.