



the Spire

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020 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

Volunteer: 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

2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alyson Kloeckner - Treasurer
Joe Rice - Finance/Stewardship
Wendy Erickson - President
Life and Growth/Personnel
John Laidlaw - Stewardship/Education
Cyd Mark - Vice President/ Worship
Jean Fjelsted - Worship
Matt Stinson - Stewardship
Mary Weberg - Christian Action
Mark Jaeger - Property
Bunny Kulstad - Life and Growth
Jon Ubbelohde - Property
Judie Bowes - Personnel
Elaine Ahern - Education

UPDATE

During this time we are reaching out as many ways as we can. We send weekly emails, if you don't get them contact the church office to get added to the list. office@firstlutheranrw.com or 651-388-9311.

We also have a small group making calls to all of our members. Please let them know if there is anything we can be doing for you. Contact us if you didn't get a call or if you know someone that needs a call.

We will continue to add information to our website and update you all as best as we can.

For those that do not have an email address or internet access we will be delivering a bulletin with the sermon and songs included so you can continue to worship on Sundays.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be no gatherings for worship HOWEVER all the worship services will be available on-line at www.firstlutheranrw.com.

The service for Saturday evening and Sunday morning will be available on Sunday at 9:30 so you can watch it live or watch the video later.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Marcia Krause, Jenny Edmonds, Bob Swanson, Horst Radtke, Janet Larson, Crystal Swanson, Carol Peterson, Doris Johnson, Bob Weir, Jim Miller, Dan Jones, Darrell Nelson, Cheryl Youmans, Holly (Dissel) Benson and children, Dylan Michel family, John Oleson, Edla Bodelson, Ray Boggess, Jerry, Arthur Sharot Sr., Leah Larsen, Laura Anderson, Glenda Anderson, Tom Sasse, Jerry Krie, Jon Kinneman, Grosso family, Richard Jonas, Nikki Mahoney, John, Brooklyn, Jerry & Louise Mewhorter.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5

FROM THE PASTOR

WE HAVE TO CHANGE BUT WE WILL STAY THE SAME



25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 26He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' 27He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' 28And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'* Luke 10:25-28 nrsv

I was listening to a song from the Beatles called “Across the Universe”. The chorus says: “nothing’s gonna change my world.” Sitting here in 2020 we might ask really John? Nothing? I’m sure John Lennon couldn’t have imagined, pardon the pun, the craziness in the world right now with COVID 19. I think we would say, John my world has definitely changed. I imagine the answer to that question would depend on what you are referring to. Some things have changed during this weird time and some things have remained the same. This is true as we begin to think about what it will be like when we start worshiping again in our facility. I don’t know when we will be able to open but I know that we will be patient, cautious and careful because as some things have changed some things remain the same.

The lawyer asked Jesus what he must do, which is the right topic for a lawyer to discuss. We Lutherans talk about “Law” and “Gospel”. The “Law” is what we are to do. The “law” is how we are to treat God and other people. The “Gospel is what God did and does. God forgives, reconciles, redeems, saves and shows his unearned, undeserved love for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What are we to do? Love God and love others as we love our selves.

As we think about opening up the building and coming together to corporately show our love for God in worship, we can’t forget our responsibility. We are going to do our best to protect the whole congregation from getting sick. It is not going to be easy and it is going to take all of us. We will be asked to do things that we might not want to do, like wearing a mask, washing our hands and keeping a safe distance from others. We will need to do this for ourselves but more importantly, follow the example of Christ, putting others ahead of ourselves for the sake of the other person.

Usually we gather in the narthex and socialize and visit over coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall after worship, that will have to wait for another time. We will need to enter and depart the building without congregating. I know we are a congregation and we should visit and share our joys and sorrows with one another. However, right now sharing with others isn’t a healthy thing to do. And if we are not feeling 100% we will need to stay home. God would never require you and frankly doesn’t want you to come to worship at the risk of another’s health. COVID 19 makes this a very serious matter.

It looks like we will be able to worship outside before we worship inside. That will be a challenging experience for us as we figure out how to keep people safe and stay safe ourselves in the limited space we have.

We are an older congregation, that is our strength. Out of our responsibility to love God and love others we will change the things we do in order to stay the same to take care of others.

God bless you,
Pastor Arte

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LETTER

May 26, 2020

Dear friends at First Lutheran,

On May 23, Governor Walz issued an order allowing faith communities to resume/reopen for in-person worship services and funerals.

The church council met tonight (Tuesday, May 26) to discuss and decide how First Lutheran would respond to this. The meeting was opened with prayer and Pastor Arte read a letter regarding this topic from Bishop Hassanally. She started her letter with two passages;

“All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage but that of the other.”

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Galatians 5:13-14

The council unanimously felt it was too early to “open-up” the church for worship. The predictions are that the peak of Covid-19 will be later this summer for Minnesota. Pastor Arte, the staff and the council will continue to discuss this throughout the next few months. A committee was also formed to develop protocols to follow when re-opening.

As anxious as we are to be with everyone, to worship together in person and to enjoy fellowship again, we will wait until it is safer. Until then, please continue to pray for each other, call one another and let us know if we can help in any way.

Blessings,

Wendy Erickson

Calling all sewers

Some day we will be worshipping together in the same place. When we do, we will probably want people to wear masks. It would be nice to have some masks to offer to those who don't have one. Hint, hint.

HOSPITALIZATIONS AND ILLNESS

Hospitals no longer notify churches when their members are admitted for care. If you are ill or hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit or to be on the church prayer list, please notify us at (651)388-9311 or office@firstlutheranrw.com.

We extend our prayers & sympathy to the families of the following:

Janice French passed April 29th

Kip Edquist passed May 7th

Donald C Johnson passed May 20th

Nils Fauchald passed May 22nd

Carol Krie passed May 22nd

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 2020

Members Present by ZOOM: Elaine Ahern, John Laidlaw, Wendy Erickson, Cyd Mark, Mark Jaeger, Bunny Kulstad, Jean Fjelsted, Judie Bowes. Alison Kloeckner, Joe Rice, Jon Ubbelohde

Staff Present: Pastor Arte Sharot.

The meeting was called to order by Wendy Erickson, council president.

Due to the restrictions imposed due to Covid19, this council meeting was attended through ZOOM (video communication). The meeting was informal and we did not use Robert's Rules of Order.

Treasurer's Report:

Aly reported that even though Covid19 restrictions have not allowed us to hold regular church services, giving remains strong. We received \$37,582 from Federal Paycheck Protection program. The funds were deposited into the payroll account. As we reported last month, this loan provides payroll support for 8 weeks and is forgiven if employee and compensation levels are maintained. We have been able to use funds for some utility payments. At the end of the loan period, a report will be due to our loan servicer, Wells Fargo. Our bishop reports that synod churches are doing well.

Staff Reports:

- Pastor Arte
- Tina

In addition to the written reports, Pastor Arte reported the following:
-Planning for Pentecost are currently underway.
-Wednesday services will end May 27th unless there is an outpouring of interest in continuing them.
- Pastor Arte will speak to Glenda Wersal about her current unemployment situation (would it be plausible for her to come in a few hours each week without jeopardizing her unemployment pay or would she prefer to wait until the stay at home order is lifted).

Ministry Team Reports

Property: Mark Jaeger updated us on the following:

- Jason Morgan bid \$8,400 for stucco Repair. This would include repairing the "paint job" on the south and east facing walls, flashing, stucco cracks & building out the window. We have a tentative start date of 5/26 /20 or 6/1/20.

An anonymous member of our congregation has generously donated up to \$10,000 for the project. Cyd will send the donor a thank you card (when approved to do so).

- Fab One Welding will repair the West Ave stair railing (start date TBD).

- 3 of our 15 AC units need to be replaced. The unit replacement total is \$21,600.

Scott Lappegard will seek another bid just to be sure the current bid is appropriate.

- Adam Hove will be providing our lawn care. A volunteer church grounds "cleanup" work bee will be scheduled. Volunteers have already been working on our gardens.

- Brian has begun replacing some of our lights and is talking to the owners of ACE Hardware to see if we can receive a bulk order discount.

Old Business/Update:

Pastor Arte shared the following:

- Bulletins and messages are still available for delivery to congregants upon request and continue to be delivered weekly.
- Calls to check in on church members continue.
- We are still unable to visit shut ins in person because of the high risk to their health.

New Business:

- The Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled at First Lutheran on June 11th & June 12th is seeking volunteers to assist with check in, etc.

- The Bishop does not foresee on site worship gatherings in the near future due to Covid 19 restrictions and challenges.

The next regular church council meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2020 with Aly Kloeckner scheduled to provide devotions and treats.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyd Mark

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music Spire for June 2020

Congregational singing is one of the ways we proclaim the Gospel. I sure am missing it every week during this time even though I try really hard every Sunday to hear you singing remotely, my hearing aids just are not THAT good. I am very thankful for the 5 voices that lead the hymns with me on Sunday mornings.

During the summer months we try to have hymn sings where you can pick your favorites. If I can't hear you singing remotely I certainly will not hear you calling out hymn numbers so this is what we will do: Please send me a favorite hymn and I will put it into the streaming services. My email: marilee.a.anderson@gmail.com or drop it off at the office in the mail box on my office door. I would really love to hear from you. Or call me at 651-808-4589 and leave a message.

I look forward to that day when we can all gather in worship to sing and praise God with our voices — however that will be done in the new normal.

Take care of yourselves, each other, be safe.

Marilee

APRIL 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR April 2020

OPERATING INCOME	April Actual	Budgeted April	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Fund Pledges	28,950	32,917	139,172	131,668
Mission Support	-	63	130	252
Other Income	3,047	6,736	15,505	19,493
Total Income	31,998	39,716	154,807	151,413
OPERATING EXPENSES	April Actual	Budgeted April	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Expenses	21,425	39,015	125,233	156,858
ELCA Benevolence	2,084	2,083	8,336	8,333
Other Outside Giving	1,325	1,324	4,848	4,847
Total Expenses	24,833	42,422	138,417	170,038
Income vs. Expenses	\$7,165	-\$2,706	\$16,390	-\$18,625
Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/20	\$ 119,267	Operating Fund Balance 1/1/20	\$ (3,144)	
Ending Cash Balance 04/30/2020	\$ 155,425	Operating Fund Balance 04/30/2020	\$ 21,932	

This and that...

These are the upcoming readings for the Month of May. We encourage you all to read them and reach out to a friend to share, discuss and pray.

WEEK OF MAY 31

Acts 2:1-21

Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit

John 20:19-23

The Spirit poured out

WEEK OF JUNE 7

Genesis 1:1--2:4a

The creation of the heavens and the earth

Psalm 8

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth

Matthew 28:16-20

Living in the community of the Trinity

WEEK OF JUNE 14

Exodus 19:2-8a

The covenant with Israel at Sinai

Psalm 100

We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (Ps. 100:3)

Romans 5:1-8

While we were sinners, Christ died for us

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

The sending of the Twelve

WEEK OF JUNE 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13

The prophet must speak despite opposition

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

Romans 6:1b-11

Buried and raised with Christ by baptism

Matthew 10:24-39

The cost of discipleship

WEEK OF JUNE 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9

The test of a true prophet

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

Romans 6:12-23

No longer under law but under grace

Matthew 10:40-42

Welcome Christ in those he sends

Red Cross

We are hosting the Red Cross Blood drive on Thursday June 11 (1pm-7pm) and Friday June 12 (11am-5pm). We are looking for people to help register and check temperatures. We have a few volunteers already but it would be nice to have more to split up the time. Contact Pastor Arte.

Summer Reading Activity with Tina

Spark Story Bible

For the Month of June, as a family pick a story from the Spark Bible each day to read together. Find "worm" on in each story. Use the star discussion question to help lead a talk about faith.

Connect Bible

For our children in grades three to six, use your connect Bible, and read the Bible readings each week that we will be using for worship. Do the activity in your Bible if there is one for that reading.

Collaborate Bible

Confirmation and High school students, you can also follow along with the weekly readings for worship. Check out any of the orange side notes for the readings and see how they might help you understand the scripture better.

Please contact Tina if you are in need of a Bible for your family.

JUNE PRAYER & ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Cross-cultural friendships	2 People facing new health concerns	3 Church choirs and their directors	4 Carpenters and woodworkers	5 The well-being of creation	6 Teachers and professors
7 9:30 AM Drive-in Worship & On-line	8 Abandoned or stray pets needing homes	9 Community theater staff and volunteers	10 Victims of natural disasters	11 People homebound or in nursing homes	12 Those discerning their calling in life	13 Church outreach ministries
14 9:30 AM Drive-in Worship & On-line	15 Recent high school and college graduates	16 Family reunions	17 People just starting a career	18 Social ministries	19 People imprisoned for their beliefs	20 People working for justice
21 9:30 AM Drive-in Worship & On-line	22 Church councils and assemblies	23 Families struggling with trauma	24 Newborn infants	25 People being bullied	26 People experiencing grief	27 People who have suffered clergy abuse
28 9:30 AM Drive-in Worship & On-line	29 People in prison and their chaplains	30 ELCA Disability Ministry				



FROM THE TECH TEAM

Bill Mackey will be retiring from the tech team on his birthday July 1. We are indebted to him for all his has done over the years. We would not be where we are today in technology without his efforts. He put us in position to succeed during this COVID 19 pandemic. We are way ahead of many other churches.

I have delayed Bill's retirement as long as I could. Also Marshall will be going to college in the Fall. Josh is very good but one person cannot do it all. Now is the time. We need people to step up. Bill is more than willing to help train people in. This can be a fun hobby and a great way to serve God through First Lutheran.

Pray about it. If your are interested contact me or Bill.

The work that the tech team does has been invaluable during this shut down and during normal times it reaches those who are unable to attend church. It also spreads God's love throughout the internet.

Please consider helping.

Bill Mackey will be retiring from the tech team on his birthday July 1. We are indebted to him for all his has done over the years. We would not be where we are today in technology without his efforts. He put us in position to succeed during this COVID 19 pandemic. We are way ahead of many other churches.

First Lutheran Church

615 West 5th Street
Red Wing MN 55066
651.388.9311

Address Service Requested

JUNE 2020

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 311
Red Wing MN
55066

***Broadcasting live to the church parking lot!
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.***

Join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM when First Lutheran Church will broadcast its services **LIVE** to the church parking lot! With a bit of technology and the magical help of David Carlstrom, you will be able to take part in our morning services from the comfort and safety of your car.
Come and be a part of our “drive-in worship.” It’s a first for First!

