



the Spire

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2021 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
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Tina Goeman: Director of CYF
ext. 14 / tina@firstlutheranrw.com

Gina Nelson: Bookkeeper, PT
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Syl Andersen: Custodian, PT
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Brian Fladhammer: Maintenance, PT
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2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alyson Kloeckner - Treasurer
Joe Rice - Finance/Stewardship
Wendy Erickson - President
Life and Growth/Personnel

Cyd Mark - Worship & Music
Jean Fjelsted - Worship
Mary Weberg - Christian Action
Mark Jaeger - Property
Jon Ubbelohde - Property
Judie Bowes - Vice President/Personnel
Elaine Ahern - Youth and Family
Julie Laidlaw - Youth and Family
Penny Oleson - Secretary/Stewardship
Jean Dosedall - Life and Growth

We're Open!!

Sunday Worship at 9:30am
Saturday Worship at 5:30pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All the worship services will be available on-line at
www.firstlutheranrw.com.

The service for Sunday mornings will be available at 9:30
a.m. on Sunday so you can watch it live or watch the
video later.

TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK

As of May 15 following the CDC recommendations
masks will be optional for those fully vaccinated. We will
keep socially distant especially from those unable to be
vaccinated like children. If you wish to continue to wear
a mask you are more than welcome. There will be no
judgement if you wear a mask or if you don't. We will not
be asking for verification of vaccination. We will be on the
honor system.

If you come in the building during the week, we ask that
you wear a mask in the hallways as there are children
present.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions
about our safety plans.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Jenny Edmonds, Bob Swanson, Horst
Radtke, Crystal Swanson, Bob Weir, Jim Miller, Cheryl
Youmans, Dylan Michel family, John Oleson, Edla Bodelson,
Grosso family, Richard Jonas, Joan Grottan, Art Haage,
Gerald Lein, Beverly Lein, Jeff Reames, Virginia Pirius,
Jason & Jeremy Fregien, Nette, Denise, Joan Helmer, Ron
Anderson, Judy Hultquist, Carol Hallstrom, Jane Schwartz,
Dave Mullenback, Bernice Hausgrove, Tom Huneke and
Donna Benson.

FROM THE PASTOR

Galatians 6:9 ESV

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Let's Get Better
Together!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ his Son our Lord. Amen.

I cautiously say, it looks like the pandemic is winding down. This is what we have all been anxiously awaiting, for so long. We want to get back to normal, whatever that is. It feels like we are moving in that direction. Some of us still feel a little

nervous, whether it be because we are not sure the danger is gone or that it has become a habit to be cautious like wearing a mask. Even though the CDC says we are pretty safe, we aren't always sure.

As we approach this new lease on life, why should we settle for normal? I know after a year normal sounds so good but does Christ ever settle for normal? How about we look at this as an opportunity to do better. We can look to be better individually, as a family and as First Lutheran.

No doubt as we "get back to normal" we will be asking, "how did we use to do this". That's not a bad question as we don't want to have to "reinvent the wheel". However we can also say, ok we used to do it this way, is there a better way?

We have learned some things during this pandemic and let's not let them go to waste. Just off the top of my head:

Patience. Maybe our neighbor was more nervous about Covid than we were. Or maybe our neighbor didn't believe in masks and we did. We didn't agree with them but we didn't belittle them. We honored them.

Technology. We used a lot of technology, some in ways we've never have before. Maybe there are ways and times it would be better to continue on with that. I do feel a little bad for kids though. Snow days might be a thing of the past.

Masks. In the past people came to me wanting to curtail handshaking during the cold and flu season. I have to admit I really didn't want to. Seeing how masks lowered the cold and flu infection rate this year, I'm a believer. I'm going to be using masks whenever I feel a cold coming on.

These are just a few things to think about. It would be interesting to collect all of your ideas. As in all experiences, good and bad, Christ wants us to come out of them better than we were before, at least smarter.

Have a great, safe, wonderful Summer,
Pastor Arte

MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR May 2021

Thank you for your tithes and offerings

OPERATING INCOME	May Actual	Budgeted May	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Fund Pledges	31,230	32,917	166,654	164,585
Mission Support	60	63	70	315
Other Income	3,461	3,794	23,091	23,119
Total Income	34,752	36,774	189,815	188,019
OPERATING EXPENSES	May Actual	Budgeted May	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Expenses	47,794	36,926	177,964	183,978
ELCA Benevolence	2,083	2,083	10,417	10,416
Other Outside Giving	1,324	1,324	6,622	6,621
Total Expenses	51,202	40,333	195,003	201,015
Income vs. Expenses	-\$16,450	-\$3,559	-\$5,189	-\$12,996
Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/21	\$ 234,970	Operating Fund Balance 1/1/21	\$	4
Ending Cash Balance 04/30/2021	\$ 294,186	Operating Fund Balance 04/30/2021	\$	7,015

July/August this and that . . .

Prayer Ministry needs your help in updating our Prayer list. Please look it over and let the office know if you have any additions or changes (removal) to the list.

Call the office 651-388-9311 or send an email to: office@firstlutheranrw.com Thank you.

Remember - church council and most teams take July off from meeting. Specific teams may choose to meet. Check with your team leader.

Wanted We are looking for someone to take care of/maintain the fountain in the garden. Please contact Mark Jaeger (651-301-9142) or Jon Ubbelohde (651-325-8993) if interested.

Reminder - the church office will be closed July 5th.

The Joy In Doing team would like those church members who have previously been on our JID Volunteer lists (ex: coffee hosts, communion servers, etc.) and now no longer wish to continue to contribute, please notify Glenda in the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting
June 8, 2021

Devotions: Mary Weberg

Via Zoom	Name	Via Zoom	Name
X	Judie Bowes	X	Julie Laidlaw
X	Elaine Ahern	X	Joe Rice
X	Jean Fjelsted	X	Penny Oleson
X	Jon Ubbelohde	X	Cyd Mark
Absent	Mark Jaeger	X	Aly Kloeckner
X	Mary Weberg	X	Wendy Erickson
X	Jean Dossdall	X	Pastor Sharot

Secretaries Report: Accepted m/s/p

Treasurer's Report: Written report was handed out.

Staff Reports: All were submitted and reviewed

- Pastor
- Music
- Youth & Family/Technology

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Worship & Music**
- Did not meet in May
- Sunday "show-up" choir this summer is going well
- Beginning handbells will begin later this summer
- **Property**
- Awaiting sprinkler bids
- A fire pit was donated for our outside area
- Still seeking volunteers for maintaining our outside fountain
- **Life & Growth**
- Rally Sunday plans continue
- **Stewardship**
- Meeting first week of September to begin plans for Stewardship drive as well as consider whether to allow members the option to "opt out" of paper offering envelopes
- **Youth & Family**
- VBS plans continue and will be held evenings 1st week in August
- **Christian Action**

- Looking at setting up a Feed my Starving Children in the fall
- **Personnel** – no actions

Old Business:

- Offering envelopes - will be taken up at Steward meeting in September
- A Silver Conversation – A thorough inventory was made of silver pieces. Pieces that are inscribed will be held back to locate church members who may wish to have them returned. Mary W. will review the other pieces and determine if they are worth selling. We may keep a few pieces to have on display at church anniversaries or other special festivals.
- Quorum Subcommittee - Meeting July 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

New Business:

- No meeting in July
- God's Work, Our Hands Plans– September 12
- Mary will discuss with Christian Action to determine what service activity can be held (Same day as Rally Sunday)
- **Communion**
- Begin two types of communion at services:
- Kits available for those who want them
- Self-serve or walk up to the rail and get them
- Individual cups and bread at the rail for those who wish
- Put up signs that say "We will be serving communion at the rail today – kits are available or individual cups."
- Begin June 12 service.
- August Devotions: Mark Jaeger

Upcoming devotions/treats:

August – Mark Jaeger
September – Jon Ubbelohde
October – Judie Bowes
November – Elaine Ahern
December – Julie Laidlaw

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Oleson
Secretary

Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Let's work together to care for creation! It's time to register for ReNew: The Green VBSTM!

Place: Fellowship Hall
Dates: August 2-5
Time: 6:00-8:00pm

ReNew Vacation Bible School invites kids to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God's creation.

At ReNew: The Green VBS™ kids will:

- Explore God's Word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower.
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it.
- Make new friends and have a great time!

Calling all kids PreK-Grade 4 and who want to ReNew!
Let's grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

To register, contact: Tina Goeman tina@firstlutheranrw.com or pick up a registration form in the Narthex, or visit our website to register online www.firstlutheranrw.com

See you at ReNew: The Green VBS™!

Lighting the Spire

The Spire is lit the month of July, August and September by Norma Swingdorf in memory of her daughter, Renee Ellen Rolfes.

There is a sign up sheet in the lobby if you are interested in lighting the Spire. The cost is \$25.

JULY PRAYER & ACTIVITIES 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 5:30pm Worship
4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 11:00am Staff Mtg	7 8:30am Men's Bible Study-Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 5:30pm Worship
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	12	13 11:00am Staff Mtg 4pm Finance	14 8:30am Men's Bible Study-Fellowship Hall 1pm Quilting	15	16	17 5:30pm Worship
18 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	19	20 11am Staff Mtg 7pm Eve Circle-at Pat Swanson	21 8:30am Men's Bible Study-Fellowship Hall 11am Mary Circle-Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 5:30pm Worship
25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	26	27 10am Martha Circle-Fellowship Hall 11am Staff Mtg	28 8:30am Men's Bible Study-Fellowship Hall 1pm Quilting	29	30	31 5:30pm Worship

These are the readings for July. We encourage you to read them and reach out to a friend to share.

WEEK OF JULY 4

Ezekiel 2:1-5 *The call of Ezekiel*

Psalms 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

God's power made perfect in weakness

Mark 6:1-13

Sending of the Twelve to preach and heal

WEEK OF JULY 11

Amos 7:7-15

The sign of the plumb line: God's judgment on Israel

Psalms 85:8-13

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Chosen in Christ to live to the praise of God's glory

Mark 6:14-29

The death of John the Baptist

WEEK OF JULY 18

Jeremiah 23:1-6

From David's line, a righteous shepherd for Israel

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Reconciled to God through Christ, our peace

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Christ healing the multitudes

WEEK OF JULY 25

2 Kings 4:42-44

Elisha feeding a hundred people

Psalms 145:10-18

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for wisdom, strength, and Christ's indwelling

John 6:1-21

Christ feeding the five thousand

AUGUST PRAYER & ACTIVITIES 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	2 6-8pm Vacation Bible School	3 11:00am Staff Meeting 4pm Property 5:00pm Executive 6pm Team Mtgs	4 8:30am Men's Bible Study 6-8pm Vacation Bible School	5 6-8pm Vacation Bible School	6	7 5:30pm Worship
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	9	10 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Finance 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting	12 1:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	13 11:00am Red Cross Blood Drive	14 5:30pm Worship
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	16	17 11:00am Staff Meeting 7pm Eve Circle at Pat Swanson's	18 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am Mary Circle-Fellowship Hall	19	20	21 5:30pm Worship
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	23	24 11:00am Staff Meeting	25 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting	26	27	28 5:30pm Worship
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Hour	30	31 10am Martha Circle -Fellowship Hall 11:00am Staff Meeting				

These are the upcoming readings for August.

WEEK OF AUGUST 1

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

The Lord gives manna in the wilderness

Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

Ephesians 4:1-16

Maintain the unity of the faith

John 6:24-35

Christ the bread of life

WEEK OF AUGUST 8

1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah given bread for his journey

Psalm 34:1-8

Taste and see that the Lord is good. (Ps. 34:8)

Ephesians 4:25--5:2

Put away evil, live in love

John 6:35, 41-51

Christ, the bread of life

WEEK OF AUGUST 15

Proverbs 9:1-6

Invited to dine at wisdom's feast

Psalm 34:9-14

Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. (Ps. 34:10)

Ephesians 5:15-20

Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God

John 6:51-58

Christ the true food and drink

WEEK OF AUGUST 22

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord

Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)

Ephesians 6:10-20

Put on the armor of God

John 6:56-69

The bread of eternal life

WEEK OF AUGUST 29

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

God's law: a sign of a great nation

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)

James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion

First Lutheran Church

615 West 5th Street
Red Wing MN 55066
651.388.9311

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July/August 2021

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MUSIC MINISTRIES

Show Up and Sing Choir

Do you have a friend or family member who likes to sing but hasn't had the time to join our music ministry? Please encourage him or her to be a part of the First Lutheran Summer Choir! We will begin on Pentecost Sunday, May 22 and will continue every Sunday until Labor Day.



and out-of-town visitors. Current choir members and family and friends WELCOME. Come and join us. Questions? Contact Marilee Anderson. Let's lift our voices in song!!!

Singers can just show up in the music area in church (by the piano) at 8:45 on Sunday mornings.

We'll provide a hymnal and music outline, and we won't ask anyone to make a commitment. All ages and abilities are welcome, including families with kids old enough to read

Get yourself into some Metal.....handbell metal.....

Want to burn some calories and learn how to ring handbells at the same time? Marilee is offering individual handbell lessons this summer. We will have great fun and keep cool. Let me know by e-mailing me at marilee.a.anderson@gmail.com or giving me a holler on the phone or in person. Fun...