

First Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
September 8, 2020

- A. Opening Prayer - Dawn Brock
- B. Approve Agenda
- C. Approve Minutes from July 14, 2020 Church Council meeting
- D. New Business - FaithTrek App/Privacy Statement: Motion  
Reopening Church: Motion
- E. Old Business -On-line Service, September 3,2020
  - Updates:
    - 1) Dimensions
    - 2) FLC Roof
    - 3) Other
- F. Budget
- G. Staff Reports
- H. Call Committee-Steve Griffith
- I. MSP - Status
- J. Closing Prayer - Dawn Brock

## Information Items

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. MEMBERSHIP as of August 1, 2020	1183	974
Members received:		
A. by baptism (15 years and under)	1	
B. by baptism (adult)		
C. transfer from ELCA congregation		
D. other Lutheran		
E. affirmation of faith		
F. transfer from non-Lutheran congregation		
G. other and statistical adjustment		
2. Members Removed		
Members removed:		
A. death	2	2
B. transfer to ELCA congregation		
C. transfer to non-Lutheran congregation		
D. other and statistical adjustment	1	1
MEMBERSHIP as of August 31, 2020	1181	971

### Average Attendance

August	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	443	445	449	379	365	371	362	357	356	330	COVID

### Added:

Baptism: Lucy Jo Zimmerman

Affirmation:

Transfer:

Other:

### Removed:

Death: Andrew Morrow, Gerry Stamm

Transfer:

Dropped Due to Inactivity:

Other: Karin Walton

Notes: See the following Communications Report from Kathleen Simley for online Worship participation due to COVID-19.

Ever since our doors closed on Friday, March 13, due to COVID-19, we have had to rely heavily on the virtual and online world for our communications, ministries and worship. To ensure we are reaching the congregation and the broader community we have been tracking engagement and outreach using analytical tools and resources available to us.

As we pivot to live stream worship starting September 13, it might be interesting to review the \*data we have collected on our engagement and outreach from March 13-September 1, 2020:

- Currently, we have 576 people who receive the weekly *First Things First* e-newsletter and Sunday worship email. The average open rate for the e-newsletter has been 65% or a reach of 374 people each week.
- 27 pre-recorded worship services were produced and published online weekly. Each worship service required an average of 5.5 hours to produce (after the recorded pieces were received), totaling almost 149 hours.
- The average open rate for Sunday's worship email has been 57% or a reach of 328 people weekly. To put these averages in perspective, the church industry average open rate for e-newsletters is 25%.
- Of the 57% who open the Sunday worship email, an average of 51% of them click on the worship link. The average click rate for churches is 6%.
- Our weekly worship videos on Vimeo averages 283 views per week with 60% of them viewed on desktop computers, 27% by mobile phones and 13% by other devices. The April 19 worship service had the most views out of all recorded online services for a total of 446 views.
- Our Sunday Facebook worship posts have reached a total of 9,237 people with an average of 385 people per week.
- Our Facebook page "likes" increased by 52 for a total of 572 likes. Our "followers" increased by 62 for a total of 592.
- We have had 7,342 homepage views with 77% of the viewers being "new" and 23% who are returning viewers. This high view rate on the homepage is likely due to the weekly recorded worship service being posted on the homepage.

Congregational Council Meeting

First Lutheran Church

August 11, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Pfister, Rebecca Pfabe, Pastor Justin Eller, Judy Bailey, Brian Niebuhr, Lisa Rauner, Mike McDannel, Kim Cordonier, Denise Mainquist, Natalie Peters, Dawn Brock, Tony Anderson, Bill Watts, Judy Batterman, Byron Fischer, Scott Seebohm, Pastor Steve Griffith

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Sharon Hardel

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Norman Kempf, Steve Dickey

MEETING RECORDER: Ann Carlson

CALL TO ORDER: President Mike McDannel called the meeting to order at 7:02.

- A. **OPENING PRAYER:** Byron led the opening prayer. Matthew 6, verses 25-33 were read. The verses talk about faith and trust in God. God will bring us through and protect us. What message does this passage give to the group as we look at the future? God has someone in mind for our pastor. Next, the group discussed times when they worried needlessly. All of us will strive to take more worries to God.
- B. **APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Item E iii, a motion from the Stewardship Committee, will be added under New Business. The motion as amended was approved.
- C. **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2020:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. They were approved.
- D. **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 14, 2020:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. They were approved.
- E. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - i. **Property Committee – Motion**

It was moved and seconded that First Lutheran Church Council will authorize the signing of an agreement with Precision Construction and Roofing to retain them to replace the tile roof only if they are successful in getting the settlement for a full replacement of the tile roof from Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company. FLC's financial responsibility will be limited to the deductible amount of \$5,000. Discussion followed.

The tile roof on the church was damaged by a hailstorm in April of 2020. Toby Duncan contacted the church and requested permission to take pictures of the church roof with a drone. He found significant damage and offered to act as FLC's agent to negotiate a settlement with Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company for a full replacement of the tile on the church roof. Mr. Duncan told members of the Property Committee that he

has been successful in reaching agreements with many insurance companies, however after he spent a lot of time and money in some cases, another contractor was hired to complete the work. Precision now requests an agreement to protect their investment of time and effort. If they are successful in reaching an agreement for full replacement of the tile on the church, they will do the job. The settlement would be to replace all the tile on the building.

If a partial settlement is reached with the insurance company, the FLC Council will have the option to review the settlement agreement with Precision Construction and Roofing to determine if it is acceptable. Precision has the option to make a last attempt to reach an acceptable agreement with FLC. If Precision is not successful, FLC will not be bound by this agreement.

Members of the Property Committee checked Toby Duncan's references for tile or slate roofs, and all were acceptable.

Bill asked if we should we get our own assessment. Toby came to us unsolicited. Our insurance company said that there was \$6,000 of damage. According to Toby, there is \$1.5 million of damage on the sanctuary and all roofs.

Bill thinks that there are a lot of roofers who would like to bid on a project this large. He thinks that we should have another opinion as it would give us confidence in the range of the amount of damage.

If we get a second opinion, we might want to hire an architect or engineer. We may then need to negotiate with the insurance company on our own.

The roof on the north wing was totally cleaned up in 2018. The roof on the south wing was replaced in 2013. As to the sanctuary, there were no clips on the bottom of the tile, so it was glued down. Replacing the roof on the sanctuary is all or nothing. The vast majority of the tile on the building is from 1965.

Norm thinks that we have replacement cost insurance. This will be confirmed with Bryan Hanson.

Mike suggested that we put a time limit on Precision Roofing. Toby is a victim of the insurance company and who they hire. The insurance company has now hired an engineering company from Des Moines. We could consider limiting the time to negotiate the settlement. We want Toby to be on site when the engineer is on site.

Is there any thought to replacing the tile with a different roofing material? One idea for a different roofing material is look alike fiberglass.

Has tile become any more hail resistant in 65 years? Hail damage is not covered in the warranty.

The Property Committee thinks that moving forward with the motion is the most reasonable approach to take.

The motion passed with Bill Watts and Mike McDannel voting against the motion.

ii. Seminary Scholarship – Motion

It was moved and seconded to award Heidi Youngquist a \$1,000.00 Seminary Scholarship. Heidi submitted application materials that were shared with Council members in a separate e-mail. Discussion followed.

The maximum total amount awarded to any one applicant over the course of studies is \$10,000.

The motion passed.

iii. Stewardship Committee – Motion

It was moved and seconded to redirect \$500 from the Stewardship Budget to the Lutheran Food Pantry. Discussion followed.

Due to Covid-19, the Stewardship Committee does not plan to have a Stewardship Luncheon/Promotion this fall as has been done in the past. It is estimated that the cost of the luncheon has historically run around \$500. The Committee is requesting that this \$500 be re-directed from the Stewardship Budget to the Lutheran Food Pantry as part of an effort to serve others – Discipleship is Stewardship. Since this is a significant change in the planned expense of the Stewardship Budget, it was felt that this change needed to receive Council approval.

The motion passed.

F. OLD BUSINESS 1:

i. Dimensions Update

Although it was a mad scramble, Dimensions opened in our building on August 10. We have temporary fencing. All inspections passed. Dimensions is intentionally opening with a reduced number of students.

ii. Reopening Church

There is no motion in the Council packets.

Pastor Justin has worked with various groups to understand how we might reopen our facilities when it is safe. Since our last Council meeting, we have connected our reopening plan to the Covid-19 Risk Dial of the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department. That summary is:

- a. Severe Spread Risk (red): Church facilities are closed
- b. High Risk Spread (orange): Church is open for business purposes Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm
- c. Moderate Spread Risk (yellow): Small group ministries can meet inside the building, following proper risk-reduction protocols
- d. Low Spread Risk (green): We may resume in-person worship in the sanctuary and learning opportunities in the building.

- There is lament that we cannot be together until it is safe to do so. Parishioners miss communion.
- We need to proceed cautiously at a time when schools are reopening.
- Pastor thanked parishioners for their faith and patience.
- Currently, Pastor Justin does not know how many are attending in person services at our peer churches. He will check with Southwood to see what they are doing.
- Some of the Council members mentioned that Sheridan will not discuss reopening until their September Council meeting.
- Is Kathleen Simley okay with the current workload? We will discuss this more in Open Comments. When we begin Live Streaming, we assume that Kathleen's workload will lessen.
- Reopening is more than just worship.
- Preschool is considered essential, which is why Dimensions is in the building now.
- If there is a case of Covid-19, our first action would be to contact the Health Department.
- There is no routine Covid-19 testing for the Dimensions children.

G. BUDGET:

YTD receipts through July 31 are \$6,306 over budget; YTD expenses through July 31 are \$46,237 under budget. YTD surplus through July 31 is \$52,543.

H. STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve met with Susan and Jeff Coffey, managers of the Clocktower Shopping Center. They made several requests:

- i. Clean gravel from FLC parking lot to prevent it from washing down the west driveway into Clocktower parking.
- ii. Install a speed bump at the top of the west drive to slow through traffic.
- iii. Urge parishioners to drive slowly through Clocktower parking and the west driveway.
- iv. Either repair the west driveway or close it completely.

Norman Kempf, Pastor Justin and Pastor Steve will look at these items. The property line crosses in the upper 1/3 of the driveway. The bottom 2/3 of the driveway is not in great shape.

Pastor Justin

Pastor Justin thanked Council for the time away.

I. OPEN COMMENTS:

Crisis Management Task Force

Pastor Steve stated that it would be good to have a Crisis Management Task Force to advise Council and Pastors in times such as these with Covid-19. There is no motion tonight. He would

consult with several folks to bring a motion to the September meeting. The consensus was that it would be a great idea to have an informal advisory group.

#### Live Streaming

Pastor Justin discussed Live Streaming. Brian Niebuhr has been working on the hardware. Tim Kechely did the audio set up. We need a camera mount. In a couple more weeks, it will be ready for review. We will then do a test worship service. The target date for Live Streaming is the first Sunday after Labor Day.

For the test worship service, ushers, Council and participants from Worship and Music will either attend or will watch via Live Stream. There will be an evaluation in real time. Communications will be sent as to the testing date.

The Stewardship Committee will have a brief 4-5-minute video to share for each Sunday in September. Can these videos be added to the Live Streamed services? Brian thinks that it can be done.

Live Streaming will be at 10:45 each Sunday. The test worship service needs to occur no later than September 6. If we Live Stream the earlier service each Sunday, the Live Stream would be available earlier.

#### Parking Lot Gatherings

Masako is looking to see what is possible for parking lot gatherings. Can an AM transmitter be set up such that parishioners can worship in their cars?

- Drive in movies for our youth is another idea.

Some people may want to come to the church site, but do not want to enter the building.

Is it safe to do a hymn sing outside?

Will it be too complicated to do Live Streaming and something in the parking lot at the same time?

#### 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Loretta Hammelmann still has some ornaments for our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. We are in the black with our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration budget.

- J. OLD BUSINESS 2 – discussed in closed session with Council members only
  - i. MSP:
    - a. Updates, questions
    - b. Next steps
  - ii. CALL COMMITTEE:
    - a. Discernment Prayer
    - b. Review Call Committee names submitted by FLC members
    - c. Discuss and select call committee



K. CLOSING PRAYER:

**DATE:** September 8, 2020

**SUBJECT:** First Lutheran Church Christian Education App Privacy Statement

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Approve the new First Lutheran Church Christian Education App Privacy Statement.

**BACKGROUND:** Elementary School families of First Lutheran Church are faced with hard decisions around how to respond to the risks of COVID-19 spread. In a recent survey with those families, a significant number indicated that they were not comfortable with in-person Christian education as we have done it in the past.

Our new FaithTrek Coordinator has created a smartphone app for FaithTrek families (3 years-old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to use throughout the week for faith formation exercises in lieu of a one-hour, Sunday morning, in-person learning opportunity.

Since the app will be used primarily by families with elementary school aged children, we want to ensure that those children and families are safe while using the app.

In order for the Google Play Store to make the app available for families and children, they require the organization backing the app to have a privacy statement about how personal data and identifying information might be collected, processed, stored, and shared through the app.

Our new privacy statement states that no personal data or information will be collected through the app.

Users of the app will be able to access this privacy statement at any time as it will be stored on the Resources page of the FLC website.

*The First Lutheran Church Christian Education App Privacy Statement is attached to this motion.*

**COST:** \$0.00

**SPONSOR:** Pastor Justin Eller



## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION APP PRIVACY STATEMENT**

Version 1.0, Approved September 8, 2020

The privacy of all of our congregation members and users is very important to First Lutheran Church. When you, as a user, use the Christian education app related to our church and ministries we do not collect, process, sell, trade, or rent your personal data or any identifying information.

### **1. Who is First Lutheran Church**

First Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska is a congregation (tax-exempt, non-profit, religious, faith-based organization) of the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### **2. Personal Data and Identifying Information**

First Lutheran Church does not collect any personal data or identifying information on users via the First Lutheran Church Christian Education App. At no point within the app will users submit information to or communicate directly with the app creators. We do not collect the following data:

- name
- password
- email
- mailing address
- location
- phone number
- age or date of birth
- gender
- relationship status or household information
- financial information

### **3. Changes to this Privacy Statement**

First Lutheran Church may update this First Lutheran Church Christian Education App Privacy Statement at any time. First Lutheran Church will publish any updated version of the First Lutheran Church Christian Education Privacy Statement via regular congregational communication.

### **4. Questions or comments**

If you have any questions or comments about First Lutheran Church Christian Education App Privacy Statement, please contact First Lutheran Church via [flclincoln.org/contact-us/](http://flclincoln.org/contact-us/).

This Privacy Statement was created: September 1, 2020.

First Lutheran Church  
1551 S 70<sup>th</sup> St  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506  
[flclincoln.org](http://flclincoln.org)  
402-488-0919

DATE: September 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Reopening Plan of First Lutheran Church facilities: Methodology

PROPOSED ACTION: Approve a new methodology for how we decide the openness/closedness of FLC church facilities to include: 1- Lincoln/Lancaster Health Department COVID Risk Dial, 2- recommendations from a new FLC Crisis Management Task Force, 3 - in consideration of life events in our congregation.

BACKGROUND: When Council decided to connect FLC facility reopening solely to the Lincoln/Lancaster Health Department COVID Risk Dial, it was the best decision at that time. However, at the end of August, the dial moved down to moderate risk (yellow) and then back up to high risk (orange) within a matter of weeks. While hovering over a color change (yellow-orange) may not appear to affect life in the city/community, the differences in the two colors has significant impact on our congregational life and ministries.

We feel it is still smart and prudent to keep the COVID Risk Dial in mind when making decisions about our church reopening. But when there are sacramental and celebratory rites, such as: baptisms, weddings, blessings, commissionings, and funerals in the life of the congregation, then the church would like the ability to make decisions in consultation with the participants involved.

A new FLC Crisis Management Task Force has been convened and is made up of congregational lay leaders as well as several staff who each provide a broad view of the pandemic's impacts on congregational and societal life.

What this means is that if as a whole congregation we are functioning in Phase-1 (building is open for business purposes), but there is a baptism or death in the congregation and the family would like to hold a small and modified service in the sanctuary, then that would be permissible and appropriate.

At this time, large group gatherings are still discouraged.

This shift in methodology and practice allows for more flexibility in responding to needs of the congregation as they arise.

The Executive Committee will decide, in consultation with FLC Staff and the FLC Crisis Management Task Force, how and when to open/close our facilities due to COVID. The Executive Committee will inform the entire Church Council of that decision before notifying the congregation.

COST: \$0.00

SPONSOR: Pastor Justin Eller, Pastor Steve Griffith, and Michael McDannel

**First Lutheran Church Council Report**  
**September 2020**  
**Rev. Justin Eller**

1. **COVID-19 Response.** In August the COVID Risk Dial was quite mobile and led the congregational leadership and staff to have conversations about how we decide how we respond to the twists and turns of the pandemic. While the safety and wellbeing of our congregation members remain our utmost priority, we are also mindful that life events in the congregation continue. We continue to explore options for how to safely worship, learn, and serve together.
2. **Worship.** Equipment for Live Streaming our worship was installed and tested and is ready to go for our first Live Stream Worship on Sept 13!!! Kudos to Brian Niebuhr, Kathleen Simley, Masako and Boyd Bacon, for all their hard work preparing us for this important next step in the life of our worshipping community! To God be the glory!
3. **Dinner+Learning.** Dinner+Learning Confirmation Program for Year B is here and began with a family orientation to our Dinner+Learning Confirmation program, a successful Entrance Retreat of the 7th Graders at Camp Carol Joy Holling, and our first Zoom confirmation lesson with both 7th and 8th graders! This year confirmation youth will learn together with Sharon Hardel and I using Zoom on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and they will learn at home with their families on the second and fourth Wednesdays. One main focus this year will be "how (topic in confirmation) helps us be good neighbors." The first unit for the year will be an introduction to Luther's Small Catechism.
4. **FaithTrek.** Lindsey Boyle and I met throughout August to continue working on the new FaithTrek App being launched Sept. 13. What this looked like for me was the research and crafting of a new FLC Christian Education App Privacy Statement to explain that we will not collect personal data or identifying information on any app users.
5. **Stephen Ministry.** We give thanks to God for our newest Stephen Ministers who have completed their training, been commissioned, and are ready for service in the congregation. They are: Bev DeGeorge, Eunice Fischer, Trish Flury, Sharon Hardel, Linda Jensen, Martha Tanner, and Gordon Wolfe. Stephen Ministers offer a listening ear, prayerful presence, open heart, and distinctively Christian care. Many thanks to Faye Doolittle and Karen Statham for being co-facilitators with me for this new class!
6. **Stewardship.** Kudos to our Stewardship Committee for their ongoing work to prepare our 2020 Stewardship Campaign "Celebrating God's Faithfulness." We worked together on the congregational letter as well as lining up speakers to tell stories of how FLC impacts the lives in the community and congregation. Commitment/Consecration/Stewardship Sunday is Oct. 4.
7. **Pre-Baptism Conversations.** During August I met with two families for their pre-baptism classes for their infants. The Zimmerman Family for Lucy Jo Zimmerman's baptism (Aug. 16) and the Hughes Family for Harlow Lynn Hughe's baptism (Sept. 13). We give thanks to God for these new siblings in Christ!
8. **Nebraska Synod.** I participated in the Nebraska Synod's Zoom call on Institutional Racism and led the final meeting of the *We are Church for the Sake of the World* Strategic Vision Working Group as we wrap up two-years of exploring "what it means to be church in the world today."

**With much love,**  
**Pastor Justin**

**First Lutheran Church  
August Report to Council  
September 8, 2020  
Rev. Stephen Griffith**

**Call Process**

The Call Committee was appointed at the August Council meeting. I have begun regular communications and spiritual guidance with the Committee. The Committee will be installed in September and will meet to elect a chair. When the Ministry Site Profile is completed, Pastor Megan Morrow will conduct an orientation with the Committee.

**Property Committee**

The Property Committee has scheduled an inspection by Haag Engineering, representing our Lutheran Brotherhood, and Toby Duncan, representing First Lutheran, as authorized by the Council. Several Property Committee members will be present.

Property Committee members have installed a drainage system in the outdoor classroom to correct a problem. Thanks to Steve Lenzen and Steve Dicky for working on this.

**Staff**

Building Superintendent Greg Fisher has moved from full-time to ¾-time at his request, in order to devote additional time to his business, effective September 1. We will evaluate this change after a 30-day trial period.

**COVID/Crisis Management Task Force**

I have asked the following to serve as a task force, and they have agreed:  
Bill Watts, Judy Batterman, Dr. Bob Rauner, Bryan Hanson, Masako Bacon, Sharon Hardel, Pastor Justin and myself. This group has corresponded by email, and will convene to assess how the latest developments in the pandemic affect First Lutheran Church.

**Reflection**

This is a challenging time for First, and for our society. Any change brings uncertainty and anxiety, and we are faced with multiple changes all at once. The pastoral transition comes in the midst of a global pandemic, political unrest, and social turmoil stemming from racial inequities. This congregation has many resources to deal with these: a profound understanding of call; a deep spiritual strength; congregants and leaders skilled in addressing social ills; and a deep commitment to following the way of Christ. These assets will serve the congregation well.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

Director of Worship and Music  
Masako Bacon  
August, 2020

Musicians: Thanks to these people who enriched our worship experiences.

August 2      Brian & Erin Niebuhr, Kara Baxter  
August 9      Lucas Culbertson  
August 16     Christine Carman  
August 23     David Pitts  
August 30     Rebecca Simley

### Overview

#### **A. Zoom rehearsal begins**

Adult Choir, Cherub Choir, and Chorister Choir have begun their virtual rehearsals on August 26. It is a compromised version of rehearsal, but the directors are patiently creating forms that work for their own choir. Everyone, including the participants, has to adapt this “not ideal” format. It is wonderful to see, even virtually, the ministry group gather and to be able to continue preparation for the ministry.

#### **B. Preparation for Live Stream Worship (see Worship & Music Committee Minutes)** Big appreciation to Brian Niebuhr who has spent countless hours to install live stream.

#### **C. Preparation for in-person Worship**

Following the research result of the Aerosol Study from University of Colorado Boulder, some limitations during in-person worship have been considered. Singing and any instruments requiring blowing (brass and wind) are considered as “high risk.” Therefore, a cantor will lead the singing liturgy and hymns and congregation will be joining with “close to humming” singing or speaking.

*references: Performing Arts Aerosol Study Preliminary Results 2*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qi4x5HDqWqs>

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119369/aerosol-study-prelim-results-round-2-final-updated.pdf>

#### **D. Sacristy**

Molly Goninan and Madalyn Popken organized the new sacristy. A new freezer/refrigerator is desired; however, we will wait until the next budget year due to unexpected expenses with items deleted from the construction budget and COVID related expenses (live streaming equipment, etc.)

#### **E. Sound System/camera**

Finally the sanctuary sound system and monitor cameras are connected. It requires further adjustments. For the TV on the common currently is not connected to a speaker. Tim Kechely will investigate adding speakers to the TV.

#### **F. Parking Lot Gathering using AM radio transmitter**

The outdoor/parking lot gathering sound system has been purchased. Boyd has tested it to be sufficient to cover the parking lot. Still some work needs to be done for tracing interference, but it is exciting to have a possible safe fellowship time using car radio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soli Deo Gloria  
Masako Bacon

## Sharon Hardel's Report to Council Aug. 11, 2020 – Sept. 9, 2020

### Activities This Month:

Programming for fall has begun. The Blessing of the Backpack event was held as a drive by under the portico on August 9. We greeted about 26 students and teachers and wished them a great first week of learning. We began planning for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade entrance retreat for Confirmation which was held Aug. 26 at Camp Carol Joy. We had 6 students attend and 2 join us virtually for part of the retreat. The youth impressed us very much with their intuitive questions and the way they responded to each other. They really didn't know each other very well yet seemed to open up and form immediate friendships. We learned about each other and about what this journey of confirmation will look like, tackling difficult questions, finding resources to help us strengthen our faith and being part of a community.

The High School group kicked off their fall activities with a Bonfire at Camp Carol Joy on Aug. 22. Fourteen youth and 3 parents participated. We did some get to know you conversations to help our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders and a new youth to our congregation feel comfortable in the group. It was a beautiful evening complete with s'mores. The youth talked nonstop and shared challenges of school, sports, and life in the time of Covid. They also shared concerns about the upcoming election, the economy, and racial tensions. This group is very aware of what is going on around them and are looking for ways to help make a difference. We will have a cook out at Roberts Park on Sept. 6 for those that are in town over the Labor Day Weekend.

Our first Dinner + Learning session was Aug. 19 to introduce everyone to the program. We met again Sept. 2 for our first official lesson. We have improved our Zoom skills and were able to incorporate games and cell phones into the lesson so the youth seemed much more engaged to start this fall. The group seems more talkative and we have 2 new students, one that has moved here over the summer and a grandson of a member. Both of our new students attended the retreat. We are now looking forward to planning the exit retreat for our 9<sup>th</sup> graders who will be confirmed in Oct.

I have met with Lindsey a few times to plan the Faithtrek Kick off on Sept. 13 and to learn how to use the new App. We hope to put Sunday Learning Lessons for children and youth as well as parent resources on this App to make it easier to connect with parents and students while we can't meet face to face. I held a Zoom meeting with the Middle and High School Learning team to introduce the fall schedule and share the Words of the Month to focus on lesson planning. We need more High School leaders, so I am following up and trying to find additional support.

The Harbor Group, Faith to Go, and Gather and Gab continue to meet and have good discussions. It has been a nice way to stay in touch and connect with each other. However, we have lost some in the Harbor group who are tired of using Zoom and are waiting for the day they can gather again in person.

I have participated in some more zoom information sharing and learning events and continue to get new resources and ideas for online activities.

I finished reading "The End of Youth Ministry" and wrote a summary to share at our staff meeting. If you would like to see that let me know and I will e-mail it to you. Or if you'd like to read the book, I will loan it to you.

### Projects Working On:

1. Planning for fall and finding High School learning leaders
2. Confirmation Retreat, Sunday Learning ideas, and youth group planning
3. Organizing a Congregational / Community Blood Drive on Sunday Oct. 11 with High School Youth.

Keeping you all in prayer, Sharon Hardel



Lindsey Boyle

Council Report

August 2020

- This month I helped Sharon plan the drive through backpack blessing. We passed out backpack tags, snacks, a craft, and a blessing to families on August 9.
- August 16 was our elementary learning training. The training was held via zoom and attended by FaithTrek guides, Pastor Justin, Pastor Steve, Sharon and myself. We talked about being flexible and adaptable during this learning year and trying to connect with families and empower them to have faith building conversations at home.
- Our FaithTrek learning app is in the final stages of being ready for use by families. Pastor Justin has worked with me on the publishing requirements of having a privacy statement.
- Sharon and I are working together on using shared words of the month this year to help provide unity and a common theme with our families. We also attended a training and purchased a resource for families to use during mealtimes to help foster faith building conversations.
- We plan to kick start our learning year on Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 am outside the church building. We will focus on our September word of the month, neighbor, and complete a couple of service projects. Kids will help package socks for Matt Talbot, and we will make cards for the Kicks for Kids project.
- I am looking forward to this fall semester and trying some different strategies to meet the needs of our families during this pandemic!

Meeting of the Congregation  
Executive Committee  
September 1, 2020

Present: Mike McDannel, Judy Bailey, Pastor Justin, Pastor Steve, Denise Mainquist

Mike opened the Zoom meeting with prayer.

Faith Trek app – For the app to be used on Android a privacy statement is needed stating that no data will be collected. Pastor Justin will prepare a motion for the council. The privacy statement will then be posted on the FLC website.

The live streaming trial service is set to go on September 3. Council, staff, worship & music committee and usher coordinators have been invited to attend – some in person, others will watch the live stream.

Dimensions – Everything seems to be going well. The director will be a guest of adult forum in September and will be asked to give a report at the October council meeting.

Property Committee – Meeting has been set for September 16, 11:30 with engineer, insurance rep, church rep and some members of the property committee.

An Emergency Task Force for church reopening phases has been set up – no meeting has yet been held. Members are Bob Rauner, Bill Watts, Judy Batterman, Masako Bacon, Sharon Hardel and Bryan Hanson.

Mike visited telephonically with Nick Cordonier to discuss internal governance items regarding the Endowment Board.

Pastor Justin will prepare a motion to present to council regarding church reopening phases.

Pastor Justin was asked to disconnect from the meeting so the committee could discuss the MSP and call committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Bailey  
Secretary Church Council

## Minutes of the Fellowship Committee

### Meeting via Zoom on August 18, 2020

**Attending:** LuAnn Snyder (Chair), Cindy Schuster, Carlene Falos, Judy Bailey, Judy Batterman, Pat Dewald, Linda Carlson

**Devotions:** Judy Bailey

### Future Event – Virtual Scavenger Hunt – October, 2020

1. We had in-depth discussion about details of the virtual scavenger hunt. LuAnn has learned that we may use Facebook as our platform, but we must make our own Facebook page. Kathleen Simley has agreed to send out the invitation to participate in the hunt, and to take care of publicity. Part of the directions will be that, in order to gain access, First Lutheran members will have to “Like” our Facebook page. Of course, non-members may do the same and join us.
2. Our instructions will ask each participant to select 10 items of the 15 or more that are listed, and to post immediately any that they complete. They/we will have fourteen (14) days to complete the hunt. If there are members who cannot or do not wish to use Facebook, they are welcome to take pictures and to send them by email.
3. The following items were generated by the committee. We will make a final list at our September meeting.

Take pictures of yourself with/doing the following:

- Following a Labyrinth walk
- Donating food to the food pantry
- Next to one of the Lincoln art sculptures (open hands, bicycle, heart, light bulb)
- Baby picture of yourself
- Flower garden
- Thimble
- An inspirational note you have written in chalk on someone’s driveway
- Eating ice cream in a creative way
- Photo with a friend
- Clothespin
- Clothesline
- Landline phone
- Jack-o-Lantern,
- Cross
- A pet
- Someone juggling
- You doing your favorite hobby
- You or someone on a bridge

4. We would like for the invitation and article about the scavenger hunt to appear in “First Things First” for two weeks prior to the start of the Virtual Scavenger Hunt (September 16 and 23). The hunt itself would take place between Wednesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 21. LuAnn will contact all church staff about our plans.

**Our next meeting:** Pat Dewald will set up our Zoom meeting for **Tuesday, September 15**, at 5:30.

**September Devotions:** Pat Dewald

Submitted by Linda Carlson, Secretary

August 26, 2020

Stewardship Zoom Meeting---attending were Byron Fischer, Mark Wemhoff, Teresa Brohimer, Tyler Mainquist, Linda Bogenreif & Pastor Justin. Jeff Bielenberg was absent.

The annual stewardship letter (Celebrating God's Faithfulness) was in the Voice today. The church office will be sending a hard copy of the letter to the 50-60 members who do not receive electronic communication. Several people offered to help the office stuff the envelopes for these members if needed. Pastor Justin advised that he plans to focus on stewardship in one of the upcoming Children's Sermons.

Pastor advised that Kathleen was in the process of scheduling the video interviews. Byron added that the interview with the Lutheran Food Pantry is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00. There was a discussion on the donation of \$500 to the Lutheran Food Pantry. Pastor advised that he would authorize a check to be made out to the Pantry. Kathleen will pick it up and deliver it to St. Andrews during her interview. Linda advised that Karen Lenzen will be the person giving the 150<sup>th</sup> history in place of Judy Batterman.

Byron shared that Kathleen advised that she would work on the 2020 Pledge Commitment Form and 2020 Adult Discipleship Plan this weekend and they should go live by Tuesday night September 2nd.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00. The purpose will be to review what went right, what maybe didn't go so well & what new ideas could possibly be considered for next year.

Mark Wemhoff  
Stewardship Committee Chair

**Worship and Music Committee**  
**August 25, 2020**

Attendees: Boyd, Masako, Judy, Gordon, Pastor Justin, Bonita, Priscilla, Jan, Martha

Meeting topic: updates on livestreaming plan and rehearsal

- Camera has been mounted on north corner of balcony; may need additional camera near pulpit to see choir and organ
- **Livestreaming rehearsal is September 3 at 6:30pm** (this committee, council, staff) – some in person and some on livestream. Reflection afterwards in Activity Center in person & over Zoom (~7:15pm)
- First livestream service will be September 13 (w/o in-person congregation for now); broadcast live at 8:15 a.m., recording available immediately afterward
- Have been working on modified liturgy:
  - Keep communion at end, then congregants leave sanctuary – will practice in rehearsal
  - Want to make sure congregants can participate actively, not just watch/listen – sign language responses, spoken responses, hum
  - New words in liturgy about how we are all one even if not physically together
  - Keep to 35-40 minutes total
- Staffing for livestream:
  - Preacher, other pastor assisting, reader, cantor, Masako on organ
  - People can indicate interest in other roles as part of discipleship plan, won't schedule yet
  - Cantor will be only vocal music for now – cantors scheduled through October; cantor will stand on lectern side in front of first pew facing away from people
  - Judy starting to recruit readers, has schedule ready through October, will sent out after 9/3 rehearsal
  - Can readers, other participants bring family members? OK if we are in yellow zone
- Can drop pre-recorded video into livestream as needed
- Other thoughts for future in-person worship:
  - People could watch livestream from outside then come in at end for communion
  - Have ushers fill seats from front pew back, guide people to designated seating areas
  - For communion, pastor cleans hands, puts on gloves; pastor masked. Congregants receive wafer, pre-filled cup of wine or juice from trays. Will try communion during rehearsal but otherwise won't do until worshipping in person
- Boyd and Brian Niebhur have looked into A/V possibilities for parking lot activities; got AM transmitter, covers parking lot (on unused AM frequency=1680, doesn't require license); could use for mid-week service, fellowship

Next meeting will be livestream rehearsal on September 3 at 6:30pm