

FIRST EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2019

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

So, I have been thinking a lot about birds lately which is not unusual. I love birds. Our time away at the cabin allowed me listen to the loons calling to each other on the lake. On my walk one day I heard a noise from the branches of the tree and right in front of me an eagle flew directly by my face. On my walks early in the morning I hear the birds singing, rain or shine and most of the times I don’t even see where they are perched. This morning a little chickadee was trying to grab something off the branch of my morning glories. Humming birds are all over grabbing what they can from a flower or feeders. In their own special and unique way they are beautiful. Birds remind me of the beauty of all of creation in their small and large beauty and strength. The bible quotes birds 102-108 times! Even Jesus speaks about how God cares for them.

For me, birds work hard and never seem to give up hope. I assume that we could find ourselves in each one of the birds at different times. It tells me a glory and joy in the smallest of creatures which God cares about, and we could say the same goes for us. Whether we are rich or poor, on top of the world or sad, male or female, weak or strong, young or old we are special children of God. And He cares.

This September at the church brings excitement and a flurry of events. Please take note of many activities that will be begin and continue as we go forward loved and forgiven so that all can be granted salvation.

God’s Work, Our Hands will be celebrated on September 8th with projects that will continue throughout the month. Bring your backpacks, and your kids as well to be blessed September 8th as well. The community meal will be celebrated and lifted up on September 10th. Wednesday worship at 7 pm will begin again on September 4th. Confirmation begins with worship at 7 pm and orientation following on September 11th. Agape will lead the Kettle River Conference Confirmation Kick-off on September 25th, with students here at First Lutheran with games at 5:30 and worship at 7 pm. The Kettle River Conference WELCA meeting will be here at the church on September 26th. Faith In Action will begin on September 18th. Come and hear about the kids Mission Trip to Chicago on Sunday, September 16th as the youth share their experiences.

Are you interested in attending a seminar on “Cultivating Generous Congregations?” Please consider being on this team as we all in gratitude give back to God who gives us all.

Stop, look and listen in this beautiful time in the last weeks of summer and the beginning of another phase of our season, our creation and our life in Christ. How blessed continue to be as God showers us with his love, grace and gifts. Much is going on and we may need the energy of the different birds, I mean people to participate in this wild wonderful life in Christ.

Just like the birds.....

Peace,

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6:26



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Sanctuary-August 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers, claimed by Christ Jesus;

Our fifteen Northeastern Minnesota Synod Voting members, along with 950 plus others across the ELCA are to be commended for their faithful discernment, prayer and deliberations at the Church wide Assembly in Milwaukee. In addition to my own comments on our Synod Website and Face Book page, and weekly Onlines, this church we belong to is reflecting on and in conversation about our worship, prayer, celebrations, Bible Study and significant work we did.

One of the decisions made was to declare the ELCA a Sanctuary Denomination. It was made the same day I, and 700 plus others from our Assembly walked to the Homeland Security Office to pray and protest inhumane treatment of refugee families. There was significant conversation surrounding this vote and I voted in favor of the resolution for reasons that have to do with who our ultimate loyalty belongs to, Jesus. There is a tremendous amount of thankfulness by many in our church over this, and there are those who are troubled by it – just like every time a Church Body comes together to speak publically about how Christian faith might be lived out for the sake of the world. At this particular moment in the life of our Country, divided in more hurtful and back-biting ways that I've seen in my lifetime, it is especially important that the gospel which sets us free, the good news of Jesus Christ, the wonderfully “scandalous” love for all people – no exceptions, does not find its “light” under some “bushel” but placed in broad view, on the “lamp stand” for all to see.

(Our Lord's words in Matthew 5: 14-16)

Our Denomination, the ELCA has been intelligently and faithfully involved in helping with immigration issues and refugee resettlement for 80 years. We are one of the “go-to” organizations our own Government turns to for help. Through LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) at the end of World War II, concrete help has been given to Lutherans and all others for resettlement. This is not a new thing for us, and pray it never will be! Our immigration system is broken and Congress seems incapable of fixing it. But the Body of Christ does not depend on any one person, or Government to do its calling in the world; Serve the neighbor with the same love God has served us.

We committed as a church to walk alongside families fleeing violence, through AMMPARO (Accompanying migrant Minors with Protection Advocacy and Opportunities) like the ones we have come to know personally through our own Synod's relationship with the Lutheran church in Honduras. I'm going with a delegation to Honduras again this October for accompaniment, relationship building, worship and sharing insights on Lutheran Ethics and Pastoral Care. We have come to know the truth – on the ground- that Central America families are running for their lives to our Country for safely.

I know some are confused by what has happened with the Sanctuary vote. The constant stream of today's social media fear and misinformation like that of the Fox News story after Assembly and growing America Hate Groups fueling White Supremacy doesn't help, but clouds Christ's claim on us. Lutherans can and should dialog about issues – we are good at that, knowing that no one can claim perfect answers to the issues of our day. But our framework is that of the Jesus, and his Gospel, nothing else. And that gospel does not allow for degrading people or ignoring refugee's dire plight or pretending there simply isn't “enough” for all to flourish in this world. We are still conversing together as a church concerning what being a Sanctuary Body will continue to mean for us because we've already been doing it for years. It does mean we will find ways to continue to advocate for refugees and asylum seekers in ministering to human need.

Again, The Church wide Assembly did not call for any illegal actions, all actions mentioned by the Church wide Assembly are legal and whether any person chooses to engage in civil disobedience (and therefore accept the

consequences) is up to them; We are invited to think, pray, and talk together about how each of us will live out Christ, whom the Holy Spirit is forming in us daily. There will be various ways congregations and individuals will live into this decision. God's love has its way of working into our souls, when we know it, and even when we don't, thank God!

The passionate Danish Lutheran pastor, Kaj Munk, who was assassinated by the Nazis because of his commitment to Christ and the neighbor in WWII wrote these words that both cheer me and haunt me: "...Remember, the signs of the Christian Church have been the Lion, the Lamb, the Dove and the Fish, but never the *chameleon*." We love, period. We love all because Christ has first loved us. That claim on our life doesn't change no matter what the difficult current social issue is.

In the Spirit of Luther who wrote in the Freedom of the Christian (1520):

"Behold from faith flows love that serves one's neighbor and takes no account of gratitude or ingratitude, praise or blame, gain or loss..... because God's love makes us free"

+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken



Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a church wide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's church wide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a "sanctuary church body," encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's Thursdays in Black, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Church wide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.



Prayer Concerns ~ (Names will be on for one month unless requested longer.) Prayer Concerns ~ (Names will be on for one month unless requested longer.) John Jabe, Leigha Ness (Pastor Brenda's great-niece), Larry Garaghty, Judy Oredson, Debbie Amerine (niece of Joyce Seegebarth), Barbara Ekberg (sister of Loretta Sprado), Terry McConnell and Joseph McConnell (Grandson of Terry McConnell).

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins, Nancy Nelson, Freida Pfahl, and Max Tatting
For our missionaries Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



We pray for those men and women who serve and protect us: Firefighters, EMT's, those in the armed forces and law enforcement officers.



September

9/1 Donna Anderson
9/2 Cody Dunkley
 Ryan Dunkley
9/3 Blake Blowers
 Lisa Blowers
9/4 Matt Bloom
9/6 Braxton Barnes
9/7 Jenny Richards
9/8 Brianna Schultz
9/9 Christy Koch
 Virgil Seegebarth†

9/10 Liz Conway
 Heather Ladd
 Allie Miller
 Jon Youngblom †
9/11 Weston DeRungs
9/13 Kenna Barnick
 Mackenize Lange
9/14 Joshua Bloom
 Kim Lindner
9/17 Adam Nelson
 Savanna St. Clair

9/19 Cheryl Cabak
 Stephen Lewis
9/20 Mason Ferguson
 Robin Hendrix
9/21 Kelsey Jensen
 Joe Cappuccino †
9/22 Kasey Bork
9/26 Alison Mans
9/27 Jeff Mans
9/28 Carolyn Bassett
9/29 Gerald Trott

†Octogenarians *Please let us know if there are any corrections or additions. Thank You!



Baptized Sunday, August 18th were Scarlett Vivian Maser and Mara Irene Maser. Daughters of Mark and Stephanie Maser. Sponsors are, Ava Blowers, Ben and Lisa Blowers and Abigail Mathiason.

Congregational representatives are, Ben and Lisa Blowers.

We welcome Scarlett and Mara, into the family of God, at First Lutheran.



We express our Christian sympathy to the families of Dorothy Rauta (mother of Judy Koste) and Darla-Rae Amundson (past youth directory at First Lutheran) on the death of their loved ones. May our God of hope and comfort surround these families with His love and give them peace that only He can give.

Remember if you cannot serve, to please find your own substitute. Thank You!

September 2019	Lector	Assistant	Acolyte	Element Presenters	Coffee Servers
1 Sun. (green)	Carole Lahti	Ann Mans	Cody Klein Evelyn Klein	Kevin and Nancy Stephenson	Jerry & Linda Trott
4 Wed. (green)	Youth	Youth	Kenna Johnson		
8 Sun. (green)	Diane Ausmus	Deanna Gorseger	Delany Olson Gavin Olson	Dennis and Colleen Volden	Charles & Ann Mans
11 Wed. (green)	Youth	Youth	Mac Storlie		
15 Sun. (green)	Chuck Mans	Wendy Reamer- Johnson	Corrina Tvedt Griffin Steil	Larry and Gracie Edin	Jodie Storlie
18 Wed. (green)	Youth	Youth	Bryan Blowers		
22 Sun. (green)	Linda Libra	Christie Dunkley	Payton Linder Dana Marks	Ron and Lana Jensen	Elsie Dieter
25 Wed. (green)	Youth	Youth	Devon Mulder		
29 Sun. (green)	Rev. Jack Koch	Robin Hendrix	Bella Zeigler Alyssa Alexander	Jim and Diane Ausmus	Juanita & Shawna Grice

Greeters



Sept. 1-Duane Palmer

Sept. 8-Larry and Gracie Edin

Sept. 15-Christie Dunkley

Sept. 22-DJ and Becky Grote

Sept. 29-????

Altar Guild



Kathryn Souer

Lana Jensen

All Board Meeting



**6:30 September 23
Education/Youth &
Family Board
Devotions**



Out To Lunch Bunch
September 11th
11 am

Creekside-Rush City



**Jim Ausmus
Rick Dunkley**



**Community Meal
and Farmer's Market**
September 10th
5-6 pm



September 4th
Octogenarian Luncheon at 11:30 AM
Final Score, Hinckley

**WELCA will pay for the lunch of choice, for those 80 yrs. and over,
whose birthday falls between July 1st and December 31st.**

Everyone is welcome to join us.

We have a great time enjoying the fellowship.

Blessings

COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

2 Corinthians 9:10 The Message (MSG)

As the summer winds down we all give thanks for the time away, the break in the normal and the time spent with family and friends. As the Apostle Paul writes, God is extravagant with us and his many blessings he gives us. Food, shelter, family and friends and most of all, a place to praise and worship God, to be forgiven, hear the word preached, and to spread the Good News of salvation for all people.

We have many programs and great ministries going on here at the church and this is wonderful. So many lives changed and affected when we are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. This is for the young, the old, and the in-between faith is being formed. The reality is these programs cost, the building costs and some workers in the kingdom are paid to spread this generous God's salvation, love and grace.

Our Church Council reviews and manages the finances of First Evangelical Church and I give thanks for the work that they do. We would like to give thanks to each and every person for their generosity that they have given. That comes in many ways, prayer, time or monies for the Kingdom of God at First Evangelical Church here in Hinckley, MN. Yet, we have a shortfall at this point in the year.

This is a gentle nudge to those that could help with this shortfall and at the same time, we are aware in these times it may be difficult for many. We give thanks to each and every person that gives what they can in the work or monies they give.

God truly is extravagant with his love for us and all we receive via his blessings to us in our everyday lives. He is generous and asks us to be as well. As we worship and experience grace in the resurrection of Jesus Christ may you live in gratitude and generosity.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 The Message (MSG)

In Gratitude,

Ron Jensen, Chair of Council

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

First Lutheran Church Council



YOUTH MINISTRY & MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

Workshops...

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod Youth Ministry & Health Initiative Workshops will provide education and resources on our primary focus for the Initiative; Anxiety, Depression, Suicide Prevention and Response, and Grief. Mental Wellbeing practices and resources will be part of each workshop, along with helpful tips on how to use the NE MN Synod Mental Health Discussion Guides. Workshops will be led by local mental health professionals and Joy Hensel, Program Consultant for the initiative.

Each workshop included two sessions – come for a full day, or just morning or afternoon session!

Registration cost per workshop, includes both sessions and lunch.

\$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per congregational team. REGISTER NOW!

WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Workshop One: Anxiety and Depression-

September 28, 2019: Hermantown

Grace Lutheran Church, 5454 Miller Trunk Hwy, Hermantown, MN 55811

Speakers ☐Anxiety and Depression: Emily Jacobsma, MSW, LICSW (ER Crisis Psychotherapist)
 ☐Depression: Dr. Ryan Jagim, PhD, Licensed Psychologist

October 1, 2019: Brainerd

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 – 8th Ave NE, Brainerd, MN 56435

Speakers ☐Anxiety and Depression: Emily Jacobsma, MSW, LICSW (ER Crisis Psychotherapist)

Workshop Two: Suicide and Grief

October 12, 2019, Brainerd

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 – 8th Ave NE, Brainerd, MN 56435

Speakers ☐TBD

October 29, 2019: Duluth

Elim Lutheran Church, 6101 Cody St., Duluth, MN 56435

Speakers ☐Suicide Prevention and Grief: Gina Dixon, MA, Licensed Psychologist (Program Manager, Essential Health, St. Mary's Grief Support Services)
 ☐Rev. Stacey Jutila, Chaplaincy Services, Essentia

9:00am Registration for Full Day
 Or Session One

9:30am Session One
 September 28th & October 1st: Anxiety

12:00pm Lunch

12:45pm Registration for Session Two

1:00pm Session Two
 September 28th & October 1st: Depression
 October 12th & 29th: Grief

3:30pm Depart



Women's Bible Study's ongoing mission project.

We ask members to join us and bring **Socks** during the month of **September** for homeless packets. Please put them in the basket marked "Homeless Packets" in the cabinet in Narthex.
Thank You.



***Breakfast, Bibles and Blessings
will not take place in October due to the Women's
Retreat.***

Please join us for the Retreat



***2019 Woman's Retreat
"Where Friends Gather"***



***Proverbs 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the
heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.***

Dates: October 4th-October 6th

Friday October 4th - arrival time 7:00 pm until ???

Sunday October 6th - departure time 2:00 pm

Cost: \$80.00 per person includes lodging and meals.

Friends are such a monumental blessing in our lives. The focus of this retreat is to take the time to acknowledge those friends who have made a positive difference to us. Another goal is to also realize how we can impact others with our friendship. After renewing our spirits with the reminders of the joys that friendship can bring, we can take that home with us and put God's love into action.

This retreat will take place on the beautiful shores of Stoney Lake at Camp Patmos in Hackensack, MN. Flyers are on the Usher's table.

***We ask that you bring a snack to share or if you have dietary restrictions to bring your own food.

Address is 4384 44th St NW Hackensack, MN 56452 Website: www.camp-patmos.org



Woman's Retreat- Where Friends Gather



Date: October 4th, 5th, and 6th.
Friday, October 4th -arrive time 7 pm until ?????
Sunday, October 6th -departure time 2 p.m.

Cost: \$ 80.00 per person includes lodging and meals.

*****We ask that you bring a snack to share or if you have dietary restrictions to bring your own food.*****

**Address is 4384-44th Street NW
Hackensack, MN 56452**

Website: www.camp-patmos.org

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Lodging Requests:

Cabin- groups 4 to 8

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Retreat Center-

Single Room

Double Room

3 people

4 people

Please send in your registration sheet with your \$80.00 (check payable to First Lutheran) to First Lutheran church at 301 Lawler Ave S. Hinckley, MN 55037 OR drop of at the church office. Any questions call the church at 320-384-6393.

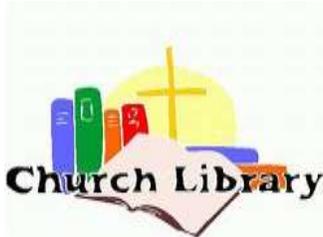
New Books...

****Donated in memory of Gail Sutera (by Library Committee)***

Wild About Birds, MN DNR
Landscaping for Wildlife, MN DNR
Woodworking for Wildlife, MN DNR
The Lutheran Study Bible
Dead Sea Rising, Jerry Jenkins

Other Books

A Girl's Guide to Making Really Good Choices, Elizabeth George
A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices, Jim George
Handcrafted - A Woodworker's Story, Clint Harp
Searching for Sunday, Rachael Held Evans



DVD'S

Family Collector's Set
Explorer (Superbook) Vol. 21



Cemetery has new Facebook page!
Like it!



September 8th
Wear Church Shirts
Pizza Lunch after Worship
10:30-11:15 am
Service Projects
11:15 am -2:30 pm



*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and
great shall be the peace of your children.*

Isaiah 54:13

Faith in Action:

We will be starting another year of FiA on September 18th ☺ As always we can use volunteers in any way you may feel able. All signup sheets, registration forms and information are on table in the narthex. Please invite every child you know to be a part of our program.

**FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEER MEETING Wednesday September 11th at 6:00
EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN US!!**

Student Leadership Team:

Applications are available to all 9th – 12th graders for the Student leadership team. Youth who are selected will be trained to help plan and lead our Youth and Family Ministry activities. We will also be taking applications to serve on the boards and a youth representative for church council. Please pray for these youth as we prepare them to become leaders in the church and the community. Applications will be on Youth bulletin board.

September 15th – Mission trip presentation during worship.

Sunday School: Kick off date will be September 22nd. We will need volunteers to teach.

Youth Group:

Youth Group this year will be Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 for 7th – 12th graders. All youth and their friends are welcome. We will be doing bible lessons, service projects and fun activities. If you are interested in helping in any way please let me know. We are also planning a monthly youth group – peer ministry training.

Feed My Starving Children and Valleyfair: October 12th – We will leave at 7:30 am and return at midnight cost for Valleyfair will be \$35. Dinner provided, but please bring money for lunch stop. Limited spaces available so please sign up on the youth bulletin board



The Stewardship / Evangelism Board has been working on a new church directory. Phase One - a name and address listing will be available soon. Phase Two - pictures! along with the most current name and address listing.

In September, Kathryn Souer will have her camera set up before and after church. Stop by the stained glass window in the narthex to get your picture taken! Alternately, you may e-mail a picture to firstlcdirectory@gmail.com. To be included in this publication, all updates and pictures must be received by October 15, 2019.

First Lutheran Church
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Hinckley, MN 55037

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