**First EDITION**

**APRIL 2024**

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

A welcome sign with flags

Description automatically generated



**We welcome Pastor Erik Rundquist and his family to our family at First Lutheran Church.**



A door with a metal railing

Description automatically generatedMany gifts….

Our railing~info from Betty Reiter-

“\*Mom thought it would be good to have a place to set things while opening the door. She had it built and installed after asking permission.”

\*Doris Ohnstad.

A light on a pole

Description automatically generated

Our parking lot across the street is lit up at night=thanks to Leona Sewall, who arranged for it to be installed, and given in memory of her late husband, Bud.

Many thanks….

A hands holding a pile of objects

Description automatically generated



**The Noisy Offering for APRIL goes for the “Altar Guild”.**

**A picture containing flower, handwriting, text, embroidery

Description automatically generated**



**We express our Christian sympathy to the family of John Seegebarth (son of Virgil and Joyce Seegebarth). May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.**

**Text

Description automatically generated with low confidencePrayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~Craig Moline (son of Sharol Huggett), David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Lana Jensen, Judy Smith, and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeney)

**For firefighters, EMT’s, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace**. **For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



Logo

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Women’s ongoing mission project-**

We ask members to join us and bring **Deodorant** during the month of **April** for the homeless.

Please put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in the Narthex.



A group of colorful tulips

Description automatically generated

*Kettle River Conference*

*Spring Gathering*

*Saturday, April 13*

*8:30 am with suggested donation of $10 to cover lunch and Conference expenses.*

*Emmanuel Dell Grove Lutheran, Sandstone*

*Theme: Reflecting God’s Light Through Justice”*

*Verse: Isaiah 1:31 “And the strong shall be as a wick and the maker of it as a spark. And they shall both burn together and none shall quench them.”*

*Program by Wendy Reaner Johnson, “It only Takes a Spark.”*

*In-kind-gifts will be accepted for LWR Health Care Kits, Silent Auction, Offerings will go ½ shipping costs for LWR kits and quilts and ½ to Churchwide. Penny offering from local units is for Family Pathways Food Shelf. Love offerings and other Synodical Fund offerings can be brought to this gathering also.*

A logo with a cross and a lake

Description automatically generated*Until All Are Fed*

NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA

2024 Summer Convention/Gathering

Monday, June 10- Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN

If interested, you can pick up forms and information in the office.

A stethoscope with blue text

Description automatically generated



A group of women standing in front of a yellow circle with text

Description automatically generatedWomen on a Mission and the Faith Community Nurse will be collecting donations of any unwanted or unused medical supplies for Global Health. Crutches, slings, dressings, walkers, canes etc.

**NO MEDICATIONS!!** Drop off at the Church and put in Women on a Mission closet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!





A logo with text and a cross

Description automatically generated

**Evangelism/Stewardship Board meeting**

Logo, company name

Description automatically generated**Tuesday, April 2nd at 11:15 am.**



Please Join us for the Community Meal

5-6 pm on April 2nd.

(Served by Amy Johnson family)

**A picture containing text

Description automatically generated**



**NO WOMEN’S RUTH BIBLE STUDY**

**MONDAY APRIL 8TH!**

A white and red sign with black text

Description automatically generated**Out to Lunch Bunch April 18th is at the Fiesta Cancun Mexican Restaurant in Rush City.**

**11 am Meet at church to carpool to Rush City.**

Text

Description automatically generated



The Faith Community Nurse will be doing blood pressure checks for anyone who would like one, Sunday, April 21st during Coffee Fellowship.



A purple and white sign

Description automatically generated

**The May Newsletter Deadline needs to be in by 9 am on Monday, April 22nd.**



A sign with text and a red circle

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The [Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign](about:blank)brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over $18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund.

The Food Shelf does receive food distribution from Second Harvest Food Bank weekly, but Sandstone Food Shelf depends on and is grateful for food and monetary donation-personal or businesses. March is specified ad Food & Fund Drive month. Some suggested donations are personal care items (shampoo, body wash, conditioner, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc.); baking items (flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, etc.); Ramen noodles; Cereal.

The Evangelism/Stewardship board will have donation bags for your convenience, if desired.  Please place your donations of non-perishable food in the box marked "Food Shelf" in the narthex **or** place your monetary donations in your offering envelope and check the food shelf box and write "food shelf" on the memo line of your check. There will be a large "thermometer" in the narthex also to track our progress toward our goal of 500 pounds of donations.  All food will go directly to the Sandstone shelf.  Let's exceed that goal like we did last year.



A group of people eating at a table

Description automatically generated**Congregational Fellowship meal Sunday, April 28th after Worship.**

**Hope to see you there!**

A colorful music notes and a logo

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceSWEET SUMMER SOUNDS 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | BAND | MUSIC TYPE |
| June 6th | Whiskey River Downstream | Classic Country |
| June 13 | The Strolling Clones | Rolling Stones & 70’s  Cover tunes |
| June 20 | 2nd Time Around Band | Assorted 50’s |
| June 27 | New Riverside Ramblers | Cajun/Zydeco |
| July 4 | Tim Hadler & Rose Family | Pop County |
| July 12-13 | Corn and Clover Carnival | |
| July 18 | Jolly Huntsmen | Polka & Old Time |
| July 25 | Debbie O’Keefe w Hot Toddies | Big Band, Blues, Pop |
| August 6 | White Sidewalls  (National Night Out) | 50-60’s Rock n Roll |



A hand putting envelope into a bowl

Description automatically generatedThe **TOTAL** amount for the congregation’s monthly giving for the “general” fund,

for February was $12,387.56.

This does ***NOT*** include any “special” giving to

other funds.

Kathy, Financial Secretary



Youth and Family News!

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

***Isaiah 54:13*****Faith in Action and Youth Group:** Reminder that Faith in Action will be every Wednesday night from 5-6:30 pm and youth group will be from 7–8 pm and will follow the same schedule as FiA.

**St. Patrick’s dinner:**  Thank you to all who supported the youth – it was a great fundraiser to support youth mission trip.

**Pool/Gym Night for Confirmation and FiA. Wednesday, April 3rd -**meet at 5 pm for dinner at church, walk to school, parents pick up youth at 6:20 pm at school.

**Twins Game, Sunday, April 21st -**after Worship. Cost $13 and sign-up on youth bulletin board.

**“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say, how you live, how you love and what you believe” Timothy 4: 12**

*April Birthday's*

**4/1 Peggy Smith**

**4/2 Arabella Carlsen**

**Robert Lindner**

**4/4 Deby Volk**

**4/5 Katie Hartl**

**Kathryn Souer**

**4/6 Ben Blowers**

**4/7 Ann Mans**

**4/8 Henry Hartl**

**Aaron Mulder**

**Marie Snell**

**Nancy Stephenson**

**4/13 Mindy Johnson**

**Oswyn Klapel**

**4/14 Kon Bergum ✝**

**Jordan Chose**

**Shirley Terell ✝**

**4/16 Lyrik Hippen**

**Colleen Volden**

**Jonnne Tenquist ✝**

**4/17 Alec Leibel**

**4/18 Bryan Gorsegner**

**4/20 Brittyn Stiel**

**4/21 Alex Leger**

**4/23 Peter Thorvig**

**4/25 Haylee Grice**

**4/28 Leo Zaudtke**

**4/29 Melody Hippen**

**4/30 Brittany Lindner**

✝ **Octogenarians**

**Please let us know if there are any corrections or additions.**

**Thank You!**

A group of cupcakes with candles

Description automatically generated

***SCHEDULE FOR APRIL***

***Remember if you cannot serve, to please find your***

***own substitute. Thank You.***

***Acolytes***

*Sunday, April 7-Amanda Olson*

*Sunday, April 14-Claire Linden*

*-Maddie Anderson*

*Sunday, April 21- Jaeden Blesener*

*-*

*Sunday, April 28 – Thomas Wachsmuth*

*-*

***Wednesday Confirmation Parent Assist***

*Confirmands meet with Lenten Faith Mentors until end of March.*

***Lectors***

*Sunday, April 7-Carole Lahti*

*Sunday, April 14-Diane Ausmus*

*Sunday, April 21- Donna Wachsmuth*

*Sunday, April 28 – Paul Olson*

***Kitchen Cleaning*-** *Kathy and Ashley Thompson*

***Ushers*-***Troy Tvedt and Jamie Johnson*

***Altar-*** *N/A*



**Women’s Bible Study’s** **ongoing mission project**.

We ask members to join us and bring a **granola bars** during the month of **May** for homeless packets. Please put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in Narthex.

Thank You.



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **April2024**  \*\*Subject to Change\*\*  **Worship Service is available Live on Facebbok, You Tube, and Website.**  **Wednesday Night Youth Schedule (see below)** | | | | | | |
| **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** |
|  | 1 | 2 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  11:15 am  Evangelism/  Stewardship Board mtg.  5-6 PM  Community Meal | 3 11 am Staff mtg.  5 pm Confirmation/FiA  Pool/Gym Nite-Dinner, Walk to school/pickup @6:20 at school.  6:30 pm Worship/HC | 4  7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s Text Study | 5 | 6  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 7  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Worship/HC | 8  Church Office Retreat-  Camp Onomia  2 pm-2pm Mon./Tues.  NO Women’s Ruth Bible Study  5:30 pm All Boards | 9    9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 10  6:30 pm Worship/HC | 11  7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s Text Study  Youth Ministry training-Mindy | 12 | 13  8:30 am  Kettle River Spring Conference-Dell Grove Lutheran  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 14  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Worship/HC/  Bells | 15 | 16  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 17  9 am Library  6:30 pm Worship/HC | 18 7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s Text Study  9:30 am Quilting | 19 | 20    8 pm AA mtg. |
| 21  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship with BP √;  9:30 am First Word Worship  Church Council  Twins game after Worship | 22  **May**  **Newsletter**  **Deadline** | 23  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 24  6:30 pm  Worship/HC | 25 7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s  Text Study  Out to Lunch Bunch, Mexican Restaurant, Rush City  Meet @ 11 am at church. | 26 | 27  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 28  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Sunday Worship/HC  Congregational  Fellowship Meal after Worship | 29 | 30  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | **Wednesday Night Youth Schedule**  **April 3-Confirmation/FiA-Pool/Gym nite.**  **Meet @ 5 pm @ church -Dinner-walk to school-pickup at 6:20 pm**  **at school.**  4:30 pm FiA Choir (k-6).  5-6:30 pm FiA  5:30 -6 pm Confirmation Dinner  6 pm Large Group Confirmation  6:30 pm Worship/HC  7 pm Small Group Confirmation  7:30 pm Youth Group | | | |

**Council Minutes January 14th, 2024**

**Those present:** Rick Bicking, Rick Dunkley, Nancy Stephenson, Kevin Stephenson, Robin Hendrix, Tom Wachsmuth, Donna Wachsmuth, Dwaine Palmer, Paul Shober, Amy Tvedt, Mindy Johnson.

**Call to Order:** 10:30 AM. We were led in devotions by Dwaine.

**Secretary Minutes:** motion to accept the minutes made by Kevin, second by Dwaine, motion carried.

**Council Special Meeting Minutes:** motion to accept the minutes made by Tom, second by Paul, motion carried. **Financial Secretary’s Report:** motion to accept made by Kevin, second by Dwaine, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rick B. is going to work with Portico to finish the details of the new Pastor’s compensation package and then send it to the Synod.

**Board Reports:** Motion to accept made by Kevin, second by Nancy, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Telephones Update:** Kevin looked at different phones that had the features we want. He will talk to SCI Cable to see if it will work with our existing PBX system.

**Update on Liability for Lawn Mowing:** Cheryl Malm volunteered to mow. Rick D. will check with our insurance for any liability issues.

**Christmas Tree Thank You to Frye’s Farm:** we passed around the card for all of us to sign. Rick D. will bring it to them.

**Garage Door Opener:** Kevin is waiting to hear back on the estimate to have one installed, possibly with a solar panel. He will also look into an estimate for running electricity to the garage so we can also have a light in there. Currently we have only one meter on the church side of the road and the light on the post in the parking lot is billed as a monthly fee.

**Handicap Door Update:** Tom said that St. Germaine received our down payment. Kevin would like to know the ETA for delivery of the door opener so he can let Live Wire know when to come do the electric work. As of now we do not know the delivery date.

**Property/Scott Jensen Repurchase:** we all signed a written action document from First Lutheran. Scott will pay the church $10,000 and also pay the transfer fees.

**Furniture:** New furniture was installed in the Pastor’s office. There will be a large welcome basket in there that we can add to if we wish.

**Lock on Fellowship Door:** during the cold spell the lock froze again and wouldn’t open. It has been repaired several times for this. Tom will have a copy of the front door key made and install a lockbox outside to hold it.

**Corn and Clover Stand:** we have decided to hold off selling the stand and equipment for now.

**NEW BUSINES:**

**Budget:** we passed a proposed 2024 budget that will be brought to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

**Charges and Credit Card Fees:** we discussed that there are actually two fees imposed on donations made with the QR code; one from the company that processes these donations, and one from the bank.

**List of Pastors Available to Preach:** we have Pulpit Supply set up for the next 4 Sundays. Depending on Pastor Erik’s start date we may need more. Robin will make a list of all the available pastors including their phone numbers and emails and send a copy to Rick D. and Donna.

**Old Furniture:** the old furniture from the Pastor’s office and the old chairs from the narthex will be placed on Facebook Marketplace.

**New Council and Board Members:** the Nominating Committee receives the names of those who are interested. We need to clarify whose names will be on the ballot for the annual meeting. We also need to make a list of everyone’s terms so that everyone knows where they stand.

**Parish Nurse Report:** Robin said she has still been busy setting up rides for a member’s son to go to the cities for cancer treatments.

**Director of Youth and Family Ministries Report:** Mindy said she needs mentors for the confirmation students. These mentors will have dinner with and go to services with the confirmation students during lent. Mindy said the Valentine’s Dinner falls on Super Bowl this year. It will have to be held after service that Sunday, or moved to the Sunday before. She will talk to the Youth board about it. January 28th the youth will make and serve egg bakes for a community-building congregational dinner after church

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 with the Lord’s Prayer.

**These notes respectfully submitted by Nancy Stephenson.**

**Council Minutes February 25th, 2024**

**Those present:** Rick Bicking, Rick Dunkley, Nancy Stephenson, Kevin Stephenson, Robin Hendrix, Tom Wachsmuth, Donna Wachsmuth, Paul Shober, Carole Lahti, Kathryn Souer.

**Call to Order:** was at 10:45 AM. We were led in devotions by Rick D.

**Secretary Minutes:** motion to accept the minutes made by Tom, second by Kathryn, motion carried.

**Council Special Meeting Minutes:** motion to accept the minutes made by Tom, second by Paul, motion carried. **Financial Secretary’s Report:** motion to accept made by Carole, second by Kathryn, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rick B. hopes to pass on the treasurer position by April. The open position will be announced to the congregation next Sunday. Motion to accept report made by Tom, second by Paul, motion carried.

**Board Reports:** Motion to accept made by Robin, second by Paul, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Telephones Update:** Kevin said our PBX system is old and to obtain two phone lines will double our cost each month. The infrastructure for a new IP phone system could cost anywhere from $2500 to $4000. Kevin will get a simple phone for the kitchen for now, and the other phones will stay as is.

**Update on Lawn Mowing Liability:** after speaking to our insurance agent, we found that we would be liable if a person who mows for us gets hurt. If we contract this out to a business they are liable for themselves. However, all church members are covered under the blanket of our insurance. If they are not a member we would have to pay for workman’s comp insurance for them. We discussed possibly using a sign-up sheet like we do for shoveling. The property committee will work on the logistics.

**Garage Door Opener and Light:** the opener has been installed with a solar panel for power. Mindy says it has been working great. A motion sensor light was also installed inside the garage.

**Handicap Door Update:** St. Germaine says they now have our opener and they will inform us of when they will be coming to install it. Tom will be here when they arrive. Live Wire Electric will come on Friday to install the electrical wires necessary and run them to our electrical box. Kevin will be here to let them in and remain until they are finished.

**Property/Scott Jensen Repurchase:** Rick D. will get his signature notarized on the official form.

**Update on Pastor’s office remake:** the office has been painted and the new file cabinets have been filled and the new chairs have arrived. Kevin will speak with the new pastor about what type of laptop computer he will need. We reminded everyone that there is a basket in the office in which we can place gifts for the new pastor and his family. We decided to give Pastor three $50 gift certificates from local businesses. Robin will obtain these using money from the Interest account. Motion made by Carole, second by Kathryn, motion carried.

**Discussion about Fence:** Scott Jensen said that Hopkins Sand and Gravel have offered to donate concrete blocks. They will be stacked two high for a total of 4 feet. Motion to proceed and have these become our fence made by Tom, second by Kathryn, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINES:**

**Church Directory:** Our directory has cost $99 per year, which has been paid for by Betty Reiter. The church will continue the directory and now pay for it out of the office supplies budget. Motion made by Robin, second by Nancy, motion carried.

**Church sign:** someone sole the antenna. Rick B. put on a new one, and Tom will put some Locktite on it.

**Communication:** church council and boards need to communicate with the office staff on what is happening. We are hoping that when the new pastor arrives that communication lines will improve.

**Webpage Update:** it is being worked on and should be ready by mid-March.

**Church Office Staff Retreat:** is being held April 8-9 at a cost of $50. Donna and Kathy would like to attend. There are funds available for staff training, including mileage. Motion to send them made by Robin, second by Paul, motion carried.

**Painting the Narthex:** Tom said that Britany will paint the Narthex. We will pay her $25/hr as before. There is still leftover paint. Motion made to do so by Tom, second by Robin, motion carried.

**Church Income Updates to the Congregation:** Kathy T. could put our weekly income in the bulletin, or we could put it on screen, or on our website. Kathryn S. will speak with her.

**Audit:** Robin will contact a CPA so we can obtain a complete audit.

**Healing Service:** we discussed whether we will be having one this lent, and we decided to table it for this year since it would be during the very first week that the new pastor would be starting.

**Council Meeting with Pastor Erik.** Tom suggested we meet with pastor as a group to address things. We will make a list of topics at the next council meeting and schedule a meeting with him after Easter.

**Parish Nurse Report:** Robin said she has still been busy setting up rides for medical appointments.

**Director of Youth and Family Ministries Report:** please see her report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 with the Lord’s Prayer.

**These notes respectfully submitted by Nancy Stephenson.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Financial Report for February 2024

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budget** | **YTD actual** | **Last Year** |
| **YTD Income** | **$38,903** | **$24,941** | **$26,248** |
| **YTD Expenses** | **$37,333** | **$21,004** | **$18,469** |

**Office Hours:**

Mindy Johnson, Director of Youth, Family and Education-call 320-384-6393

[firstlcyouthdirector@scicable.com](about:blank)

Donna Martin, Church Secretary: Tuesday-Thursday 9-3

[firstlcsecretary@scicable.com](about:blank)

Kathy Thompson, Financial Secretary: Wednesday & Thursday 9-3

[fincancialsecretary@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com](about:blank)

Rick Bicking, Treasurer: Tues. or call 320-384-6393

[treasurer@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com](about:blank) or [firstlctreasurer@scicable.com](about:blank)

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