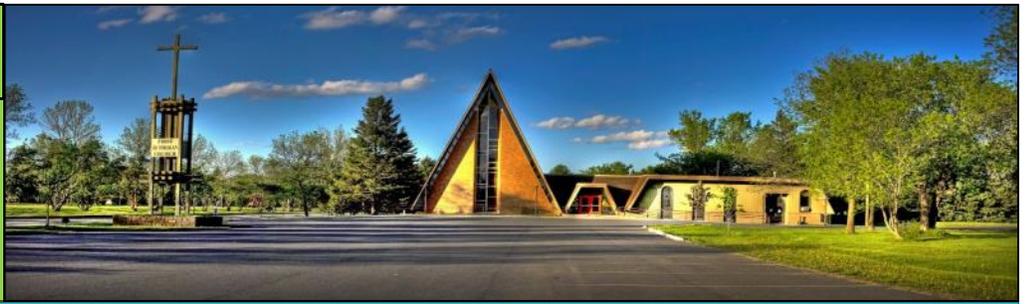


# The Voice

July 2020

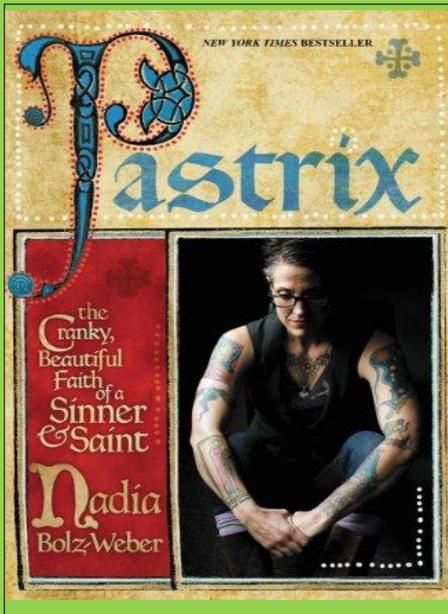


A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the  
Northeastern  
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*



**Kitchen remodel plans  
proposed.  
See details page 9.**



**New digital book club  
planned for July.  
See details page 10.**



The pulpit and altar of the Catholic church at Magdala on the Sea of Galilee. It's the town Mary Magdalene was from, and current archaeological excavations have found the whole city of Magdala, including one of the oldest synagogues in the world.

## Online Worship to Continue with Special Focus on Old Testament

For the next nine weeks, Pastor Erin will continue a sermon series on stories from the Old Testament as a result of many conversations about the Old Testament of the Bible. Parts of the Old Testament are read in worship, but not a lot of time is spent talking about it. However, the Old Testament is a rich source of stories about God and God's people, and can be both comforting and challenging during every season of life.

Usually the readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which Christians around the world use, but for the next nine weeks, that will be set aside temporarily to look at some of the most foundational stories and verses from the Old Testament.

Pastor Erin says, "I'm excited to explore these stories with you this summer and to hear the wisdom of our ancestors in the faith."

Pastor Erin and the church council are closely monitoring guidelines for returning to in-person worship. We will be continuing online worship for now. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Erin.



*season after*  
**PENTECOST**

*From the Pastor's Desk*

I have always enjoyed creating things. When I was a child, my grandmothers taught me how to cross stitch and knit. I took piano lessons for years and also learned to play the flute, saxophone, and guitar, creating music both by myself and with others. In 4-H I learned how to crochet and weave baskets and decorate cakes with fancy designs. There's something satisfying about taking materials and creating something new out of them, something that wasn't there before.

Creating something good and sturdy is often long, slow work-- I have been working on a blanket since March, and I have no idea when I will be finished with it. But I get just a little bit closer with every stitch. Building and sustaining a community is also long, slow work, built brick by brick, one conversation at a time, one event at a time-- creating connections between one another and working toward a common goal.

For those of us who are used to seeing and spending time with one another every Sunday, this time of pandemic and staying at home has been difficult. You'll see in the newsletter that we're offering several ways to connect to one another in safe ways online. Technology is a gift that can help us remain connected even as we stay physically apart. If anyone needs help connecting to these spaces on the internet, please let me know-- I am more than willing to help figure out any issues you may have.

The church council has put together a Smart Team, which Bishop Tom has directed each congregation to do to look at the procedures and guidelines for when and how to go back to in-person worship safely. I continue to closely watch the data for our county and state, as well as listen to experts on best practices and what we might expect in the coming weeks and months. It's hard to live with uncertainty, with not knowing what the next day or week could bring.

As Lutherans, we are called to live by faith, knowing that each day is a gift, and we are called to take care of the most vulnerable among us. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Erin

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Pastor Erin, Nancy McBride, Nancy Johnson, Fred Wilson, Lloyd Skogstad, Brenda Bertilson, Brenda Sullivan, Ronna MacKay, Ardel Henrickson

**Absent:** BettyJeanne Henrickson

Pastor Erin read an excerpt from "Nadia's Prayer"

## **Pastor's Report:**

- \*Online service going well
- \*Funerals are postponed
- \*Staying in contact with kids
- \*Continuing Ed. – Homiletics online
- \*Pastoral Care – still can't go to Good Sam. Staying in contact with people through phone calls

## **"Motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020 council meeting"**

**Motion by: Nancy Johnson      Second by: Brenda Bertilson**  
**Carried**

**Old Business:** None

## **New Business:**

- \*Talked about how to hold services in future
- \*Task Force to put together reopening protocols – Pastor Erin, Nancy McBride, Ardel Henrickson
- \*Talked about drive-through communion
- \*Will follow 14 days of decline in cases before we look at reopening

**President's Report:** None

**Outreach/Service:** Will try to hold a meeting in June

**Discipleship:** None

**Fellowship:** None

## **Buildings and Grounds:**

- \*Lloyd has been checking on the building
- \*Will be meeting in June
- \*Will begin working on some projects

## **Finance:**

- \*We are doing well. Received the PPE monies

## **"Motion to accept April 30, 2020 Financial Report:"**

**Motion by: Lloyd Skogstad**  
**Second by: Nancy McBride**  
**Carried**

## **Worship and Music:**

- \*Sue Hewitt has been giving Pastor Erin an MP3 with music for service
- \*Choir members have been adding vocals

**Next Meeting:** To be determined

**Pastor: Erin Coutts**

**Office Administrator:**

**Aimee Droba**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday–Friday**

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**218-283-2208**

**[www.firstlutheranifalls.org](http://www.firstlutheranifalls.org)**

**[firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com)**

**Music Ministers:**

**FLC Choir Director:**

**Nancy McBride**

**FLC Organist: Elaine Beach**

**FLC Pianist: Sue Hewitt**

## **Service of the Word: Sunday Worship Services in JULY**

*We will be using this service and these prayers for the month of July. You can participate in our Sunday services any time by going to "Services" on our website: [firstlutheranifalls.org](http://firstlutheranifalls.org), or by watching on our Facebook page at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.*

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

READINGS

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father  
almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's  
only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was  
buried; he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of  
the Father, and he will come to  
judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends with:*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL

## **Hymns and Bible Readings for July Worship**

This month, our walk through the Old Testament continues as we hear some history, proverbs, and the startling words of the prophets.

If you are interested in helping lead worship, please contact Pastor Erin.

### **July 5:**

Judges 4:1-23

Let All Things Now Living ELW #881

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less ELW #596

### **July 12:**

Proverbs 9:1-6, 13-18

Be Thou My Vision ELW #793

Will You Come and Follow Me ELW #798

### **July 19:**

Joel 1:1-10

Great is Thy Faithfulness ELW #733

The Church of Christ, in Every Age ELW #729

### **July 26:**

Amos 5:21-6:7

Crashing Waters at Creation ELW #455

Christ, Be Our Light ELW #715

### **‘Isn’t It Ironic?’ | Church Bloopers That Make You Think**

The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.

The peace making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.





## Welcome a newly-baptized member!

Callen Short, son of Jamie Short and Shannon Fischer, was baptized into the family of God, on May 25th, his great-grandmother Betty Danielson's birthday.

The quilt, featured in the photo, was created by Darlene Fittje and presented to Callen as a gift from First Lutheran Church.

Reverend Erin Coutts presided at the ceremony.

The photo was submitted by Mary Jo Fischer, Callen's grandmother.

Special thanks to Jake Froemke and Max Marcotte who have been mowing the church lawns this summer.



To everyone who helped with worship in June: Sue Hewitt, First Lutheran Choir, Linda Torseth, Carol Bass, Harley Droba, and Shelly Trappe.

Thank You!

## Prayer Chain

First Lutheran Church has four active prayer chains. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call either the church office at 283-2208, or Brenda Bertilson 283-2144; 240-4939. You must have permission to put someone on the chain, either from the person, or from a close relative. To put someone on the list for Sunday prayers, call the office at 283-2208. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remember in your prayers, those in need and those in care facilities.**

**Good Samaritan:** Lillian Larsen and Denise Snare Romonowicz

**Littlefork Nursing Home:** Marlene Erickson and Bev Beck

let's be friends



@FIRSTLUTHERANC



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA**



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

Did you know... If you are a Thrivent member, you can contribute to First Lutheran Church through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Actions Teams. Log into your Thrivent account online, call 1-800-847-4836 or speak with your personal Thrivent representative for more information.

## July Birthdays

7/2	Garret Davis	7/19	Gladys Brown
	Lyam Pelland	7/20	Henry Carey
	Craig Westin		Kathryn Hughes
7/3	Andrew Boelk	7/21	Eric Earley
7/4	Harley Droba		Hailey Strand
	Carson Luettjohann	7/22	Ryan Skogstad
7/5	Owen Jensen		Cynthia Warren
7/7	Harold Schumacher	7/23	Amy Amundsen
7/8	Darci Pelland		Aimee Droba
7/9	Steve Blair		Mitchell Kapla
	Cynthia Buller	7/24	Jason Lindquist
	Andrew Eide	7/25	Lori Awe
	Donna Erickson		Shay Mannausau
	Alvin Snare	7/26	Irving Arnquist
7/10	Jeffrey Trask		Brooklyn Sobkowicz
7/11	Eileen Johnson		Faye Whitbeck
7/12	Tanya Anderson	7/27	Kathryn Miggins
	Mary Jo Fischer		Steve Shermoen
	Rod Haanen	7/28	Patricia Ettestad
	Teresa Waller		Willard Johnson
7/13	Jenny Herman		William Lyon
7/14	John Slatinski V	7/29	Idella Franz
7/15	Gerald Arason		Barrett Olson
	Mary Lou Pearson	7/30	Calissa Treat
7/16	Leah Boe		
7/17	Janet Nelson		
	Tyler Plasky		
	Korie Valentine		
	Jean Wood		
7/18	Myles Mason		
	Camryn Rasmussen		



# Buildings and Grounds, First Lutheran Women present



The Buildings & Grounds Committee and First Lutheran Women have been working on remodeling the kitchen area in Memorial Hall. This room is being used more for funerals, special events, fellowship and youth activities. A Needs Assessment was done and the following areas were marked as high needs:

- Storage

- Counter space

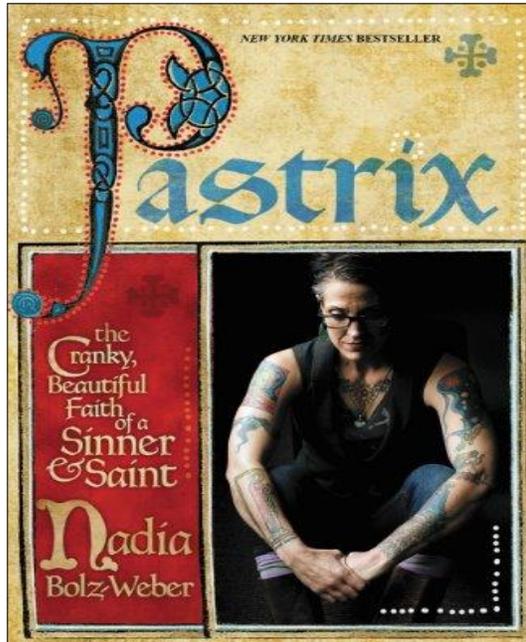
- Refrigeration

- Hard surface flooring in the kitchen serving area

The two drawings by Wood Interiors show the completed project. The existing storage unit will have new doors and will be moved to the north wall and used for storage. A new bank of cabinets will be installed on the east wall with a refrigerator and an ice maker that can be used for funerals and special events. The existing sink area will have new cabinets and be enlarged by utilizing the closet in the Pastor's office, which will allow for more landing space on the right side of the sink and a cabinet to house the trash container. Both areas will have new countertops and lighting. A new closet will be built in the Pastor's office. A new Armstrong Scuff/Scratch Resistant Flooring will replace the carpet in the kitchen area and under the conference table.

**Total Project Estimate                    \$24,250**

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact BettyJeanne Henrickson. Church Council will vote and approve plans before any further action is taken.



## Nadia Bolz-Weber book to be focus of digital book club

Join Pastor Erin for a digital book discussion on Mondays at 6:30p.m.

Starting July 20th, Pastor Erin will lead a discussion of the book *Pastrix* by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Nadia is a Lutheran pastor in Colorado, and in the book Nadia tells the story of her own faith journey and the beginning of the church she founded, House For All Sinners and Saints, while reflecting on a Lutheran understanding of scripture and what it means to live faithfully.

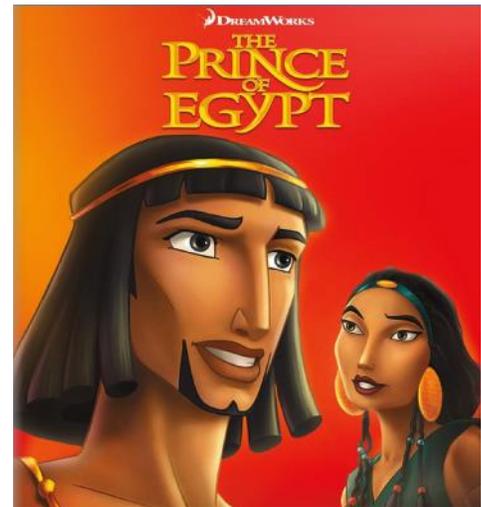
The church will provide books for participants, so if you are interested, please contact the church office by **July 6th**.

If you need help setting up Zoom, contact Pastor Erin.

## Recommendations from the Pastor:

**To Read:** *The 1619 Project* from the *New York Times Magazine* (available for free online): The story of Black people in the U.S. is not something many of us learned much about in school, and that can make it hard for us to understand the current protests and calls for change happening around the country.

*The 1619 Project*, named for the year the first recorded slaves were brought to what is now the US, takes a look at history and shines a light on things that have often been glossed over or omitted.



**To Watch:** *The Prince of Egypt* movie. If you were intrigued by the story of Moses we heard at the end of June in our worship services, check out this animated movie! It tells the story of Exodus in a compelling and exciting way, with wonderful songs and great animation.



REMEMBERING THE FIRST AFRICAN LANDING

## Announcements

General Fund Financial Information As of May 31, 2020						
As of May, 2020	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Variance
Operating Income	13,123	16,700	(3,577)	74,962	83,501	(8,539)
Operating Expense	11,057	16,700	5,643	66,431	83,501	17,070
Operating Income Less Expense	2,066		2,066	8,531	—	8,531

### Community Cafe

If you are in need of Community Cafe meals, call 285-7225 by 4 p.m. on Cafe day. Meals can be picked up between 5 and 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from the kitchen window.

### Virtual coffee hour

Join us for virtual coffee hour on Zoom at **11 a.m.** on July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Being the church together while we're physically apart can be hard, but the internet can help bring us together, so we will be hosting a virtual coffee hour to give us a chance to see one another and chat. Pastor Erin is available to help you figure out Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office for the log-in information.

### Weekly email devotional

Pastor Erin will be sending out a weekly email devotional reflection on one of the readings from the lectionary. If you do not have an email address but would like to receive this weekly devotional in the mail, please contact the church office.

### Be a part of our online worship services!

If you enjoy reading, singing, or playing an instrument, consider helping out with our online worship services. Pastor Erin puts together the service remotely, so contact her about doing a reading, prayers, or some special music. Although we can't worship together physically, worship is still something we do together as a community.

### Endowment Fund Scholarship Recipients

The Endowment Fund Committee met on May 20th for normal business and to review funding requests and scholarship applications. The Committee awarded scholarships to four students pursuing their studies in the fall. These included Jaxon Germain (Hibbing Community College), Andrew Boelk (Univ of Minnesota), Macey Marcotte (Bemidji State University), and Corinne Dahl (Lake Superior College). The mission of the Endowment Fund is to ensure the continuation and expansion of Christ's work in International Falls, the nation and the world. Members of First Lutheran are encouraged to support the Endowment Fund with their gifts, memorials, life insurance policies, bequests by wills, and trusts. For more information, please contact the church office to put you in touch with a Committee member.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
123 Wayside Lane  
International Falls, MN 56649

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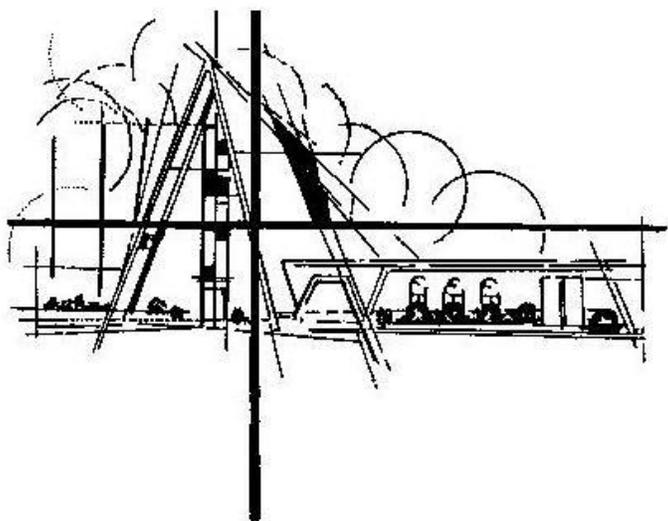
July 2020  
NEWSLETTER

(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)



## First Lutheran Church, ELCA

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



### First Lutheran's Mission Statement *Sharing God's Grace*

First Lutheran's Vision Statement  
*First Lutheran Church will be a congregation  
that shares God's grace by:*

- + Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity.
- + Welcoming all to active involvement in ministry.
- + Offering a non-judgmental encounter with God through the celebration of liturgical worship with word and sacrament.
- + Responding faithfully to the Great Commission of Matthew 28 -- to grow.
- + Committing ourselves to serving the needs of our congregation and the community at large.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Sundays at 10:30 am

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon. through Fri., 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!!!  
[www.firstlutheranifalls.org](http://www.firstlutheranifalls.org)

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.