

The
Voice
October 2018



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A Congregation of
the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod,
ELCA**

**Pastor:
Erin Coutts**

**Office Administrator:
Aimee Droba**

**Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
218-283-2208
www.firstlutheranifalls.org
firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com**

**Music Ministers:
FLC Choir Director: Nancy
McBride
FLC Organist: Elaine Beach,
Michelle Boelk &
Jacob Erickson**

**Release Time and Confirmation will be starting
again on October 3rd! Can't wait to see you there!**





FLW met for a potluck supper, quick meeting and bible study on September 17th. The next meeting and potluck will be October 15th at 5pm. All First Lutheran Women are invited to attend.



The First Lutheran Women serve coffee at Good Samaritan Society each Tuesday in October. It starts around 2:15 and it only takes about an hour. If you can help out please contact Brenda Bertilson (283-2144) or Mary Carey (285-7006)

Treat Street

"Trick or Treat!" Our goal is to fill 500 treat bags with goodies, trinkets, and an invitation to our youth programs to be distributed at the Treat Street event. Last year, every bag (480+) was given out. Please help to fill the bags by placing a treat- candy, crackers, juice boxes, fruit snacks- in the bin in the hallway. Or cash donations can be left at the office and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you and Happy Halloween!



Pastor Erin's Reflections

I have been asked by several people since I started here at First Lutheran why it is that I don't break the host (the bread) during the consecration of the communion elements. The comic (and short) answer is that my worship professor in seminary told us not to, and always do what Dr. Lange tells me to.

The longer answer is that I don't break the host during consecration because I want the words to take the center stage, rather than the act of breaking the bread. Now, breaking the bread isn't wrong or bad, it emphasizes the bread and the physical act, reminding us of the sacrifice Jesus made when he died on the cross. My preference (and this whole question is about the pastor's preference, really) is to not break the bread, because we're not reenacting the Last Supper when we have communion. We remember it, but the more important piece is about the promise that God gives in communion—that this is a gift **for you** for the forgiveness of sins.

Because we, as Lutherans, have a couple criteria for what makes something a sacrament (which is why we only have two sacraments, while other traditions, like Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, have more). First, it has to have been started by Jesus in the Bible—Jesus was baptized and gave communion at the Last Supper. Second, there has to be both God's promise and a physical thing that are tied together—in baptism, it's the water and God's promise that we have been created and chosen by God; in communion, it's the bread and wine and God's promise that our sins have been forgiven.

There's always something strange and mysterious about sacraments, something we can't fully grasp or understand, but it's something I really enjoy thinking and talking about, so if you have any questions about anything I've written here (or about anything else!), please don't hesitate to ask me.

Peace,

Pastor Erin

Announcements

Community Cafe

Community Café is a year around program. We are in need of volunteers to help continue this very important community project. If you are interested in helping, please sign up in the Narthex. Help is needed on October 2nd & 4th.

* * *

Bible Study

Pastor Erin leads a weekly bible study on Tuesdays from 6-7pm. The first book of the bible that will be studied is the book of Philippians. All are welcome!

* * *

New Member Sunday

On Sunday, October 14th, we will be recognizing our new members during the worship service and officially welcoming them to First Lutheran. All are encouraged to come and give our new members a warm and enthusiastic welcome. If you are not a member but are interested in joining, please call the office for more information.

* * *

Thrivent News

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? If so, you are eligible to apply for a \$250 Community Impact Card for funds that can be used for our youth program, the food shelf, or any number of charitable causes. More information including how to apply can be found on the Thrivent website by searching for "Thrivent Action Teams." Consider applying for a card to help out one of the great ministries of our congregation!

* * *

Sewers Needed

Calling all sewers and crafters! Our children's Christmas program for this year, "Manger Tales," needs your help to make costumes, props, and the set for our program. The program will be performed both Wednesday, December 12 and Sunday, December 16. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Erin or Germaine Glieden-Lindquist

October Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|------------------------------|
| 10/2 | Deb Scofield | 10/22 | Cullen Rein Tom Wagner |
| 10/3 | Annika Amdahl Jack Cook Erik Lassila John Willmarth | 10/23 | Jayne Rein Deacon Schultz |
| 10/4 | Denise Atchley-Hall Michelle Willmarth | 10/24 | Eric Hebner |
| 10/6 | Alyssa Bergstrom Blake Museta Taylor Wilson | 10/27 | Michele Bergstrom |
| 10/7 | Dixie Kalstad Kathy Thureen | 10/29 | Aleisha Mason |
| 10/8 | Jon Talsness | 10/30 | Josh Wuollet |
| 10/10 | Joe Kapla | | |
| 10/11 | Jessica DeMars | | |
| 10/12 | Brad Ettestad Ryan Jensen | | |
| 10/14 | Jake Froemke Deb Nash | | |
| 10/15 | Kim Nuthak | | |
| 10/16 | Brett Musich Susan Nickelson | | |
| 10/17 | Sue Matthews | | |
| 10/19 | Bib Smith Isabella Willmarth Landon Zub | | |
| 10/20 | Becca Schultz | | |
| 10/21 | John Boerger Harry Nash | | |



General Fund Financial Information

As of August 31, 2018

| | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Variance | Year To Date Actual | Year To Date Budget | Variance |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Operating Income | 11,781 | 18,969 | (7,188) | 104,889 | 151,752 | (46,863) |
| Operating Expense | 17,844 | 18,969 | 1,125 | 125,950 | 151,752 | 25,802 |
| Operating Income Less Expense | (6,063) | | | (21,061) | | |

August Income-Short of budget
August Expenses- Short of Income

We incurred moving costs this month (\$4,484) moneys were set aside for this. YTD we are short of our spending by \$16, 516 (21,061-4,484) Please help us get back on track.

Thanks for supporting First Lutheran Church Ministries.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, August 19, 2018

PRESENT: Pastor Erin Couotts, Linda Torseth, Brad Ettestad, Brenda Bertilson, Ardel Henrickson, Barb Bergh, Fred Wilson

ABSENT: Dwayne Mannausau, Gary Coran

Pastor Couotts opened the meeting with a prayer.

PASTOR'S REPORT: None
The minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting were reviewed.
Motion by: Linda Torseth
Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

"That the July 17, 2018 minutes be approved"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

*Council must review the contract with Bethany
*Picnic with Zion – lack of communication affected turnout
*Postpone the fall picnic to spring

OUTREACH: Brenda Bertilson

*Reminders for the Voice need to be sent earlier
*Discussion about using a revolving calendar that may make it easier to track when notices should be sent out and date for upcoming events. Pastor Couotts also mentioned using Google Docs.

DISCIPLIESHIP: BettyJeanne Henrickson
*Pastor Erin, Germaine Lindquist and Betty Jeanne met to discuss Release Time and Confirmation.

*Both programs will start Wednesday, October 3rd and end December 12th with the Christmas program.

*The Christmas program will be held during worship on December 16th.

*Pastor and Germaine are looking at *Holey Moley* curriculum for Release Time. *Manger Tales* and *Building Christmas* are two possibilities for the Christmas program.

*There will be no Wednesdays off for MEA, hunting and Thanksgiving.
*Letter needs to go to the schools by August 27th for parents.

*Pastor will talk with Joe to make sure youth from Zion are still going to be coming to our program.

*Reformation Sunday is October 28th.

*10th graders will receive a letter and email

*They are expected to be in church October 7th, 14th and 21st for class.

*Pastor Erin will be scheduling a meeting with each before she confirms them.

*Houston group

*Thank you is in the Voice

*Monies not given at conference will be sent thru church

*October 16th group will talk during service about what they learned and enjoyed

FELLOWSHIP: Linda Torseth

*Talked about Erin's Installation luncheon

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Dwayne Mannausau

*Jack Bartlett has the official claim form for the roof.

FINANCE/TREASURER: Brad Ettestad

*People are giving to dedicated causes, not simple giving.

*Will be starting budget for 2019.

*Committee should have budget requests for groups very soon.

*Brenda is going to contact Thrivent about "Choice Dollars"

Motion by: BettyJeanne Henrickson

Seconded by: Barb Bergh
Carried

"To approve the Treasurer's Report

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

BettyJeanne Henrickson

*Pastor Erin's Installation is August 26th during regular service.

*Settings for this years will be as follows:

*Setting # 4 beginning September 9th thru Advent

*Setting #5 beginning Advent thru Epiphany!

*Setting #10 Lent

*Setting #6 Easter

*Setting #1 thru June, July and August, 2019

*Will use Holden Evening Prayer during Lent.

*Organist/Pianists

*BettyJeanne will contact Jake Erickson and Michelle Boelk to see if they can help with services in September.

*Reviewed hymns thru September

*Reviewed the piano project. Put on hold buying another digital piano for Memorial Hall and gifting

the other pianos. Will keep the existing pianos for now. Monies will be left in the dedicated piano account.

*Committee will meet the second Sunday of the month following worship.

SERVICE: Barb Bergh
*Will be starting home Communion

STEWARDSHIP: Gary Coran
No report

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:

*Looked at two options to replace the existing copier. Upgrading to the Konica Minolta C558 will save us \$107.93 per month. The contract includes: All parts, labor, travel, staples, drums & toner.

*We will be reimbursed for the remaining Canon lease payments.

Motion by: Brad Ettestad
Seconded by: BettyJeanne Henrickson

Carried

"Motion to lease the Konica Minolta C558 with the saddle stitch"

NEXT EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE MEETING:

September 13, 2018 (5:15)

NEXT MEETING: September 16, 2018

ADJOURNED: 12:30
Recorded by: Ardel Henrickson

Thank you to.....

- Everyone who helped with worship.
- Everyone who helped fold the Voice.
- Dee Arason & Ruth Herberg for being on altar guild in September.
- Cynthia Warren for baking bread in September.
- Gary Coran, Sherri Mannausau, Doug & Shelly Trappe, Barb Bergh, Ardel Henrickson, Deb Nash, Ryan Skogstad, Kyrsten Skogstad and Brenda Bertilson for volunteering at Community Café in September.



Fellowship: A big thank you to my Fellowship Committee and the Call Committee for all their help with the food and decorating for Pastor Erin's installation lunch. It was a great day!

Linda Torseth
Fellowship Chair



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 Nursing & Senior Homes

Good Samaritan: Denise Snare Romonowicz, Arlene Julien, Lillian Larsen, Helen Vold,

Northwinds Assisted Living: Marlene Erickson

Littlefork Nursing Home: Dorothy Nuthak

Ranier Roost: Carole Cassibo



On the second Monday of the month, anyone in the community can take advantage of Ruby's Pantry from 5-6:30 pm at Backus. For a \$20 donation, program participants are entitled to one share of food. A share consist of two boxes of food which can be in the form of two totes, laundry baskets or coolers. There are no income guidelines. If you eat, you qualify! No one has too much money—all are welcome!

Middle School Gathering: Grades 6-9

Then. Now. Always.

November 16-17th

Cragun's Resort

The focus for this year's Middle School Gathering is the sacraments. We will explore how through the sacraments we have an unbreakable bond with God and the whole Christian community, and how they give us direction to follow Jesus.

Then. Now. Always.

***Let BettyJeanne or Pastor Erin know by October 10th for early registration. Your cost is \$20. First Lutheran will provide transportation and chaperones. It's a fun filled, and event packed 2 days. You will meet and make new friends. Come join us!

Release Time Grades 2-5 and Confirmation
Grades 6-9 begin Wednesday, October 3rd
after school.

Thank you for supporting our youth program. The program has grown over the last 4 years. We have as many as 65 youth from First, Zion and others who do not have a church home. We share a meal together, separate into our different groups and then come together again for fellowship. Our church is filled with lots of energy, movement and sound on Wednesdays. Stop by and see what's happening. If you would like to be involved in any way, we would love to have you. It brings great joy to watch and be involved as our youth grow up and grow spiritually. This ministry happens because of your support and involvement.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
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International Falls, MN 56649

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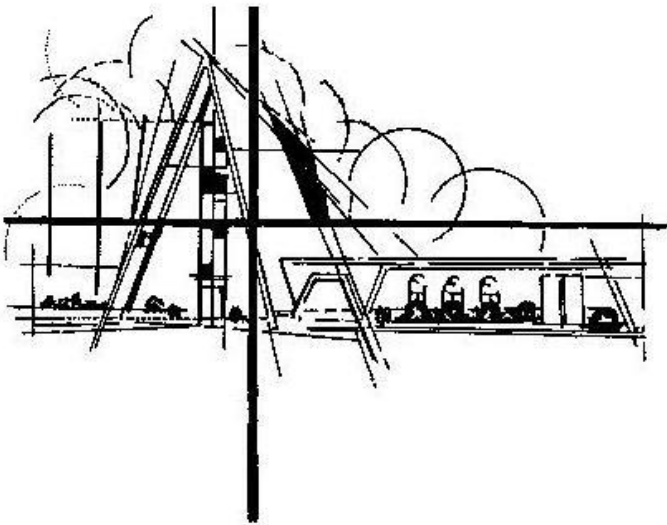
October 2018
NEWSLETTER

(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 New Website!!!

www.firstlutheranifalls.org