



FIRST NEWS

A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

MARCH 2020

March 2020

Time with Tom

The Lenten season is here and we are looking at forgiveness this year. Forgiveness granted and forgiveness requested. Is granting forgiveness something we simply say to others in obedience to what Jesus instructs; *Matthew 18: 21* Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" *22* Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Or do we ask from God forgiveness because we know scripture teaches us about how the disciples asked Jesus and his response; *1st John 1:8-9* *8* If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *9* If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is right to ask for and to grant forgiveness if it comes from our heart and is life changing. Life changing would be by our granting forgiveness that opens a new future for both parties, closing a door to the past hurt and opening a door to new opportunity of a future relationship.

Sometimes we have been hurt in ways that we just cannot find forgiveness in our heart. We are human after all and we do not want to give lip service to something as important as forgiveness. We also do not want to be enablers who by saying "I forgive you" gives the perpetrator the freedom to go about their life, causing the little ones to stumble again in the future. Therefore, we may need to pray for God to intervene for us in our weakness and forgive for us while we deal with the emotion and hurt, until we can forgive. God does for us the things we cannot do ourselves. When we need forgiveness, ask, and when we need to forgive, go, seek and forgive.

Jesus teaches us to pray for the ability to forgive others the way we want to be forgiven; *Matthew 6:12* Jesus is teaching the disciples how to pray and he tells them in verse 12: *12* And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. How do we forgive others? How do we want to be forgiven? If we want complete forgiveness we need to forgive completely; *Matthew 6* continues as Jesus says; *4* For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; *15* but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

As we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem this Lenten season, let our prayer be for help with forgiveness, both granting and receiving that which God requires of us. Amen

Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you! *2nd Cor 13:11*
Pastor Tom Evenson

Our mission: First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ; equip persons with a faith that works in real life; and send us in service into the world in Jesus' name.

What's Inside:

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- Finance Pg. 4
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- MST Pg. 16
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For the monthly calendar, birthdays, serving groups, ushers, and altar guild information, see insert

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WEBSITE:
www.firstlitchfield.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
See Page 15

Council Highlights

**“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
Tuesday February 18th 2020 7pm

**First Evangelical Lutheran
Church Council
2020**

PRESIDENT:
Corey Cervin

VICE PRESIDENT:
Karla Kadelbach

SECRETARY:
Dawn Doty

TREASURER:
Karla Hyberger

**TEAM
REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Christian Education/
Youth & Family:**
Tanna Stucky

Stewardship & Finance:
Betty Allen
Karla Hyberger

**Social Ministry/
Evangelism:**
Dawn Doty
Meredith Elj
Betty Allen

Endowment/Memorial:
Dennis Gartner
Corey Cervin
Tanna Stucky
Beth Fruetel

Property:
Andy Hoffman
Dennis Gartner

Worship & Music:
Meredith Elj
Beth Fruetel

Personnel:
Corey Cervin

Our Mission:

“FLC exists to WELCOME people to faith in Jesus Christ; EQUIP persons with a faith that works in real life; and SEND us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.”

Council Membership:

2021: Dawn Doty, Meredith Elj, Dennis Gartner, Tanna Stucky

2022: Andrew Hoffman, Beth Fruetel, Karla Hyberger, Corey Cervin

2023: Betty Allen, Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemmingway

A motion was made to nominate Corey Cervin as president by Dennis Gartner and seconded by Betty Allen. Corey accepted. Motion made by Andrew Hoffman to cast unanimous ballot to have Corey as our Council President.

Devotions: Karla Hyberger

Secretary Report: Motion made to accept by Betty Allen and seconded by Karla Hyberger

Treasure Report: Motion made to accept by Dennis Gartner seconded by Karla Kadelbach

Agenda: Election of Officers

Vice President: Karla Kadelbach; motion made by Andrew Hoffman and seconded by Karla Hyberger to cast a unanimous ballot to except Karla as Vice President A motion was made to cast unanimous ballot to accept Dawn Doty as secretary by Betty Allen and seconded by Andrew Hoffman.

A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to except Karla Hyberger as Treasure by Dennis Gartner and seconded by Andrew Hoffman

Pastors Report: Council retreat set for council members will be March 22nd. Pastor Gary is planning to retire sometime before September 2020. Exit interviews with outgoing council members will take place. We will need to establish a committee to begin the planning of our 150th anniversary of our church. A projector for our theater has been ordered.

Team Reports:

Evangelism/Social Ministry: did not meet Christian Ed: kris and Sara looking to spruce up our spaces and curriculum. We will have a sign up sheet for Lenten soup supper March 4.

Church Property: Fixing drain on the side of the building. Riley DeFries has started repainting Chilstrom Hall as his Eagle Scout project. Property team will check salt on team meeting nights. Watch bulletin for space/storage cleaning announcement. Snow pile needs to be removed.

Personnel: No report

Endowment: did not meet

Stewardship and Finance : Next month will have local missions.

Worship and Music: did not meet

Old Business: No updates on Kingdom Company.

Roof repair on hold until spring 2020.

Chili cook off and silent auction being planned.

Conference Assembly 2/23 at 2pm in Darwin. We need 5 representatives. We have 3 going.

New Business: Council Retreat set for 3/22 3-7 for council members.

Team assignments will be decided at council retreat.

Devotions schedule set with council members.

Council Minutes continued from page 2.....

Debriefing of outgoing council members to be done before March 22.
Council will host soup supper on March 11th.
Equipping congregations is February 29th 830-330 at Bethel and Vinje in Willmar.

Dates to Remember:

Team Meetings: March 3 2020 7pm
Executive Meeting: March 3 2020 630pm
Council Meeting: March 17 2020 7pm
Chili Cook off/Silent Auction: February 23 1030-1
Conference Assembly February 23 2020 2pm
Equipping congregations February 29th 2020 830-330
Council Retreat March 22 2020 3-7pm
Soup suppers begin March 4 at 6pm
First Communion April 19 both services
Spring Communion Luncheon May 13th
Last day of Sunday School will be May 3rd

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn Doty, Secretary



A huge thank you to all who donated items for our silent auction, to everyone who made great tasting chili and to all those who attended, voted and purchased items.

What a great turnout!

Our top chili winner was Robert Nelson

and our second place winner was Lana Johnson, congrats!

We raised 2079.50 minus our expenses of 220.00 which will come out of the Social Ministry/Evangelism budget.

Proceeds will be split between LAMP Kinship and GWOH.

Thank You!

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Jan. 2020: \$18,858
 Expenses for the month of January 2020: \$33,623

Year to Date:

Income as of January 2020: \$18,858
 Expenses as of Jan . 2020: \$33,623

LENTEN “GIVING CROSS” PROJECT

The 2020 Lenten “Giving Cross” Project will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 26) and continue through Easter Sunday. The emphasis is on the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) parish projects which include Baby Care Kits & Personal Care Kits.

The cross will be located in the Narthex and filled with cards, each having an item printed on it. Please take a card or two, purchase the items, tape the card to the item and place the items in the basket placed by the cross. If monetary donations are made, please make the checks payable to “Giving Cross” Project. Monetary gifts may be left at the church office also.

After Easter, the kits will be assembled and packed for Lutheran World Relief. Because shipping costs have escalated each kit costs approximately \$2.65 to ship, so monetary contributions are also appreciated. In the past your response to this project has been overwhelming, so please take the time to make this another successful Lenten Project.

If you have questions regarding the project please contact a committee member.

Thank you,
 The Giving Cross Committee
 Brenda Johnson, Elaine Lenhard or Joan Sommerfeld

BABY CARE KIT

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 gowns or sleepers (without feet) – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 receiving blankets
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size (4-5 oz) ivory soap
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

PERSONAL CARE KITS

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (approx 52”x27”), dark color recommended
- 2 bath size (4-5 oz) soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 study comb
- 1 metal nail clippers

Practicing Your Faith *Local Missions*

During the month of March, Stewardship will be looking at local missions. FLC is a great supporter of our MST International. There are loads of youth wanting to attend MST USA and spread the love of Jesus. We continue to have a strong and healthy relationship with Robealto as we send church members on MST CR. This month we wanted to share information on local areas of support, can we call this MST Meeker? Our choices include WINGS, LAMP Kinship, Community Basics and Meeker Area Food Shelf. All residing in Meeker County.

Meeker Area Food Shelf has centers in Litchfield and Dassel. FLC is so wonderful in their donations and support to this food program. Recently the food shelf started a mobile food shelf in Cosmos. This is so helpful as many participants at the food shelf have issues with transportation. The food shelf is running their March campaign as it is Minnesota's Feed the Hungry month. We are filling the pews once again. Jayme, manager, will be doing a temple talk.

LAMP Kinship is a program for youth from K-12th grades. It is a mentoring program for at-risk students. They are chosen based on need and then matched with an adult. Please pray for "adult matches" as there is always a need for more adult mentors. The adults that are in the program just spend time with these students. The gift of time is what these young people need. Some mentors meet for lunch at school, others meet outside of school, others participate in group activities with other mentors and their matches. The purpose is to let these students know they have an adult, in their lives, that care about them. LAMP Kinship is always looking for monetary donations. Amy will be doing a temple talk.

WINGS is a local educational treatment center for youth, but these students are visiting our county. We felt it was a good balance to reflect not only on local youth but youth from other areas of Minnesota. These students are in our community temporarily. WINGS assesses and empowers youth, addressing the whole person through individual strategies. I see them out and about. They come to the Christmas dinner. This year I served them coffee with a "large" dollop of whip cream. These students need love. We will have a giving tree in the narthex with a WINGS need and want list. There will be a variety of choices and a variety of prices. Please look and grab an item, buy it and bring it back. (Thank you). We hope this helps them feel happier. Mattie and Karla R will be doing a temple talk.

COMMUNITY BASICS is the parent company for Hope for the City. Hope has been in our church for 6 years...can you believe that? That is amazing! Wonderful! Only by the help of many church members volunteering on Wednesday night distribution. The main concern of Community Basics is food scarcity. This affects single adults, couples, seniors and families with children. Hope for the City offers supplemental groceries for \$2.00. This weekly food distribution helps with filling the pantry, meal planning and grocery budget. It is all about getting enough calories. Karla R will be doing a temple talk.

Please include all these students and programs in your prayers. Pray for joy in their lives and food in their cupboards. FLC has the power to make changes locally!

Churchwide

LOCAL missions



WINGS giving tree will be in the narthex if you are wanting to help with that.



LAMP Kinship is always looking for monetary donations. If that is something you feel strongly about, you can donate in the office. LAMP Kinship is always looking for adult mentors to be matched! Please pray for the gift of time.



Pray for our local citizens that have food scarcity problems.



“Pack the Pews”

Pack the Pews is a great way to come together as a faith organization during the Meeker Area Food Shelf’s Annual March Campaign and collect food for those facing food insecurity. This year, we have created a Needs List of our most needed items for your convenience. This also helps to meet the needs of those needing our services. This list includes:

- ⇒ Low Sodium Vegetables - Corn, Green Beans, Carrots, Peas, Sauerkraut, mixed vegetables
- ⇒ Fruit in their own juices, Mixed fruit, peaches, pears, applesauce, pineapple

Here is a list of items that are always needed:

- ⇒ Soups, crackers, oatmeal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat, granola bars, cereals, cooking oil, sugar, spaghetti sauce, rice, noodles, spices, condiments.

- ⇒ *Healthy options are highly recommended.

*Monetary donations allow us to purchase food at a discounted rate through our food bank.

**Please bring your donations to church
and leave in the pews starting in the
back of the church.**

Thank you for your Support





MST INTERNATIONAL 2022

MST will soon be starting with the next group.

Coming up:

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, at 8:00 p.m. in Chilstrom Hall

gathering information and ask questions

A discussion of timeline of events . AND — We will have cookies and juice!

Palm Sunday Community Worship “He’s Not Dead – Seven Victories for Holy Week”

Please join area musicians for a Holy Week Worship Experience: “He’s Not Dead – Seven Victories For Holy Week”

Rehearsals will be on
Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
and Sundays 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
in the Litchfield school choir room
Enter via Door #11.

Singers are welcome and are asked
To come to 5 or more rehearsals.

Rehearsal dates are: 3.1, 3.3, 3.8, 3.10,
3.15, 3.17, 3.29, 3.31
Dress Rehearsal Saturday, April 4
7:00 – 8:30.
No rehearsal 3.22 or 3.24

Song Selections will include
Man of Sorrows, Because He Lives,
Sons and Daughters, Agnus Dei
(MW Smith), Once Upon a Tree,
Living Hope, and Is He Worthy.

The Litchfield Community
Worship Event will be on
Sunday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m.
Bernie Aaker Auditorium

Joel Green
Litchfield, MN
320-292-0720

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated
with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

GIFTS, THANKS, & MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the general fund in memory of Vivian Graff by Jim and Elizabeth Swanson.

Gifts were given to the general fund in memory of Herbert Chilstrom by Gladys Johnson, Tammy Thompson, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, and Vern and Lil Madson.

A gift was given to the general fund in memory of Dick Johanneck by Karla Kadelbach.

A gift has been given to the general fund in remembrance of Bishop Chilstrom from Carol Rowell.

Gifts have been given to the general fund in remembrance of Bishop Chilstrom by Marge Hellzen, Karl and Darlene Lundin, Jerry and Lana Johnson, Einar Lundin, and Jim and Elaine Lenhard.

A gift has been given to the general fund in memory of Betty Jorgensen by Bob Kadelbach.

A gift has been given to the general fund in memory of Gary Johnson by Bob Kadelbach.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council and Congregation Members,

Thanks for your generous gift to support the life of your synod which equips leaders, deepens congregational vitality and enhances local/global mission.

We are thankful. Your gift of \$214 will go to provide fuel to make the ministry and mission of our synod possible. In these difficult days for our ag related people, your gift will give us an extra boost to sustain and develop our ministries.

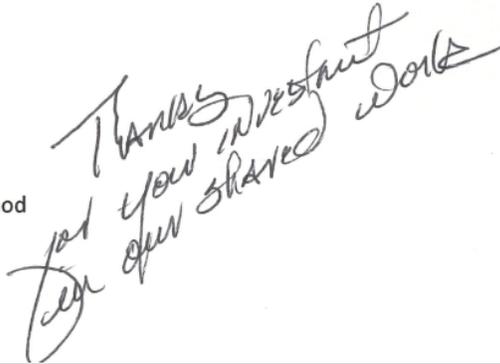
Thank you!!!

In Christ's light,



Pr. Jon Anderson

Serving as Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod



*Remember
these lost
loved ones*

Gary A. Johnson
02-13-2020

Bishop Herbert Chilstrom
02-15-2020
At Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Betty Jorgensen
02/24/2020

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Lent – Easter Schedule

All evening mid-week services will begin at **7:00 p.m.**, at First Lutheran, Litchfield. We will have the opportunity to hear from other Pastors from our area churches during this Lenten season. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer service.

Soup Supper will be served at **6:00 p.m.** in Chilstrom Hall starting March 4th.

February 26	Ash Wednesday Service, no soup supper	7:00 p.m.
March 4	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 11	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 18	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 25	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 1	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 5	Palm / Passion Sunday	8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
April 9	Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion	7:00 p.m.
April 10	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.
April 12	Easter Worship Holy Communion, Special music	6:30, 8:30, & 10:15 a.m.
April 12	Easter Breakfast	Served 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Daylight-Saving Time begins

March 8, 2020



Serve Your Community



*Volunteer through Lutheran Social Service And AmeriCorps**

We are seeking volunteers 17 years of age and older to serve as respite volunteers

Benefits to others:

Volunteers provide safety and companionship for older adults who have chronic health conditions. This important service also gives family caregivers a chance for a much-needed break.

Benefits for volunteers:

Volunteers are eligible for:

- A \$200 monthly living allowance
- A \$1,600 education grant (after 450 hours of service)
If the volunteer is 55+, the grant can be transferred to a child or grandchild

Interested? Call today! Contact: Regional Manager Barbara Alsleben at 320-221-3747 or Barbara.Alsleben@lssmn.org

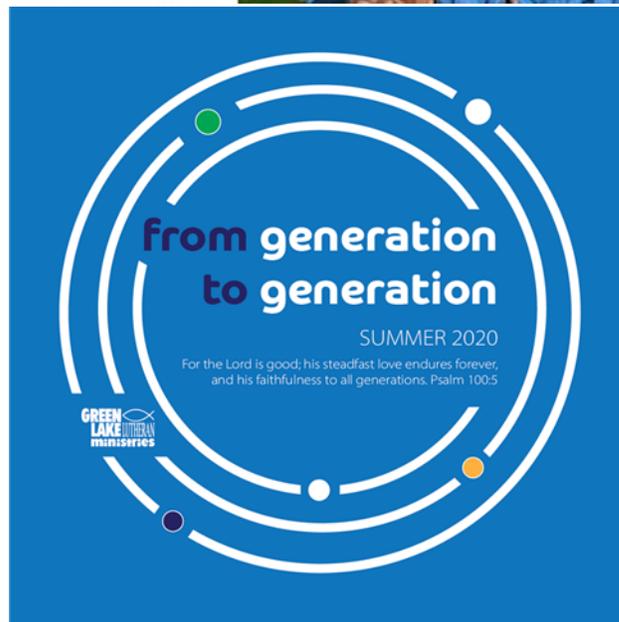
You can also contact Statewide Program Director Tara Giese at 1-800-488-4146 or 218-233-7521; tara.giese@lssmn.org

*The Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) as an AmeriCorps project and is administered through Arizona State University College of Public Service and Community Solutions—Center for Urban Innovation.

2020 Camp Information is here!



Bible Camp - Retreat Center - Chapel



**Register campers by the grade they were in during the 2019-2020 school year

There are multiple weeks to register your children for camp, and please choose the week that best suits your family. We invite and encourage you to sign your children up for the following week (we will be camping at the same time as Zion, Ostmark & Beckville);

Week 7: July 26 - 31

Grades 1-4: Half Blast @ Shores of St. Andrew

Grades 2-5: Andy's Gang @ Shores of St. Andrew

Grades 5-7: Trailblazers @ Shores of St. Andrew

This is information for just week 7, check out the many other fun options for various grades! Want a brochure? Contact Sarah Jones or visit www.gllm.org for more information.

What is Half Blast? Half Blast allows you to experience all of the fun of camp in a time frame that works for you! If you are not quite ready to leave home for a full week, this camp is a perfect option. Half Blast runs Sunday afternoon through Tuesday evening. Just like our full week campers, you will experience swimming, singing, worships, Bible studies, and lots of exploring and time to hang out!

Youth Pages

Pricing Information

Camp Program	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Half Blast	\$240	\$340	\$430
Andy's Gang Trailblazers Stargazers M.O.B.	\$480	\$675	\$865

What does the pricing mean?

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries prioritizes making the camp experience affordable for families. Each year, through our camper ship program, we provide approximately \$30,000.00 in scholarship money. However, as the cost of camp has increased over time, our fees have not increased at the same rate. To help bridge the gap between the true value of camp and our actual fees, we are introducing a concept called "tiered" pricing.

How does First Lutheran Help?

To help bridge the gap and cover the true cost of camping, First Lutheran will help offset the cost. More information to follow in upcoming newsletters

Registration

Step 1: www.gllm.org

Sidenote: Not sure which camp is for you? (on main page, select SUMMER CAMP)

Details regarding each camp per each grade range, read on! **Then** register for camp.

Step 2: Click on REGISTER FOR CAMP [fill each page as prompted]

Sidenote: You will be able to request a roommate, fill in appropriate screen.

Step 3: When you get to the PAYMENT SCREEN

Do **NOT** pay the entire balance at the time of registration

First Lutheran will be able to pay our portion as long as full payment has **not** been made

It is very important to select one of the options about the DEPOSIT ONLY final payment.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact Sarah Jones at 320.221.0055, sarahcejones@hotmail.com, or stop in and visit!



Southwestern Minnesota Synod Senior High Youth Gathering
March 27-28, 2020
Courtyard by Marriott, Mankato, MN

Cost: \$65 per student - please sign up in the church office.

5th graders - First Communion Classes will be held Sunday, March 8th and March 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel.



The final meeting will be Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. with parents attending and photos for the students and group.

Dear friends,

In Southern Africa the school and work year starts in mid-January after the month-long Christmas and New Year summer vacation break.

Last Sunday at St. Thomas Lutheran Congregation (ELCSA) in inner-city Johannesburg the pastor laid hands on the Sunday School children before they went to class. The children came back in for Holy Communion. After the service the Sunday School teachers handed out new pairs of school shoes to children from the neighbourhood who regularly attend the class. Members of the congregation had responded to an appeal in December to raise funds for this outreach ministry for children from the local community. For me, it gave special meaning to the chorus which the congregation was singing that day: "We are standing on holy ground...As I walked through the door, I sensed his presence, and I knew this was the place where love abounds..."



The calendar for 2020 is already brimming with workshops, conferences and visits to congregations, projects and companion churches across the region. One of the highlights will be the May gathering in Johannesburg, South Africa of over 80 delegates from ELCA companion synods and companion churches in the region for the 1st Regional ELCA Companion Relationships Consultation around the theme "A Journey of Reconciliation." Participants will share their understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (in the Lutheran tradition in their respective contexts) while using an accompaniment lens for mission based on the five core values of mutuality, vulnerability, inclusivity, empowerment and sustainability.

Thank you for your prayers and support and your participation in God's mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa

Johannesburg, January 24, 2020

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>

WELCA MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

First Lutheran WELCA met at Zion Church on February 20, 2020, at 1:30 pm. Zion WELCA had a program entitled “February—The Month of Love” which included readings and singing songs about love.

Following the dessert and fellowship, First WELCA met to have a brief meeting with Dianne Thorp leading our discussion. Sign up sheets were passed around about serving during the months of this year for WELCA and about food donations and working at the soup supper on March 18th.

Karen Eberhard informed us that \$1000 was collected from the Harvest envelopes compared to \$800 last year. It was decided to donate to the same groups that we did last year. Donations of \$100 will be made to:

Flowers of Mercy
Hospice
Lutheran Social Services
Habitat for Humanity
Lamp
Meeker County Food Shelf

Because we had \$200 more donated this year, Karen Eberhard made a motion to give Meeker County Food shelf an extra \$100 and the second \$100 would be donated to Community Ed Summer Rec activities for those kids that need help with the activity fees. Florence Roeszler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our speaker in May, with First hosting Zion for a potluck luncheon, will tell us about Angel Dresses that her group makes. A motion by Lana Johnson to donate the May luncheon offering to that group and to add money, if necessary, to make the donation equal \$100 with the extra money to be taken from our treasury. Motion seconded by Kris Nelson. Motion carried

Karen Eberhard also said that she had been approached by Sarah Jones to see if WELCA was again willing to donate money for each student that will be attending Bible Camp this summer. So far 7 students have signed up. Sue Lemmer made a motion to again pay \$50 for each student that attends camp. Motion was seconded by Marge Hellzen. Motion carried.

Dates to Remember:

March 18 – WELCA serves soup supper (**please sign up to help!**)

March 19 – WELCA at First at 1:30 pm

April 25 – Crow River Spring Conference, Beckville Lutheran Church, Litchfield

Sue Lemmer, Secretary

CROW RIVER CONFERENCE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

BECKVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

20521 600th AVE. LITCHFIELD, MN 55355

WHO'S CONTROLLING YOUR LIFE?

Guest speaker Connie Lounsbury

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Brunch will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Churchwide

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

On the **First** Sunday of the month,
March 2020
a second offering will be taken,
where a globe will be passed.
This month, the second
offering will go to:

Giving Cross - Lutheran World Relief Kits

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, March 21, 2019

5:00 P.M.

Holy Word Theater

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are available in the church office when needed for yourself or someone in need of comfort and prayers. Please help—if you know of someone who is in need of prayers and a shawl, stop by the office and pick one up!



Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace God's Word, Welcome the Day.

B.R.E.W.

meets every **Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m.** with Pastor Tom for coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers:

Meeker Manor:

Mary Klosner,

Eleanor Worden

Emmaus Place:

Arlene Poirier

Bethany Home:

Stan Mortenson

Gloria Dei:

Mae Wertz, Willard Maahs,

Lois Rusch, Janet Lundin

Litchfield, in own home:

Ardella Voigt, Viola Lenhard,

Jutta Goodrich,

Mae Brehmer

Hutchinson:

Lynette Peterson

Folkestone, Wayzata:

Jean Schnell

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:



*Our members known to be in the military are:

Cmdr. Joseph Vandelac, Foreign Engagement at the Pentagon, son-in-law of Janice and Cecil Fawcett;

Staff Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olib, Afghanistan, grandson of Edna and Martin Oldenburg, Vern and Lil Madson;

Staff Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt, Great Falls, MT, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt;

Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann, stationed at Fort Drum, NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann,

Major Troy Thomas, Severance, CO, nephew of Valda Thomas and Mike and Gaylene Thomas

Eric Kammermeier, active duty United States Navy, son-in-law of Mike and Beth Boyle;

Senior Airman, Jonathan Negron, Vacaville, CA, son of Margaret Schlisner;

Staff Sgt. Seth Erickson, stationed in Richfield, MN, nephew of Margaret Schlisner.

Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned to the States. Thank you all for your service

***Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or addresses have changed for any of the above.**

Save your Greeting Cards - they can be recycled! You can drop these off in the church office.
(We are **not** able to accept Christmas Cards.)

Family Fare Receipts - Please bring in your receipts to the church office. These receipts are added together and helps our education program earn \$1000 per \$150,000 worth of receipts. Please note we need the entire receipt. Thank you for all the receipts that have been turned in!! *receipts for prescriptions purchased are **not** eligible for the program.



Food Shelf Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Please bring non-perishable donations (can not bring expired items). The needs are great within our community and our contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

Churchwide

March Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.
12:00 p.m. Prayer Service in Sanctuary

Wednesday March 4, 2020

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 8, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday March 11, 2020

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 15, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 22, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 29, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Padding through Lent — and life



Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

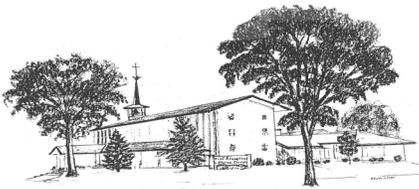
—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*

To Receive the Newsletter by Email only - email your information to the church office at firstoffice@hutchtel.net - then let us know you no longer want the paper copy mailed to you. Thank you!!

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703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by **March 15th**

For the NEXT ISSUE: April 2020



FIRST NEWS

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- Carol Dragt, Director of Music Non-Traditional Service
- Greta Hulterstrum, Pianist, Wednesday Evening Service
- Scott Nelson, Custodian
- Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

LIKE us on Facebook!



MST USA 2021 will be selling Butter Braids from Feb. 26 - March 18. Orders can be placed with any MST USA youth, or through the church office.

Thank you for your support of
MST USA