

**First Lutheran Church**  
**3601 Dakota Ave**  
**South Sioux City, NE 68776**

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# First Lutheran Church

July 2020



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while providing for God's diversity.***

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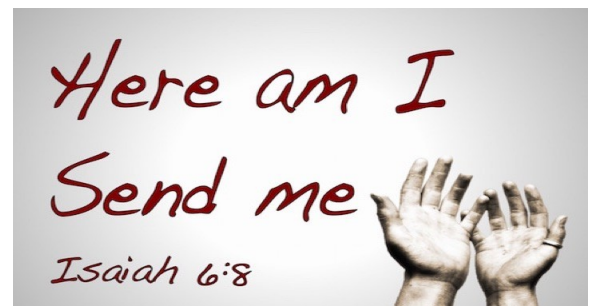


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The deadline for the August Newsletter is July 16.

# Worship at First Lutheran

## July 5

### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

Psalm: 145:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

## July 12

### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

Psalm: 65:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## July 19

### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8

Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

Psalm: 86:11-17

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## July 26

### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

Psalm: 119:129-136

Gospel: Matthew 13:13-33, 44-52



Church Office 494-5461

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pastordoug@flcsc.org

Kerri Rahn, Admin. Asst. 712/574-7946

office@flcsc.org

Jane Krogh, Organist 494-1630

LeAnn Kilstrom, Custodian

lkilstrom@flcsc.org

### Church Council (\* Executive Council)

\*Deb Kenny, President 712/490-2097

dkenny@flcsc.org

\*Jarrod Knudsen, Vice President 712/898-1170

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\*Mike Hunter, Treasurer 712/490-2998

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\*Judy Blessing, Secretary 255-7775

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Kathy Anders (kanders@flcsc.org) 274-4383

Jennifer Lieber (jlieber@flcsc.org) 712/212-6932

Michael Sigsbee (msigsbee@flcsc.org) 494-2418

Terry Sorem (tsorem@flcsc.org) 712/490-9271

### Church Coordinators For:

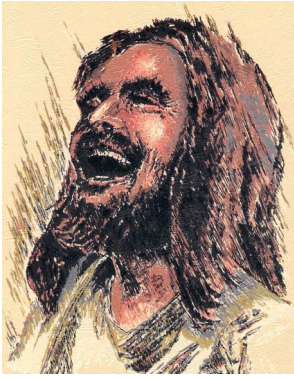
Altar Care: Billy Denker 402/404-4212

Lectors:

Ushers:

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384



## Parable of the Talents Pastor Doug

From the Voice Translations, Matthew 25:14-17

**Jesus:** <sup>14</sup>This is how it will be. It will be like a landowner who is going on a trip. He instructed his slaves about caring for his property. <sup>15</sup>He gave five talents to one slave, two to the next, and then one talent to the last slave—each according to his ability. Then the man left.

<sup>16</sup>Promptly the man who had been given five talents went out and bartered and sold and turned his five talents into ten. <sup>17</sup>And the one who had received two talents went to the market and turned his two into four. <sup>18</sup>And the slave who had received just one talent? He dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money there.

The two who increased the talents were praised and rewarded. They chose to use what was given to them by the master to try to make more for the master. The one that buried the single talent was scolded.

Talents in this case were money of the time. Talents can also be today not only money but the gifts that God has given us. Which, to be honest, even the air we breathe is a gift. We are given much, but what do we do with what God gives?

We are challenged and charged with doing mission in the name of Christ. We are given all and therefore we must use all. To bury our self or our money in the sand is not acceptable. On the other hand, to run and gamble it all on long shots is not appropriate either. We can choose

to invest in mission so we can do mission and ministry.

There are some approaches that are very safe with money, yet the gain is little to none. Do we invest wisely of the talents God gives? Not if we put it all in one basket. That is why we might want to invest some safely, but other talents in things that have moderate and high reward. Is there some risk? Sure there is. You have heard, I am sure, "no risk, no reward". The Bible speaks about taking risks for the sake of God. There are many verses throughout the Bible that speak to this. It must be grounded in God.

Mission and ministry are the primary goal (at least they should be) for any congregation. That mission and ministry is to be beyond the four walls of any church building. We are called to serve beyond the four walls.

Did you know that you can invest the monies that God gave in other congregations and it will help this one? Did you know that the monies that come back to help us, help us to help others? I am not endorsing either of these options, but you can invest in ELCA mission funds and you can invest at Thrivent. Both are mission based, that we can take advantage of. You can also invest in our Foundation, which invests in mission funds that help us to do mission. It is a win/win/win. Contact Lee Novak for information about the Foundation. He would love to speak with you.

## Anniversaries

Jeff Carda and Shelly O'Brien—July 25  
Dan and Daniele Feenstra—July 27  
Preston and Suzie Fischer—July 9  
Don and Lucy Gagnon—July 3  
Ottie and Jackie Gierman—July 23  
Brent and Emily Gotch—July 11  
Craig and Lori Jones—July 6  
Gary and Sharon King—July 26  
Leroy and Beth Koster—July 14  
Yader and Shantell Martinez—July 19

Rob and Shauna Meier—July 14  
Lee and Carrie Novak—July 25  
Todd and Nicki Oss—July 13  
Bob and Trish Porter—July 12  
Randy and Kerri Rahn—July 24  
Lance and Linda Swanson—July 24  
Dob and Carol Zastrow—July 2

## **Congratulations**

### **Congratulations to William and Ashley**

**Weiland** on the birth of their daughter, Maya Louise Weiland, on Thursday, June 18. Maya weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 19 ½ inches long. George Weiland is the proud grandpa. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## **Happy Birthday**

Nellie May Anderson—July 22  
Betty Barto—July 20  
Jennifer Bass—July 22  
Jaimee Benson—July 10  
Chad Cain—July 17  
Dan Feenstra—July 1  
Mallory Feenstra—July 5  
Ron Frank—July 14  
Jim Hansen—July 11  
Chris Jensen—July 29  
Chris Kleinberg—July 6  
John Koskovich—July 17  
Destiny Krantz—July 29  
Jed Litras—July 7  
Kim Long—July 9  
Merle Long—July 19  
Lane Ostendorf—July 8  
Paula Reider—July 22  
Tanya Rich—July 1  
Kelly Robinson—July 4  
Lonnie Slaughter—July 24  
Eleanor Tasker—July 27

## **Youth Birthdays**

Brook Gotch—July 9  
Grady Gotch—July 31  
Chase Jensen—July 22

Tinley Kinnaman—July 6  
Xzavier Sheridan-Parker—July 5  
Zander Sheridan-Parker—July 5

## **With Deepest Sympathy**

*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the following families. Please keep them in your prayers.*

Marla Bianchini and family, on the death of Marla's sister, Wanita Myers, on Thursday, June 18.

## **COVID Summer**

There are a variety of beliefs of how to go about responding to the continual pandemic. Although the governor allowed places of worship to open in May and as of this article, Dakota County has entered phase II of re-opening, how should we as a congregation respond? That is always a tough question, and no matter the decision, we, as the council of First Lutheran, recognize that any decision will receive some opposition, either way.

Your congregational council discussed the next steps that would be taken at First Lutheran. There are several factors that were considered, along with prayer, which honestly comes first, while weighing all the other factors. What did not come into consideration is what churches in Iowa or any other state may be doing. We wanted to look at this prayerfully, morally, ethically, financially, and practically. That right there is a lot to consider. Let's walk this backward now.

To open up worship inside, practically, we have to take into consideration what are the recommendations to effectively have a safe worship space that could allow the maximum number of people to worship together. As you all realize, much of our congregation is elderly. At the beginning of the pandemic, elderly was defined as anyone the age of 60 or more. Today, according to guidelines to open for worship, there is no defined age, but the elderly and those with compromised immune systems should stay away. Right now we have a parking lot service and those that might

fit into the category of wanting to stay away can come.

To hold worship inside, we would also remove all Bibles, Hymnals and anything that can be touched and re-used by others in worship. Additionally, a complete sanitization should be done of the Sanctuary, Narthex, Welcome Area, Hallways, Bathrooms and the entry doors. We do not have the staffing necessary nor the volunteers to adequately do this. This leads us to the moral and ethical responsibility.

We have a moral obligation to take care of God's children. We need to respond in an ethical way that follows the guidelines to the best of our ability, putting people first, not finances first. Even if we had the people available to clean and remove all the items necessary, does that mean we should—and potentially exclude some who would otherwise come? We believe not. However, since we do not know how long this may be, we need to prepare for the fall. Yes, the fall. We most likely will not head back inside until after Labor Day.

Financially, this means a few things. To sanitize all the areas and in a timely way so we can enjoy two worships again, we need to remove the items previously mentioned, form a sanitization team and purchase an atomizer gun to effectively apply the sanitizer to all the potential areas. The gun, itself, is around \$800. This gun would be advantageous for the current pandemic and to help during the yearly flu season.

For the month of July, and most likely, as was mentioned, the rest of the summer, we will worship in the parking lot. This has been difficult even for the live stream. Look for the article about live stream to hear more about what we are doing for this.

## **Church Council Minutes (Special Meeting)**

**Wednesday, April 15th 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Special Council Meeting**

(Held online via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing)

**Attendance/Roll Call** – Present online: Kathy Anders, Deb Kenny, Jennifer Lieber, Jarrod Knudsen, Mike Hunter, Pastor Doug, and Judy Blessing.

Excused: Michael Sigsbee and Terry Sorem

Unexcused: None

**Acceptance of Agenda** – Jarrod Knudsen made a motion to accept the agenda as written, Mike Hunter seconded. The motion carries unanimously.

### **Opening Prayer**

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.

Amen

### **Father Thomas Keating**

#### **Reading of Vision and Mission Statements**

**Vision Statement** – Building upon the properties that God provides. To reach out in mission to the community.

**Mission Statement** - Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God's diversity.

**Acceptance of Resignation of Chad Cain as Treasurer** – On April 13, Chad Cain, treasurer of FLC, submitted a letter of resignation from his position as treasurer and other roles with FLC.

This was accepted by the FLC Executive Council. Although it was not his expressed intention to resign completely from council at this time, after consultation with the consultants, Chad Cain resigned completely.

Pastor Doug made a motion to accept Chad's resignation from the FLC Council and from his position as FLC Treasurer. Seconded by Kathy Anders.

The motion passed unanimously.

There is now a vacancy in the role of treasurer.

Deb Kenny nominated Mike Hunter. Judy Blessing seconded.

Mike Hunter expressed verbal consent to this nomination.

**Motion to appoint Mike Hunter as Treasurer** was passed unanimously.

#### **Cares Act Small Business Loan:**

#### **Motion on who can sign on the Small Business Loans under the 2020 CARES Act**

Pastor Doug moved to nominate two roles: the FLC President, Deb Kenny or Vice President, Jarrod Knudsen AND the FLC Treasurer, Mike Hunter, who each will sign FLC's SBA loan application.

Deb Kenny seconded Pastor Doug's motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The application is to be made in person on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Open for other new business** – On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Terry Sorem will begin work on the new band shelter at 9:00 a.m. with the help of volunteers.

Pastor Doug is planning an outdoor, drive-in service on the first Sunday of May.

#### **Close in Prayer**

Pastor Doug closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting of the Council is the regular meet-

ing on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **Church Council Minutes (Special Meeting)**

### **Special Church Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

(Held online via Microsoft Teams web conference)

Present/online: Pastor Doug, Jarrod Knudsen, Judy Blessing, Terry Sorem, Mike Hunter, Deb Kenny, and Jennifer Lieber.

Not present/online: Michael Sigsbee

Pastor Doug Opened the meeting in prayer at 7:04 p.m.

The FLC Foundation meeting on Thursday, May 21st granted the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the payment to Effective Church Group (ECG). This amount is \$12,320.

Bill McLarty resigned at this meeting, stating that he was unable to comprehend and follow the complexity of the fiduciary duties.

Out of a conflict of investment strategies, Jean Hedquist resigned, as she felt that the foundation's money should be invested in low-risk Certificates of Deposit (CDs).

Because of these 2 resignations, there are not enough foundation board members to run the foundation. At least 1 more member is necessary for the next 6 months until January 2021, which is the next Annual Meeting of FLC.

Pastor Discussed the investment strategies of the FLC Foundation in the past. Thrivent has a "3 bucket" strategy of high, medium, and low risk pools of money.

Jarrod Knudsen moved to nominate Sue Hunter to be appointed to the spot vacated by the resignation of Jean Hedquist. Judy Blessing seconded this motion.

Mike Hunter abstained due to a conflict of interest; the motion passed unanimously among those voting.

Mike Hunter moved to nominate Gary Panko to be appointed to the spot vacated by the resignation of Bill McLarty. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Doug then updated the FLC Council regarding the plumbing replacement at the parsonage: the work will proceed as the plumbing in the basement is in very poor shape.

Pastor Doug then updated the Council regarding his family situation.

He asked that bulletins be distributed at Sunday in-car services, but not for these to be collected. 75 bulletins will be printed by Kerri in preparation for service.

The meeting concluded at 7:26 p.m.

## Church Council Minutes

### First Lutheran Church - Council Meeting

Sunday, May 17, 2020

(Conducted online via Microsoft Teams)

**Attendance/Roll Call** – Present/online: Pastor Doug, Deb Kenny, Michael Sigsbee, Jennifer Lieber, Mike Hunter, Jarrod Knudsen, Kathy Anders, and Judy Blessing.

Not present/online, unexcused: Terry Sorem (joined the meeting later).

Deb Kenny started the meeting at 12:52.

**Acceptance of Agenda** – Motion to accept agenda as written by Jarrod, seconded by Michael. The motion carries unanimously.

### Opening Prayer

Lord, take me where you want me to go.  
Let me meet who you want me to meet.  
Tell me what you want me to say,  
And keep me out of your way.

Father Mychal Judge

Franciscan priest

Died on 9/11 at the World Trade Center when he was ministering to a fallen firefighter

### Reading of Vision and Mission Statements

**Vision Statement** – Building upon the properties that God provides. To reach out in mission to the community.

**Mission Statement** - Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God's diversity.

**Guests** – Kris Tenny-Brittian joined in the meeting and Sue Hunter did as well.

**Minutes from April council meeting** – Motion to approve April's minutes by Kathy, seconded by Mike. The motion carries unanimously.

### Reports –

Evangelism Report - Judy's motion to accept this report as written, Jarrod seconded. The motion carries unanimously.

Pastor Report from April – Jarrod's motion to accept this report as written, Jennifer seconded. The motion carries unanimously.

**Correspondences received** – From the Nebraska Synod - \$1,100 was set aside for the Synod Assembly which has now been cancelled because of COVID-19. It can be refunded or donated. Pastor Doug recommended a full refund, with 10% donated back to the Synod.

Motion to have \$1,100 refunded with 10% donated back to the Synod by Jarrod and seconded by Judy. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discuss attendance trends** – The numbers are difficult to interpret due to the dramatic change in how worship has been conducted over the past month. It appears that many people are being connected to via online methods. Jarrod relayed an anecdote about a man who had seen the online service and was interested in participating in person. Pastor Doug noted that he had spent \$20 in advertising on Facebook for this

week's service and the next. 2,128 people were reached – impressions online.

### **Mission Support Financial Reports and Status**

– Mike deferred from giving a detailed report as he was driving at the time of this meeting. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds of around \$19,000 was not received until May. Pastor Doug reported that income is holding but is not where it needs to be. Motion to approve the Mission Support FR for April 2020 as written by Jarrod, seconded by Judy. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Fund for Shelter created**

#### **Old Business:**

#### **Lighting/Electrical Work**

#### **Changeable Sign to LED**

Parts on order. Delayed delivery to South Sioux due to COVID-19.

#### **Bring to Code Band Lights**

Lights installed – Pastor Doug mentioned this during today's service online.

#### **Security Team for FLC on Sundays**

Status of finding interested members: no place for training safely due to COVID-19.

#### **Tree removal**

The next door neighbor of parsonage may want to cut some trees for free. The neighbor will let Pastor Doug know.

#### **Parsonage Work and Sewer Smell**

Smell highly concentrated below sink (holding)

#### **Sacristy Ceiling Damaged**

Terry Sorem to fix in the summer. Waiting on work to start when Terry is available

#### **Food Pantry cabinets to be finished update**

Waiting on word from Rick Lieber (Delayed due to COVID-19)

#### **Property Repair/Update/Replace**

Repair of caulking on floor to ceiling stained glass windows –

Repair/replace trinity sign on tower – Need bucket and someone to install to be done by Terry Sorem.

New Entrance/Exit: Mike Hunter looking for Traffic Signs to finalize changes.

#### **Stewardship**

Status of campaign? Mike Hunter says he will get 2 people to join him and Pastor Doug to be the cameraman and record a video regarding stewardship. The campaign has evolved in light of the COVID-19 situation.

#### **New Business**

#### **Basketball Backboard and Pole:**

We received \$1,000 to install new backboard and pole. Need old one removed and the new one purchased and installed. Mike's motion to use the money received to install the new basketball hoop, Terry seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Pastor Doug and Terry Sorem to look into this.

#### **Jenni Durant Fundraiser Total:**

**\$2,796.25** - to be designated to utilities and salaries of FLC staff.

#### **Effective Church Group Update:**

See ECG Folder, found In the Council SharePoint Folder. Worship Survey forms likely won't be sent out until after Labor Day, with the intention of getting responses from as many people as possible.

#### **6 Parking Lot lights:**

See quotes Folder: \$600 to replace the one light that is out. \$1,650 to replace all six parking lot lights with new energy-efficient (2,400 watts to 600 watts per month) and longer-lasting LEDs. Mike's motion to approve the replacement of all lights, second by Jarrod. The motion carried unanimously. Pastor Doug to call electrician.



## **COVID 19 Update:**

See PDF documents in COVID-19 folder for May meeting. NE houses of worship are allowed to have indoor services, but they must extensively clean the church which is very labor-intensive and time-consuming. Even a single service inside is putting people together that could spread an infection to their fellow congregants and then spread to the wider community. Pastor Doug advised that FLC leadership look ahead in 30-day increments as to planning whether FLC holds services indoors or outdoors. Motion to continue outdoor worship at 10:30 a.m. for June 2020 (weather permitting) by Jarrod, seconded by Jennifer. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Summer Council Meetings:**

Deb Kenny would like to change day we meet for June-August, such as Wednesday evenings instead of Sunday. Deb made a motion for the June and July 2020 meetings to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Mike seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next council meetings will be held on June 18 and July 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Parking Lot Lines**

Should we have some areas re-painted due to snowplow scraping? Mike Hunter to inquire about this.

## **Communion**

Going forward every week?

Outside to stay in current format with people bringing bread and wine

Inside communion, how?

Stay as we had been previously

Modification to help prevent the spread of germs

Pre-packaged:

Based upon 100 per week

Roughly \$1,200-\$1,400 a year.

**Open for other new business** – Deb Kenny said a man from the Eritrean-American Community of Sioux City was raising funds for COVID-19 in Africa. The donation request was denied.

Pastor Doug said that we will not allow people into the building for Food Bank next month, but instead use a drive-up style. However, there is an issue with parking and traffic obstructions. Pastor Doug would like to set up “Parking by Authorized Use Only” to provide notice to unallowed parking on FLC property. Jarrod to look into a towing service provider to be associated with any type of “No Parking” sign. Deb made a motion to authorize Jarrod to pursue this project if there is no cost (i.e. with sign provided by a towing provider at their cost). Seconded by Judy. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close the meeting at 1:55 p.m. by Deb and seconded by Kathy. The motion carried unanimously.

**Closed in Prayer** – Prayer read by Pastor Doug.

## **Synod Correspondence**

<sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.... <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.... See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! --2 Corinthians 5:18,20; 6:2

Beloved in Christ:

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now is the time for the people of God truly to engage the ministry of reconciliation, to be ambassadors for Christ, who willingly gave his life that all humanity may be reconciled to God, and all humans might be reconciled to one another.

This is an extraordinary moment. The universal fatigue of living with pandemic has peeled back the thin veneer long kept in place over the inter-

nal divisions that let the sin of racism persist around, among, and in too many of us. There's no energy left to pretend that our fellow citizens of color, fellow members of the Body of Christ, live on a playing field as level as the one on which the white majority lives. As a nation, we have seen, so starkly in the last gasps of George Floyd and so frequently in the deaths of so many others, how the lives of people of color are devalued; how they are treated as less-than.

More and more people are willing to acknowledge, as they have not before, that racism exists and is a problem in our nation. That willingness is a start, but it is only a beginning. Now is the time for people of faith not only to acknowledge it but to do something about it.

As ambassadors for Christ, charged with the ministry of reconciliation, we in the church are called to lead in examining our own role in sustaining a status quo that allows racism to continue. Now is the time for this hard work, and for the first strong steps toward a future in which all are wholly equal and truly free of racism's ugly stain.

I am asking, inviting, challenging you—each member and every congregation of the Nebraska Synod—to take advantage of this moment, this holy now, to do one thing, to take one step toward the reconciliation for which Jesus died, and for which humanity continues to wait. I call you to this work not from a position of righteousness or innocence, but as one who has to confess how often I've been wrong not only about the extent to which racism infects our culture, but about my own contribution to it and my own responsibility to do something about it. I can ignore that responsibility no longer. We, the church, can ignore that responsibility no longer.

As pastor to this synod, I am not asking you to agree with me. I am asking only that you join me in a commitment to ask questions, to listen to the experience of others, to learn, and to act.

Know too that I am calling on our pastors, deacons, PMAs, and all ministry leaders to raise the

matter of racism in their preaching and teaching, to provide leadership and insight as we step into this work together. Prepare to be challenged by their words. Support them as they strive to be both faithful and courageous in speaking difficult truths and proclaiming a powerful gospel.

This is work too many of us have avoided for too long, and we are now gifted with a rare moment to engage it. We who are the church owe it to those who most suffer the consequences of racism, we owe it to one another, and we owe it to Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his life has called us to the ministry of reconciliation.

Let us not fail in this calling. Let us not fail to grasp this moment. Now is the time.

With gratitude for you and prayers for this important work we share,

Brian D Maas, Bishop

## Financial Reports

### Treasurer's Report - May 2020

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 22,431.06

#### Receipts:

Contributions	\$13,776.27
<u>Misc. Income</u>	<u>109.08</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$13,885.35</b>

#### Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,458.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	4,078.34
Auxiliary staff salaries	2,756.12
Payroll Taxes	210.83
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	891.21
Parsonage Improvements	110.00
Utilities	768.64
Grounds Maint.	160.98
Building Maint.	57.48

Office Expenses	238.60
Worship & Music	324.36
Parish	164.07
Food Bank	400.00
Youth	39.00
Benevolence	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$14,657.97</b>
Transfer to Capital Improvement: \$	100.00
Transfer from other funds: \$	2,851.25
Ending General Fund Balance: \$	-20,452.43

### May Attendance & General Fund Receipts

May 3	236	\$ 1,884.77
May 10	149	\$ 999.00
May 17	271	\$ 660.00
May 24	706	\$ 4,233.00
May 31	250	\$ 1,894.50
Online/Electronic Giving		\$ 4,105.00

## Social Ministry

Social Ministry is collecting school supplies and nonperishable food items for families in need. Donations can be left in the cart in the entryway.

## Shutterfly

Don't forget, if you shop at Shutterfly, you can shop through First Lutheran's storefront at [flcsc.shutterflystorefront.com/](http://flcsc.shutterflystorefront.com/). First Lutheran will receive 8% of your purchase!

## Giving Statements

If we have your email address on file, we will email your giving statement to you after July 1. All others will be printed and available in the entryway. Please pick up your giving statement to help us save on postage costs.

## Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

## You Tube

Please subscribe to the First Lutheran YouTube page. We need 100 subscribers to customize the URL to something that is easy to remember.

<http://ow.ly/7GdH50yS9AQ>

## Smart Phone App

First Lutheran has an app for your smart phone: [app.flcsc.org](http://app.flcsc.org). With this app, we hope you find better integration into the community at First Lutheran. You can access your online giving, worship, sermons, critical communications, sign up for activities and much more.

## Outdoor Worship

We will continue with one outdoor worship at 10:30 through the month of July. Council will re-evaluate during their July meeting.

## Sign Up Online

Online signup is available for lectors, ushers, altar care, cantors, streaming, slides/Proclaim, and Welcome Center M-F at [signup.flcsc.org](http://signup.flcsc.org).

Please sign up today!

## Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program

You can still help First Lutheran's Food Pantry by buying a red "My Heart" bag. Here is what to do:

1. Visit [myHy-VeeCause.com](http://myHy-VeeCause.com) within 7 days of your purchase.
2. Remove the scratch-off layer on the Giving Tag to reveal the unique code.
3. Submit your code and select First Lutheran to receive a \$1 donation.

Your donation must be made within 7 days of

your purchase, or the donation will be sent to the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program beneficiary—the monthly featured non-profit selected by store leadership at the store where you purchased the bag.



## Giving to First Lutheran

Although our Church building has to remain closed, our ministry remains “open for business” as we reach out in mission to the community. We continue to reach many viewers with our worship offerings. All of this is fulfilling our FLC Mission, Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God’s diversity.

Of course, ministry and mission, whether within or beyond the walls of a church building, require income – our gifts, tithes, and offerings. It probably comes as no surprise, though, that our offering receipts have decreased since we’ve had to pause worshipping in our Church building. Many of us have been trained from childhood to bring our coins, cash, or checks to worship with us so we can place them in the offering plate as it’s passed; and no offering time means no opportunity to give. But, we think we’ve found a way to make it easier for you.

Currently, we have five ways you can give, or catch-up on your giving:

1. **TEXT:** Text the word “GIVE” to 402-557-0882, then follow the instructions texted back to you.
2. **APP:** (did you know we have an app!?) <https://app.flcssc.org/>
3. **CHECK** Sent to the office at 3601 Dakota Ave, South Sioux City NE 68776
4. **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT** can be arranged through your bank, or in our e-Giving at <https://>

[give.flcssc.org](https://give.flcssc.org)

5. **AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL** can also be arranged through your bank, or with e-giving

Don’t forget: if you have trouble remembering your offering, both our text and app have a “recurring” option that will send your offering to FLC every week or month (you choose), regardless of whether or not you’re in the building! And you can always arrange for Automatic Payment or Withdrawal through your bank!

We can’t begin to say enough THANK YOU for your faithfulness and continued generosity for our FLC ministries and missions. Together we’re making a difference!

## Sponsor a Song

Would you like to sponsor a song for the 10:30 worship? There are many songs that we will use over and over. Normally songs are rented as part of our package we have with MultiTracks.com. However, if we use it often, it would be better to purchase it. The cost to do so is \$30 per song. If you would like to sponsor a song, please indicate this on your check or use online giving to give towards Sponsor a Song found under Worship and Music.

## Streaming & Parking Lot Worship

As you may recall, Pastor Jose talked about being re-engaged in worship. Willing to make fools of ourselves for the sake of the Gospel. The Gospel should come first, before anything else. Prior to the pandemic and even more so now, people have been disengaged and now some are engaged only via streaming.

First, the excuse of getting up early for worship, getting the kids ready, getting dressed and coming to worship, never should be an issue, especially when we are willing to do so when it comes to other activities...You name them. Now with “Virtual” Worship, aka streaming, it presents a great opportunity to engage others but also a

great opportunity for some to become less engaged.

This is the two-edged sword that has revealed itself. We want to provide as many ways of worshipping but in person, the community of believers (church) is the best. We have a parking lot service that we are streaming, but there have been many challenges. We need help getting setup. This has been a difficult task each week with a continually moving target. Some have said that it needs to be "better organized". So, the question is, how can you help? Pastor Doug gets to Church at 7 a.m. to spend the next 3.5 hrs. on setup, and then lead a worship.

The more hands, the sooner the setup gets done. It still needs to start at 7 a.m. Why, you might ask? Because there is always something to troubleshoot. You can plan and plan, but something will not work right. However, having the time to troubleshoot allows the service to go smoothly.

Wind, Rain, Sun, and Heat all factor in. We no longer have shelter for all the electrical equipment to produce and stream the worship. Tents just could not hold up to all the wind we have. Too much sun, equipment overheats and the streaming and/or the slides do not work. The Boy Scouts have been asked to consider building a Gazebo as an Eagle Scout project. This would allow for rain and sun shelter for the electronics and a nice place to sit down and meet.

A new sound board has been donated for outdoor worship. This will allow for both left and right speakers to work again. Also, we will have the ability, similar to what we do inside, to pull sound directly from the sound board, into the streaming worship. Right now, we have one of the cameras pick up the sound from the speakers. Wind across the camera, wind across the speaker and wind into the mics all make for a very difficult experience for all.

Pastor Doug will be using a different microphone for leading the service. Although there is some wind shielding now on his microphone, the oth-

ers we have might do a better job. We have purchased cable protectors that will allow us to extend a cable from the sound board to the streaming equipment above ground to keep it protected.

All this means that we should have some better quality. But we still have weather issues, no matter what. Wind is wind. A couple of weeks ago, we had to tie speakers and the pulpit down. Had we not, they would have been blown over. This has happened before. We are continually looking to tweak the worship to make it better. How can you help? Help on setup, keep up your giving and step it up. It costs money to do worship. We have lots of guests who have been coming, let's keep more coming and provide the best we can, both in person and through streaming. How do we get all the guests? Advertising. See advertising article for more.

## **Attendance**

When watching online or in the parking lot, please use our online attendance form at [pre-sent.flcssc.org](https://pre-sent.flcssc.org). This can also be found in our app, which can be installed at [app.flcssc.org](https://app.flcssc.org).

## **Stimulus Check Tithing**

This pandemic has been tragic, yet in tragedy, God is present. God works always in the good and in the bad of the world. All to work towards the good that God intends for God's people in God's love for us in Christ Jesus. For us here at First Lutheran, people have stepped up.

More people are giving electronically and more are giving on automated giving. The stimulus checks have provided each of us a way to tithe the unexpected monies to the church. We gave ours, did you? Even during this pandemic, God is working good for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **Have You Noticed?**

When guests come to church, there are several areas that become very important to keep them

coming into the church and coming back. Parking Lot and Grounds, Entry Way, Narthex, Sanctuary and, believe it or not, the bathroom! Each of these entry points can become also an exit point.

What has been done at FLC about each of these areas? Let us start with the parking lot, especially since that is where we have our worship services right now. Having clear entrance and exits help tell the guests how to come and go. Also important is that the parking lot and surrounding property look well maintained. Last year, we painted the parking lot stalls. They will be updated again this year. If we don't do this, then the lot looks worn and uncared for. Mike Hunter and Marla Bianchini keep putting down weed killer on all the green that tries to grow up in any parking lot. The lawn must always be kept cut and look good, but especially on Sunday. Thank you, lawn crew, and all those that help with flowers and bushes.

You may or may not have noticed, but over the last several months, lighting has been updated. We had several places that lights were broken or not working. The tower has lights working again; it cannot be missed. They were all converted to LED to save on electrical costs, as well as being good stewards of the environment. The lights on the metal sign on Dakota Ave, along with the lights on the north and south sides of the exterior of the sanctuary, were repaired and replaced with LED. The building cannot be missed, we save on electricity and are being good stewards of God's gifts. The changeable sign had only one light functioning over the last year. Now all six function. They were converted to LED and it looks great. Guess what, less electricity and again stewardship. Lastly outside, the parking lot lights needed to be repaired. While being repaired, they were replaced to LED and now it is brighter than before and costs less to run and helps the environment. Fluorescent lights are toxic to dispose of in the environment and use more energy. The outside looks great and we again look like we

are open, we care how we look, and it is inviting to those that visit.

The lights in the entry way, the halls and offices are all working again. Not only are they working, but they look bright and inviting. They too have been converted, while being repaired, to be LED. Less electricity and good stewardship. Each time we have replaced lights to LED, they run on about 1/3 of the amount of electricity than the previous bulbs. Did you know that LED lights consume less electricity than their equivalent incandescent or fluorescent? They produce less heat and last longer. Good stewardship, good common sense (cents).

If guests can find their way into the lot and the outside looks uncared for, uninviting, then when a guest arrives, they can just as easily leave the lot. When the entryway is not inviting, not bright and welcoming, it does not matter who greets them at the door, they can and very well may find the first exit. The same is true if they are not welcomed upon entry and are not welcomed and introduced to people when they get to the narthex. Guests need to meet 8-10 new people to stay and/or come back. Without this, they often will not feel welcomed. Each spot must have nice lighting, look presentable and have no foul odors. In fact, even people who do not drink coffee, many find the smell of coffee as inviting. We have coffee brewing in the welcome center. Now that is inviting!

Can you think of a bigger turnoff than seeing what appears to be an unkept, dirty appearing, even if it is not, bathroom? Okay, guys put up with more than women when it comes to bathrooms, but they must be kept up to date, have no missing tiles, no cracks, good lighting, easy to use towels or hand dryers and above all SMELL GOOD! Bad bathrooms make bad hosts that make guests leave. If a guest uses the bathroom and there is a problem there, the odds of them coming back are slim. Our woman's bathroom needs an update. The men's bathroom....well if you have not seen it, all I can say is YUCK!

Welcoming, inviting, while saving money and being good stewards. This is all part of being church. The gathering of believers. The more welcoming, the more inviting, the more people will come and stay to be church. Below you will find a cost comparison over the last few months for our electric.

March 2019	March 2020	Difference
\$ 875.82	\$ 687.46	\$ (188.36)
April 2019	April 2020	Difference
\$ 734.18	\$ 555.44	\$ (178.74)
May 2019	May 2020	Difference
\$ 598.87	\$ 455.60	\$ (143.27)

Some of the saving arguably comes from not being open as much, but some of the savings are from being LED and will only get better. Either way, we are being good stewards, not polluting, and saving electricity. We are looking good and saving monthly costs and being good stewards. Help support the congregation's efforts to be inviting, by inviting and welcoming. Help support the changes by donating. Help be the church in all its facets. Let's be church, together!

## Advertising

We have advertised in the past, but to be honest, people just don't look in newspapers and yellow pages anymore. Most are on the internet to find out info. We use some free tools, such as our Google Website, some Journal free advertising, Yelp and Facebook. Facebook seems to get us the most.

We had some leftover funds from Thrivent Action Teams and began a Facebook advertising campaign. It is working, and for \$20 a week, we reach over 3,000 people. Because of this, there is a special fund you can donate to, to help fund advertising and specifically, Facebook advertising. Just write it on the envelope or check. Better yet, setup an electronic reoccurring giving to help fund this.

Two other great ways, and they seem to work even better, but are harder to track and require a little more work, is word of mouth and news articles. Each time we can get a printed or video news article, we get visitors. This is good but cannot be weekly. Word of mouth is the best. Use the talents that God has given you and tell people and even offer to bring people to worship.

Advertising by word of mouth, print, video and the internet are all needed. Do your part and spread the word and help fund, spreading the Word today.



**JULY 3—OFFICE CLOSED**

**AUGUST 7-9—FLEA MARKET**

**AUGUST 23—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30**

**SEPTEMBER 7—OFFICE CLOSED**

**SEPTEMBER 11—SOUP KITCHEN**

**SEPTEMBER 27—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30**

**OCTOBER 25—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30**