



First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Glencoe, MN

May 2020 Church Newsletter

“Sharing Christ Changing Lives”

“Lord and Savior, Do You Hear Us?”

In 2014, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod asked our church’s hymn writers to submit hymns to provide Gospel comfort to churches suffering in the wake of disasters. The LC-MS received 120 submissions. The winning hymn was, “Lord and Savior, Do You Hear Us” by Carol Geisler. It is sung to the familiar tune of “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (LSB 685). This hymn is so fitting for us and our world today as we make our way through the Coronavirus global pandemic:

Lord and Savior, do You hear us? Have You turned
Your face away?
Do You know the pain we suffer And the fear we face
each day?
Yet You, Lord, have known our sorrow; You have
shared our grief and pain.
As the Lamb for sinners slain, You cried out in silent
darkness,
Hanging from the dreadful tree: “Why have You forsaken
Me?”

Then, Your Father’s will accomplished, and Your blood
for sinners shed,
To Your Father’s hands committed, You, dear Savior,
bowed Your head.
Dying, trusting in Your Father, knowing You would
conquer death,
You gave up Your final breath. May we also, through
unseeing,
Trust our Father to fulfill ev’ry purpose of His will.

When distress and trouble grieve us, bringing illness,
storm, or loss,
May we, patiently enduring, bear with faithfulness the
cross.
As we, Lord receive Your mercy, may we then Your
mercy share,
Giving comfort, hope, and care. For this work may we be
nourished,
As our hearts to love are stirred, by Your Supper and
Your Word.

In the world, Lord, You have told us there is trouble to
endure.
Fill our doubting hearts with courage, for in You our
hope is sure.
As with Your disciples sailing on the windy, storm-tossed
sea,
You awoke and heard their plea, stilling storm and wind
and water,
Bid our fear and sorrow cease with Your quiet Word of
peace.

“Lord and Savior, do you hear us?” Yes, Jesus most certainly hears us Christians as we pray! He knows what we are going through now and every day. Through His powerful Word of peace, He makes our fears and sorrows cease, as He did for His disciples on the stormy sea (See Mark 4:35-41). Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus gives us His “peace that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). Because our Lord conquered sin and death by His death and resurrection, He lives to give us comfort, hope, care, and mercy. Through our acts of kindness and through our offerings to His church we in turn share His comfort, hope, care, and mercy with others.

I pray God’s blessings and peace be with you as we continue to journey together, from a safe distance (!) during this relatively brief, uncertain time until that day when we are able to meet together again in God’s house for worship!

~In Christ, Pastor Dan Welch

Tune

Lord and Savior, Do You Hear Us

1 Lord and Sav - ior, do You hear us? Have You turned Your
2 Then, Your Fa - ther's will ac - com-plished, And Your blood for
3 When dis - tress and trou - ble grieve us, Bring - ing ill - ness,
4 In the world, Lord, You have told us There is trou - ble

face a - way? Do You know the pain we suf - fer And the
sin - ners shed, To Your Fa - ther's hands com - mit - ted, You, dear
storm, or loss, May we, pa - tient - ly en - dur - ing, Bear with
to en - dure. Fill our doubt - ing hearts with cour - age, For in

fear we face each day? Yet You, Lord, have known our sor - row;
Sav - ior, bowed Your head. Dy - ing, trust - ing in Your Fa - ther,
faith - ful - ness the cross. As we, Lord, re - ceive Your mer - cy,
You our hope is sure. As with Your dis - ci - ples sail - ing

You have shared our grief and pain. As the Lamb for
Knowing You would con - quer death, You gave up Your
May we then Your mer - cy share, Giv - ing com - fort,
On the wind - y, storm - tossed sea, You a - woke and

sin - ners slain, You cried out in si - lent dark - ness, Hang - ing
fi - nal breath. May we al - so, though un - see - ing, Trust our
hope, and care. For this work may we be nour - ished, As our
heard their plea, Still - ing storm and wind and wa - ter, Bid our

from the dread - ful tree: “Why have You for - sak - en Me?”
Fa - ther to ful - fill Ev - 'ry pur - pose of His will,
hearts to love are stirred, By Your Sup - per and Your Word,
fear and sor - row cease With Your qui - et Word of peace.

Text: Carol Geisler, b. 1953. Copyright © 2015 Carol Geisler.
All rights reserved. Permission is given to congregations
to duplicate this page for congregational use.
Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Public domain. LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN 87 87 877 877

What is “Normal”?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

When will we get back to normal? That is a good question. In reality, life hasn't been “normal” ever since Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan to eat of the forbidden fruit. Immediately, Adam and Eve fell into sin. Through our first parents, we have inherited our sinful condition.

With Adam and Eve questioning the rights God has over us, Satan challenged the goodness of God as the giver of life and enticed Eve to rely on herself for the good. By rearranging God's words, Adam and Eve aspired to assume God's place, asserting themselves as the final determiners of what is good. The root sin, called original sin, is our desire and search for personal meaning and identity apart from what the Creator has bestowed. As a punishment for this sin, Adam and Eve were limited by death. They could not return themselves to a life of trust in God, and they would also experience this separation from God in their own bodies – they would return to the dust from which man is made. Man is by nature weak, ungodly, sinful, and an enemy of God.

So, has life really been “normal” before the COVID-19 pandemic? No. We even deceived ourselves as we have trusted ourselves, rather than the Triune God.

So, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, due to sin, every person has the same fate: death. The only difference between each of us is this: How will we die? Since January 1, 2020, the top three causes of death are: 1. Abortion, 2. Heart Disease, 3. Cancer. To date, more people have died from traffic accidents and Influenza than COVID-19. I'm not saying COVID-19 is nothing to fear, but death is the reality for all of us.

And, what will result from our death? Will we experience eternal death apart from God, or will we experience everlasting life in Christ? So, if you know of a friend or relative who is apart from Christ, by speaking to them patiently and kindly about Jesus Christ we can change their fate after death.

Each of us have also seen the culture around us radically change in our life. Has this been for the good? Or, is this because of our sinful nature?

Remember, original sin does not come from God. God is not sin's creator or author. Nor is original sin God's creation or work, but it is Satan's work.

God's judgment on sin is that Adam and Eve and every person after them has lost the status of “very good” before God. With our will turned so wholly inward and completely away from God, our hostility toward God deserves only God's disfavor and judgment. This judgment is a decree of death imposed on each person.

So, since Adam and Eve sinned, every sinful human being has died. But, for Christians, we do not need to fear God's eternal punishment for sin. Rather, “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God did not create us and then abandon us to our own failed devices. He did not thunder His Law at us and then turn away. Instead, God the Father sent His One and only Son Jesus the Christ to earth as the one sinless human being, the One perfect

person who kept God at the center and followed all the rules without breaking them. For the sake of Jesus, God does not count sin and its consequences against those who are baptized into Christ Jesus.

Remember: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Romans 10:9-10).

So, when will be back to normal? That day will come for everyone living in Christ when Jesus returns descending from the clouds on the Last Day, or when Christ receives us into heaven prior to that day. On which ever day comes first, we will be sinless. We will experience what it was like for Adam and Eve prior to their fall into sin with no worry, no hunger and no thirst. We will be completely satisfied as everyone in the one true faith will be cared for by the Triune God!

In Christ, Pastor Adelsen

ANGEL SEEDS

The Abundant Table has been selected as the Angel Seeds recipient for donations received from April through June.

Abundant Table is a free Community Meal served at Christ Lutheran Church on the first Wednesday of each month for all in our community and surrounding areas. The meal served from 5:00-6:30pm and is open to families and children, elderly, and all seeking fellowship or in need of a helping hand. It is not only about the meals, but about building community. In addition, it is also about decreasing isolation and providing a coordinated but loving response to people in need.

Thank you for prayerfully considering donating to this important mission endeavor!



Christian Book Study

During this time of social distancing, the plan for now is to finish the book “Embracing Godly Character” by Kenneth Kremer, if you have not already, on your own. At a later date, to be announced, we will meet together again. In the Fall, we will begin the third year of the Christian Book Study with a new book. For more information, please call or email Pastor Adelsen.



"Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you"

The lyrics of this song couldn't be more true to what is going on right now. As we can't meet in our Church building God has equipped us and continues to equip us to be the church in our everyday lives. Our lives look drastically different now. These are things that we would've never expected, or would wish upon anyone. But right now more than ever people are longing for this hope and comfort that only Christ can give us. Loving and serving our neighbor can still happen from a 6 foot distance. I want to encourage you First Lutheran Family even at a distance we are here for you. Please reach out for your needs, small and large, prayer or even grocery shopping. We may be longing for what was before, but what is to come may be something better, all I know is that we have to have trust that God works for the good of those who love Him!

For Christian Education, things sure do look different. Things are getting postponed, and a lot of our summer events have huge question marks on them. I will not lie it makes me sad to see this, but know we will do our best to make sure God's Word is still spread.

In the meantime take advantage of our online services, I have daily devotions, and pastors are providing materials for prayers and Bible studies. As we are at a distance this is the time to learn that our faith lives just aren't saved for Sunday's. Jesus wants us to connect with Him daily. Take this journey with us as we continue to strengthen our faith in new ways! Thank you for all the support you have given us, seeing your comments and replies on videos truly is uplifting! Blessings on your month of May, we miss you!

Blessings ~ Tori Kidd

First Edition Book Club



First Edition Book Club does not have a meeting scheduled at this time but when we are able to meet again, *Smoke Screen*, by Terri Blackstock, will be discussed. Further information will be included in the

bulletins/newsletter when a meeting time is determined. In the meantime, as we all practice "social distancing" – keep reading! Especially the greatest book, our Bible!



Many FL members have been busy sewing face masks for our congregation members, the community, and area care centers. Extras were also given to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. Thank you all for your skill, kindness and generosity!

GIVE+ Church

e-Giving

Members & Visitors - It's easy to support FL with e-Giving. In just seconds, you can make a weekly offering, respond to an appeal or pay for events, programs and other activities.

- Give anytime, anywhere
- Donate to your favorite funds
- Make your gifts recurring
- Donations are safe & secure

Ways to e-Give:

1. Give online via: www.firstglencoe.org
(Click on "Giving" and then "Online Giving.")
2. Give Plus Church – Mobile App
(Download the app and search for FL)
3. Text to 855-976-9619

If you'd like help with any of the e-giving options, please call the church office. You'll see just how easy it is!



Nuvera has agreed to start rebroadcasting our current church services again! Due to the corona virus and shutdown of their Glencoe office, they had stopped accepting recordings. At this time of social distancing, we knew this was a great loss to our members and our community. One FL member was instrumental in reaching out to Nuvera and escalating the issue. With persistence and much prayer, we are happy to report that current broadcasts have restarted!

Having the ability to watch FL services on the Nuvera local station (Channel 10) will help people feel connected. It's very difficult not to be able to attend church, and we realize that it's easy to feel lonely and isolated.

These recorded services can be seen on Nuvera Channel 10 on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. and again on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are very grateful to Nuvera and blessed by their willingness to make this happen! We encourage all Nuvera subscribers to "Thank" them – considering reaching out to by phone at 864-2818 or put a note in with your next payment.



FLC Prayer Chain

We're always looking for new members to join our Prayer Chain! We have both a Phone Chain and an E-Mail Chain. You can join anytime. Participation as a member is simple, but so very powerful! The Bible says in Phil 4:6, "But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God." If anyone would like to join the Prayer Chain or make a prayer request, please contact the church office or one of the prayer chain phone numbers: 320-864-3892 or 320-238-2148.



First Lutheran Church & School Web Site

A committee has been formed to begin investigating a new Web Site. Our current web site was set up 13 years ago and this platform is outdated. New website technology will allow us to be properly seen on mobile devices, better organize info so we are more user-friendly, and to improve our "hit" ratio so we come up in more searches. The goal is to increase school and church attendance, excite and involve our members, and to engage the community.

Lutheran Witness Subscription



Try a subscription to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod family magazine, the Lutheran Witness. You can review the latest issue on an end table in the south main entry sitting area. Have this magazine delivered to your door

each month for only \$19.68 per year. To renew your subscription or to be added to the subscription list, stop by the Church office with your payment OR put your \$19.68 in your offering envelope (separate check please) and note "Lutheran Witness" on the outside of the envelope. The deadline is Friday, May 15th.

Lutheran Night at the MN

Twins

I think many of us are looking forward to watching the MN Twins! We are still hoping that Lutheran Night at MN Twins will happen as currently scheduled, however we will have to wait and see.



Tickets are reserved for the 7 PM game on Tuesday, July 28th against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Seats are located in Section 217 at a cost of \$36 each. Bus transportation from First Ev. Lutheran Church in Glencoe will depart at 4:15 PM, at a cost of about \$12 per person. Please contact Cindy at 238-2148 or eggsgluesscindy@gmail.com to reserve your spot! All community members are welcome!

YOUNG INVESTORS CLUB

The Young Investors Club program (for ages 0 to 18-years-old) has wrapped up for the year. Thank you to all of our young savers who are taking their first steps in practicing financial management, investing for future needs, and supporting ministry. We can't forget about the parents who help encourage them and even send money with them on a weekly basis. Young Investors can earn "extra credit" for good grades and participating in community service projects (up to \$25 per year). Parent forms can be found at lcef.org. In addition, the Y.I. Club's interest rate on the first \$1,000 is 3.5%! Did you know that adults could be an LCEF investor, too? Visit lcef.org for the online "Fast Form" or call 800-843-5233. (Becky Edwards Y.I. Club coordinator at FLC, 320-864-5522).



Stories of Faith

The Public Relations (PR) Team invites members to share their stories related to situations or events in which they experience God's love and providential care.



Cindy Eggsgluess	238-2148
	eggsgluesscindy@gmail.com
Jeri Ring	864-4029
	jring8655@aol.com
Lynn Exsted	864-6452
	lexsted14@gmail.com

Do you have something you are willing to share? Or if you do, aren't sure how to put it together, just reach out to one of the PR team members. We would really appreciate your input!

Now might be the perfect time to put a Story of Faith together to share with your family and friends at FL!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

In light of the on-going health crisis in Minnesota and the world, the regular Minnesota South District LWML convention scheduled for June 2020 in Wilmar has been canceled.



A large Minnesota South District Lutheran Women in Mission LWML "get-together" is being planned for sometime this Fall when it is safe to meet together again:

- It will probably be a one day event
- It will probably be at a large church, not a convention center or a hotel
- There will be dynamic Bible Study leaders, inspirational speakers and entertainment
- There will be no voting or formal business meetings
- This event is for ALL. You don't have to be an LWML member to attend
- Watch for more details.

Since new mission grants must be selected, our two official voting delegates, Helen Becker and Joyce Schiroo, will vote from home using electronic voting or paper ballots. You can read the proposed mission grants on the District website www.mnslwml.org. Tell Helen and Joyce the ones you think best proclaim the saving grace of Jesus. (There's one for Matongo Lutheran Seminary in Kenya, Africa where our former Pastor Vance Becker teaches.)



WALKING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

God-willing, our very own daughter of the congregation missionary Samantha Welch will be home "on furlough" this summer. It will be so good to see her again! A special mission event "Walking In His Footsteps" will be held here at First Ev. Lutheran on Saturday, August 15th. Missionary Welch will be the featured speaker telling about her first year proclaiming the love of Jesus to children and their families at the Stronghold Lutheran Mission in Cambodia. Secondary speaker will be daughter of the congregation Mary Kay (Schuft) Magee, former Lutheran Missionary in Slovakia, telling how LWML is a good home for her missionary heart. Area congregations will be invited. This is an event you will not want to miss. Mark your calendar now and watch the newsletter and bulletins for further details.

Dearest FLC LWMLers,

In addition to Secretary Glenda's remarks I would like to share some wonderful news with you: Treasurer Sharon stated we received \$210 for mites. She was able to send them in to district. President Deb shared that we met our mission goal for Minnesota South LWML District! All thanks and praise be to God! Also, a huge thank you to all who donated their Mites! You can see the Mites graph at www.mnslwml.org.

I would like to leave you with comforting words from our Lord's Scripture. I have been drawing so much comfort from these and many other areas of God's Word. I recently heard a pastor say, "God has power over disease and death, so we have nothing to fear." What a comfort this is to us during this unsure time. I pray none of us lose heart, but instead that we grow in strength of our faith in God during this trial and call upon our dear Savior for daily strength and courage! "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37-39.

In Christ's love~ President Melissa Adelsen

Additional comforting Bible verses:

1 Peter 5:7 "casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:25-28 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,"

Matthew 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Philippians 4:6-7 "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Lutheran Hour Topics for May

Each Sunday during May at 12:30 pm listen to the Lutheran Hour broadcast on radio station KDUZ 1260 AM. This month you will hear the following program broadcast topics:



May 3rd "Rescue, Test, Rest" with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God doesn't have to figure out something about you that He doesn't already know. He doesn't have to figure out if He loves you or if He's committed to you or if you're worth it. God's not testing you to figure something out about you He didn't already know. He's testing you so that you can figure out something about Him that you didn't know, so that you can figure out that you can trust Him." Based on Exodus 16.

May 10th "Stand a Little Taller" with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. When someone special pays you a visit, you stand a little taller in their presence. Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about dignity, humility, and life in the presence of God. Based on Exodus 18.

May 17th "Words Matter" with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Words matter. People matter. You matter to God, and He will stop at nothing to get your attention. Based on Exodus 19.

May 24th "Life After Rescue" with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Based on Exodus 20.

May 31st "To Be Determined" with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Thank you for supporting these broadcasts with your gifts and your prayers. We have been blessed with sponsors through August of 2020. Call ahead to inquire about open Sundays available in 2020. The current cost for each broadcast is \$94.00. Contact Rich Streufert at 320-864-6884 or e-mail richstreufert@embarqmail.com with your sponsorship requests. Checks should be made out to "KDUZ Radio Lutheran Hour Broadcast". Send your checks to "KDUZ Radio Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters", % Rich Streufert, 1620 Knight Ave. N., Glencoe, MN 55336

Take the "Half-Truth, Whole Truth or Nothing Like the Truth?" Quiz

A year ago Lutheran Hour Ministries launched the "Half-Truth, Whole Truth or Nothing Like the Truth?" quiz as a fun way to test your Bible knowledge. So many Lutheran Hour supporters enjoyed the quiz that LHM couldn't resist creating a new one!

The quiz has more than one purpose. We want to use it as a way to get more people thinking about Jesus and the Bible.

The problem of biblical illiteracy is growing. Together, we need to introduce more people to the programs, resources, and materials produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) so they can hear and understand the Word of God. By sharing the quiz, you'll give others the opportunity to experience some of LHM's most popular resources.

Please take the quiz today and share it as widely as possible! Here's the first question to get you started: "God will never give you more than you can handle." ____ Half- Truth ____ Whole

Truth ____ Nothing Like The Truth. Go to <https://pursuant8.com/lhm/2020/truthquiz/> for the answer, explanations, and additional questions.

God's Word provides the light we need. Psalm 119:105

Student Scholarships Available



MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Frieda Perschau Educational Trust provides scholarship funds for LHS students, based on financial need.

Pick up application forms from the church or school offices. Forms must be returned by **Tuesday, May 15th** in order to be considered for the 2020-2021-academic year.

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Edwin & Ella Ponath Education Fund scholarships are again available for the 2020-2021 academic year. All First Lutheran Church members with students enrolled in First Lutheran School are eligible for scholarships. Scholarship awards are based on financial need AND on the amount of available funds.

Application forms were mailed to all member students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 the last week of March. Forms must be returned by **June 15th** in order to be considered for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Questions on either of these scholarships should be directed to Debi Ramirez, Business Manager at (320) 864-5522 or dramirez@firstglencoe.org or Michelle Alsleben, FLS Secretary at 320-864-3317 or malsleben@firstglencoe.org.

First Lutheran School also offers tuition aid. Anyone and everyone is eligible for this aid. The amount of the aid is calculated with a formula based on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Please turn in the page of your tax form 1040 that includes your AGI to the School office any time before the new school year begins. You may also include the Form 1040 with your Ponath application. You'll automatically be eligible for aid. Your information is treated with the utmost privacy. Any questions, please contact Principal Dean Scheele, School Secretary Michelle Alsleben, or Business Manager, Debi Ramirez.



Unless otherwise notified, a Quarterly Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Center. All First Ev.

Lutheran Church members age 18 and older are encouraged to attend. Among other business, the 2020-2021 Budget will be reviewed as well as reports from the Boards and committees.

May 2020 News Thrivent Financial

✓Thrivent Choice

Thank you Thrivent members for continuing to designate your Choice \$. This past month, we received \$1880 for FLC and \$2336 for FLS.

Visit (www.Thrivent.com/choice) or phone 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." Have your Thrivent ID# handy. You can phone Mon – Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact Cindy or the church office.



✓Thrivent Action Teams

A Thrivent Action Team is a simple, flexible way for you to bring people together to make a positive difference.....you might hold a fundraiser, conduct a service activity, or hold an educational event. Each year, every Thrivent member has (2) Action Teams to use!

Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam to complete an online application (minimum 3 weeks before your event). If you are unable to make your request via computer, you can phone Thrivent and make your request via Customer Service – call 1-800-847-4836.

When your project is approved, Thrivent will provide resources (Action Team Kit) to help plan the event, promotional items (including Thrivent T-shirts to increase your visibility), and seed money to cover promotional and material expenses (\$250 Community Impact Card).

EVERY Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year. IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR ACTION TEAMS, PLEASE LET CINDY OR BECKY KNOW! Involve others – it's all about your friends, family and community coming together to make a positive impact!

✓Thrivent teams with InFaith Foundation

Late in March, Thrivent announced a \$1 Million Online Donation Challenge. Thrivent members were encouraged to donate to their charity of choice and receive a \$1 match for every \$2 donated. The available monies went fast and were depleted in only a couple of days. We are happy to report that FL received \$500 through this challenge!

✓Facebook page for Thrivent Network

Be sure to check out and like this **Facebook** page to stay updated on news!

✓ Thrivent Member Book Club

Interested in joining a **Virtual Bookclub**? The current book is "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Each week, the group will focus on, and discuss, one of the habits. Dates and other info, as well as registration, can be found at <https://bit.ly/3ciDDPT>

✓ Thrivent 2021 Wall Calendar

Plans for next year's Wall Calendar are already under way – and we need your help! The theme for our next calendar is "Gratitude." Gratitude is about focusing on what's good in our lives and being thankful for the things we have. Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things that we often take for granted. Research shows that regularly expressing gratitude makes us healthier and happier. As you reflect on your life, family, church, community, and the gifts you've been given by God, what makes you feel grateful? How do you express gratitude?

We're looking for original photos, reflections, Scripture passages, or photos of original artwork that capture this theme. For more info about how to submit entries and/or to pre-order the 2021 calendar, visit Thrivent.com/calendar. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2020.

✓ Thrivent – Online Webinars

Be sure to sign up to receive e-mails regarding upcoming free educational events and other Thrivent opportunities. **Contact TwinCitiesTMN@Thrivent.com to sign up!** Upcoming Webinars include:

Thurs, May 7 – 7:30-8:30 pm – Money & Marriage – Online Webinar

Whether you are bringing two budgets together in marriage or have had the same "money argument" for 30 years, learn tools and tactics to get on the same page and write a (financial) love story together. The intended audience are those who are engaged or married and seeking to create a solid foundation for money management in their relationship. But as always, all are welcome.

Thurs, June 4 – 7:30-8:30 pm – Multigenerational Generosity for Christian Leaders – Online Webinar

If you are a pastor, or leader of a Christian community, you've watched the landscape of generosity sprawl to span five unique and complex generations. This webinar aspires to inform your understanding of how these different generations view generosity and fuel your creativity with tactical solutions for how to engage all generations.

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess - 320-238-2148 / eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com

Linda Becker, Charles Jensen, Verna & Harold Kunkel, Pastor Mathison, Amy Welch – Your Congregational Volunteers

Thankful for Miss Frieda Perschau

For all your saints, O Lord,
Who strove in you to live,
Who followed you, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.

When recently going through old family scrapbooks, I came across a photo of Miss Frieda Perschau. Having served on the Endowment Committee, this name was familiar to me. Some years ago, Miss Perschau had created a Trust that is managed by Security Bank and Trust. According to the terms of her Trust, each year the Trust income generated is awarded as scholarships, on a financial need basis, to FL students who attend Mayer Lutheran High School. In the event that not all monies are used, the balance is awarded as scholarships, on a financial need basis, to FL students who attend First Lutheran School. This photo was taken at the time of her retirement from teaching 4th grade at Sultan Grade School in Sultan, WA. It also stated that this popular teacher had worked for 38 years in the teaching profession.



We are continually inspired and encouraged by the generosity of all of our donors. Compassionate contributors play a key role in the support of our ministries. God has blessed us and we are very grateful.

All honor, praise and thanksgiving be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To God be all the glory!

-Submitted by Cindy Eggsgluess

"Working from home and finding JOY in doing so!"

Prior to the COVID19 pandemic, I thought working from home was what I did on my lunch break. You know....switching laundry, washing dishes, prepping supper, anything else I could do in the short amount of time I had before heading back to the church office to resume my day. These uncertain times have me questioning what is "normal", when will things "get back to normal", or what will "normal" look like. And while I have so many questions and so much uncertainty, I am finding joy in what is the present. It's not always easy and some days requires much more effort than others.

Although you won't find me sitting behind the desk in the church office these days, you will find me set up in my "makeshift office". As supper time approaches each evening, you'll find me cleaning off my desk as it quickly becomes the kitchen table, only to revert it back to my desk again each morning. The view isn't quite the same, however I do have a window and am finding joy in seeing the farmers busy in the fields and kicking up dust as they pass by on the gravel roads. Rather than running home for lunch, I'm finding joy in the "lunch lady" role and serving my kids lunch each day even if it means I'm delivering it to them in the field.

While my routine, atmosphere and surroundings have changed tremendously over the past month, one thing that hasn't changed the JOY I find in all my work at First Lutheran. This time has allowed me to focus on various "special" projects that I've been longing to tackle and in doing so, I'm recognizing areas of improvement as well as ways in which things could be done differently (even though we get so comfortable in what we've always done and can't even imagine doing anything differently).

I'm happy to report that the first couple of weeks working from home were spent tidying up the Shepherd Staff database. If you are not familiar, Shepherd's Staff is a comprehensive Windows-based church management software that tracks all important ministry data in one convenient location. Data such as membership, attendance, contributions, and more. Each time you sign up for communion or make a contribution, that information is tracked and utilized to determine your membership status. The constitution states "Members who have neither received communion nor made a contribution of record to the congregation for one year shall be placed on the inactive rolls. Such names are not to be included in official membership lists, but the people are to remain a concern of the ministry of the congregation."

Following the constitution guidelines, the project resulted in 243 active members became inactive, 94 inactive members became active, and the number of members receiving quarterly envelopes decreased by 163.

By now, you should have received a copy of a letter to our church families prepared by the board of stewardship with help from Sheryl Mumm-Touailat. The letter includes information about accessing our worship services, receiving Holy Communion, and ways in which you can continue to support First Lutheran. The board wanted to ensure that each member household would receive a copy and I jumped at the opportunity to coordinate the mailing. In doing so, approximately 800 letters were printed and mailed to our congregation members. It brings me great joy to work collectively with the boards, committees, groups, and members at First Lutheran!

These "special projects" bring me joy as I see the names of each and every one of you and they're a reminder of how I can't wait to see all the smiling faces, hear the friendly hellos, and welcome each and every person who walks through the church doors very soon! Until we're able to be face to face again, I pray that you're keeping yourself healthy mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

With love ~ Becky Edwards





First Lutheran School Flame Flash ~ May 2020



Please Pray For:

- Relief from the virus.
- Those families that are considering sending their children to FLS that they might be led to realize the importance of a Christ centered education right here in Glencoe.
- A safe planting season for our farmers as well as seasonable weather.
- A return to some normalcy soon.

Thank You To:

- Sue Nord, Amy Welch, Taylor Bernstein, and Michelle Alsleben for your great work as teacher aids.
- Louie Tessmer and Loren Engelmann for adding a sink and remodeling the vanity in the girl's restroom
- All of the wonderful parents who shared kind words with our teachers during these challenging last two months.
- Glenn Cohrs for tilling the school garden again this year.

Calendar Notes:

- **May 22** Last day of school
- **August 17** Teachers Report
- **September 1** Scheduled first day of school

Last Day of School Schedule

TBD

Basic Skills Testing

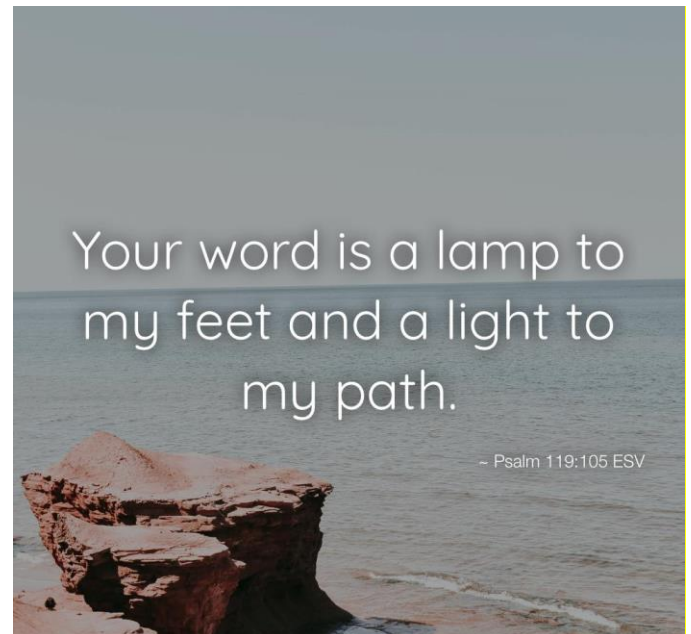
Since we were not able to administer our Iowa Test Of Basic Skills this year we will be testing in September. We will be looking to see where each student is at academically as well as seeing if there are any gaps in understanding concepts in the major curricular areas. We hope to be able to test again in the spring to make sure that students are on track for their grade level.

\$200 for FREE!

As summer approaches, please consider our building FLS incentive. First Lutheran is offering \$200 to any school or church family who recommends a family to First Lutheran and that family registers a child, or children, for this school year. If you get two families to register, you get \$400! Spread the good news that First Lutheran School is a great place to learn about God's love and the awesome world he has given to us!

Ongoing Fundraisers

We are collecting: Box Tops, Coborn's MORE Rewards, and Country Hearth labels. If you are interested in counting or processing any of these items, please call the school office. Keep up the good work!



Special Gifts Received in April

Jim & Bev Mackenthun (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$20	General Fund
Marilyn Vorbeck (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$10	FLS
Marilyn Vorbeck (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$10	FLS
Marilyn Vorbeck (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	\$10	FLS
Joan Wandrei (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$20	General Fund
Joan Wandrei (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$20	General Fund
Joan Wandrei (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	\$20	General Fund
Joan Wandrei (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$20	General Fund
Lester & Linda Ranzau (In Memory Marcella Cohrs)	\$20	General Fund
Lester & Linda Ranzau (In Memory Donna Stepien)	\$20	General Fund
Lester & Linda Ranzau (In Memory Vernetta Brinkmann)	\$20	General Fund
Lester & Linda Ranzau (In Memory Laverna Mackenthun)	\$20	General Fund
Lester & Linda Ranzau (In Memory Roger Montgomery)	\$20	General Fund
Family & Friends of Laverna Mackenthun (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$320	FLS
Willis & Lois Herrmann (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Dennis Wolter (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$20	Street Assessments
Frances Downer (In Memory of Vernetta Brinkmann)	\$10	FLS
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$20	Street Assessments
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (In Memory of Vernetta Brinkmann)	\$20	Street Assessments
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	\$20	Street Assessments
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$20	Street Assessments
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$20	Street Assessments
Bob & Sue Neid (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$25	Debt Reduction
Bruce & Linda Donnay (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	Anonymous	General Fund
Bruce & Linda Donnay (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	Anonymous	General Fund
Dale & Sharel Hoops (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	\$10	Street Assessments
Dale & Sharel Hoops (In Memory of Vernetta Brinkmann)	\$10	Street Assessments
Ruth Karg (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$10	FLS
Ruth Karg (In Memory of Donna Stepien)	\$10	FLS
Ruth Karg (In Memory of Vernetta Brinkmann)	\$10	FLS
Ruth Karg (In Memory of Roger Montgomery)	\$10	FLS
Ruth Karg (In Memory of Albert Karg's April 28 th Birthday)	\$100	Debt Reduction
Family & Friends of Laverna Mackenthun (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$160	FLS
Anita Thiesfeld (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Darrell & Faye Bruckschen (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$20	Debt Reduction
Lars Ide (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Family & Friends of Marcella Cohrs (In Memory of Marcella Cohrs)	\$335	Debt Reduction
Family & Friends of Laverna Mackenthun (In Memory of Laverna Mackenthun)	\$235	FLS

First Lutheran Financial Report

GENERAL FUND INCOME (July-March)	2019-2020	Last Year
Offering Envelopes	\$552,352.25	\$524,581.57
Thrivent "Choice" Member Elections	5,671.00	5,628.00
Vitality	-0-	-0-
"Keep It Happening" Fund	1,695.00	2,641.00
School Tuition	<u>141,136.48</u>	<u>115,076.74</u>
	\$700,854.73	\$647,927.31
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (July-March)		
Staff	\$707,077.09	\$651,056.69
Payroll Expenses	5,093.37	6,174.34
Vitality	-5,016.51	-0-
Buildings	70,128.25	67,805.02
Operations	32,229.20	27,542.63
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>663.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	\$810,174.40	\$752,578.68
 2019-2020 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:	 \$13,665.50	 \$13,700.68
March 31st GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS:	(\$295,589.98)	
Last Year's March 31st General Indebtedness:	(\$225,290.12)	