

Firs* Things



July 2020

First Lutheran Church

100 Peace Ridge

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Loren Prigge, Custodian

First Lutheran Website: www.firstlc.org

Regular Worship Schedule

5:30 pm Saturday

9:00 am Sunday

Living the unconditional Grace & Love of Jesus Christ

SURPRISE

A man stands in line at the checkout counter at the grocery store. He doesn't need much - just a loaf of bread and a jug of milk.

As the man steps up to the register the clerk invites him to draw out a piece of paper from a fishbowl. She explains, "If you pull out the correct slip, then all of your groceries are free!"

The bowl is so full of papers that his chances are slim, but he snatches one up and hands it to the clerk. "You're a winner!" she shouts. What a surprise! But then the man realizes he is buying only some milk and bread. So it's not such a big deal after all.

A thought pops into his mind and he quickly turns to the lady behind him, the one with the cart overflowing with groceries, and says, "Well, what do you know, Honey? We won! We don't need to spend a penny!" She stares at him and he winks at her. Somehow she catches on, put her arm around his, and smiles at the clerk.

In the parking lot she gives the man a kiss and a hug, and goes on her way with a grand story to tell her family and friends.

I know, what they did is not totally honest. He should not have lied and she should not have gone along with the deceit. And yet, it is a good story.

We, like that woman, have been given a gift, a total gift. Not just groceries, but a feast at a heavenly banquet. Jesus surprises us with his love and gives us eternal life.

**Accept the gift!
Celebrate your good fortune!
Thank the giver!**



Living in God's amazing grace

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Grace to you and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ...the one who was, who is, and who is to come....

There is something holy about sitting around a table eating together. Some of my most beloved memories growing up were gathered around a table especially during the summer time. And even today when all the girls come home from their adventures there is nothing better than supper time to reconnect, celebrate our time together, and send us back out into the world God so deeply loves. Throughout the bible we find the same thing... "table holiness."

Do you remember the story of Jesus and Peter at the end of the Gospel of John? Jesus had died. Peter had denied him and ran away to hide. Jesus rose to life, and Peter now has to look the risen Jesus in the face knowing he let him down. Knowing he abandoned him. Knowing his fear got the best of him. The writer of John tells the story like this...when they had finished breakfast. That came first... breakfast. Food and sitting around a table almost always comes first and then leads to something of God...something holy. Then...only after their time around the table did Jesus say, "Simon Peter son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter again said to him, "Yes, Lord you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, DO YOU LOVE ME?" Peter felt hurt because Jesus said to him a third time, "do you love me?" And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Over and over again Jesus asks a simple question... "Do you love me?" And over and over again Peter says "Yes Lord, I love you." In the question...Peter receives what he most needs, what we all most need... a **Sense of Belonging**. He is brought back into the community of those who love Jesus. No matter what way you look at what has transpired between Jesus and Peter it can no longer cloud their relationship...Peter is no longer separated from Jesus and his disciples...he is one of them. He belongs. And because of that he now also has a **Sense of Purpose**...a direction to go with his life...to stop dwelling on the past and be about the mission in the present and the future. And that mission is always about the other...feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep...the other. The other is God's mission. Through Christ God's mission is to redeem and reconcile the whole world to himself. That is what God is ultimately about in all that God does. **Redeeming**...buying back that which was lost. And, **Reconciling**...feeding and taking care of those who have been separated from God.

As the church in this time and place I am not sure where to begin or better yet how to continue what God has already started among us. But then I remember this story and perhaps it is simple. Sit around a table with some good food, and maybe a little wine and see what way the spirit leads us.

God's peace and strong presence be with you and your family, as you continue to grow in faith and life this summer.

Pastor Tim

NEXT STEPS IN FIRST LUTHERAN'S MINISTRY AND COVID-19:

The staff and church council of First Lutheran would like to share with you next steps regarding our ministry and COVID-19. We will now be providing several outdoor worship opportunities for you in addition to our online worship every week. The outdoor worship will begin on Wednesday July 1st. You will have two opportunities to worship 5:00 o'clock and at 6:00 o'clock. Both services will be by the firepit in our outdoor worship space. There are a few low-lying benches on the ground that are available for sitting at a distance, but you are welcome to bring your own folding chair. You are encouraged to keep those around you safe by practicing distancing, and wearing a mask, unless it is a health risk for you to do so. These two worship services will continue Wednesday July 8th. If you have mobility and balance issues this might not be the worship for you to attend.

The other outdoor worship opportunity will be on Sunday starting July 5th at 10:00 o'clock in the morning in the church parking lot. You can stay in your car or bring a folding chair and sit outside by your car. Again, you are encouraged to practice distancing, and wear a mask, unless it is a health risk for you to do so. Please do not carpool at this time. This Sunday worship opportunity will continue also on Sunday July 12 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. For the rest of the month of July we will be evaluating how worship went, make any changes regarding space, times, and equipment that are necessary and begin again in August. If you are not feeling well please stay home.

Throughout all of this we will still be providing weekly online Sunday worship which can be found on our church website firstlc.org. Please note that the church building **will not** be open during our outdoor worship services, and if there is rain the outdoor worship will be canceled. Cancellations will be communicated via our church website and Facebook.

We will also begin on Wednesday July 1st at 8:30 in the morning an outdoor Bible study which will meet in the parking lot. Please bring a Bible, a folding chair, and wear a mask unless it is a health risk for you to do so.

FINANCE BOARD

The duties of this board include budgeting, planning, and managing the resources and uses of funds related to the operation and missions of the Church. The Finance Board is comprised of no fewer than 6 members and holds regular monthly meetings.

The current Finance Board members are

Randi Kirchner, Chair	Craig Harteneck	Ernest Thompson
Chuck Bremer	James Kranz	Jon Gravenish
Luther Berkeland	Jerry Kari	Jeff Chestnut, Treasurer

We have been focused on four main areas:

1. Reducing the mortgage
2. Enhanced financial practices
3. Communicating about the finances of the church to members
4. Ensuring that all church funds are used to support the mission of the church

Area 1 . Reducing the Mortgage

Mortgage UPDATE

- Mortgage Balance: \$1,300,919.28
- May Interest paid \$4,089.09
- Additional Principal Payment to principal:\$1,594.24

- Building Fund contributions in May were down \$6,443.38. Please continue to contribute. Reminder that the mortgage is paid from the Building Fund.

We are committed to the goal of reducing the mortgage principal to \$1,000,000 by May 2022.

The current balance as of May 31,2020 is \$1,300,919. We want that number to be \$1,000,000 by May 2022. If we can achieve this goal we can easily reduce the length of our loan and the interest paid. How much we actually can save will depend on the timing of any "additional" payments.

Two members have agreed to serve on this campaign: Mary Durst and Bruce Carlstrom.

May Contributions

Monthly General Fund contributions are short of our budgeted goal by about 5%.

News From Karen: Missionary we support in Chile

Karen works with the organization EPES (Popular Education For Health).

Here are some highlights of Karen's May newsletter.

- They continue to work for justice, dignity, and good health for all people.
 - They provide educational materials for good nutrition and for good mental health. There have been virtual workshops on baking and how to have a family vegetable garden. They also hold workshops on how to deal with violence against women.
 - The poorest communities in Chile have been hit the hardest with CORVID-19. EPES gives out information about the virus and how to deal with it. During the pandemic Chile's government has been helping large businesses instead of the poor people.
 - In mid March Karen returned to Minnesota to be with her adult daughters. She does not know when she will be able to return to Chile.
 - Karen says in her newsletter: "You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I would be grateful if you would continue to include my family, the EPES staff, the health promoters, the people of Chile, and the Global Mission staff of the ELCA in your prayers. Much love and blessings, Karen Anderson."
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Dear Congregation of First Lutheran:

My father, Virgil Juliot, grew up in Lake City and his faith was formed while at First Lutheran. He even served the congregation during an interim period while he was a student at LBI in Minneapolis, but before he was ordained.

My dad passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at the age of 94. He has First Lutheran on his list of congregations to contact upon his death. He shared various stories with me and the rest of our family about his experiences at First and growing up in Lake City. He lived a beautiful, full life.

Here is a link to my dad's obituary: <https://www.vandemorefuneralhome.com/obituary/PastorVirgil-Juliot>

Thank you for being a significant part of my dad's life and ministry.

Many blessings,

Mark Juliot
Missions Pastor
Alleluia! Lutheran Church
4055 Book Road
Naperville, IL 60564
www.alleluialutheran.org

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Prayer Connection...Mary Nelson, firstlutheranprayerconnection@gmail.com or phone: 651-212-0144.

Friends and Family...Sheila Johnson, Kris Chederquist, Paul & Barb Gifford, Maria & Lee Schultz, Orville & Joyce Hegseth, Denny & Karen Richardson, Jerry Narveson, Dean Kirkland, Nancy Herron

All service men and women...Lt. Col. Spencer Rasmussen, Justin Fuchs, Nathan Fuchs, Peter Schliep, Matt Sikkink, Ethan Meyer, Chris Breuer, Monty Vikdal, Alyssa Zuehl

Our Missionary in Chile...Karen Anderson

Nursing Home, Home Bound & Assisted Living...Linette Meincke, Roger Helgerson, Wendell Olson, Violet Stinson, Mary Hallenberger, Corrine Johnson, Marv Nelson

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July 1: Mark Converse, Sumner Featherstone, Ruth Hjermsstad, Claudia Howard, Abigail Peterson, Nita Wallace

Ben & Amy Roberson

July 2: Jessica Dudley, Dylan Eggenberger, Corrine Johnson, Alaina Johnson-Nadeau, Monty Vikdal

Andy & Cassie Carlson

July 3: Craig Davis, Mya Krueger, Carol Nibbe, David Pribyl

Jerry & Sue Benson, Darren & Jessica Brunn, Jon & Sonda Featherstone

July 4: Theresa Plote

Paul & Wanda Myers

July 5: Emily Dinsmore

July 6: Brian Durgin, Carol Proud, Samantha Suckow, Paige West

July 7: Floyd Olson

Matt & Erin Berlin, Tim & Sara Thompson

July 8: Mark Krueger, Ethan Meyer, Robert Nilsson

July 9: Cassie Carlson, Beth Carlstrom, Richard Klein, Kim Meyer

James & Virginia Plote

July 10: Wes Nibbe

Rick & Barb Boos, Mark & Lisa Harmon

July 11: Holis Brunn, Audrina Meyer, Virginia Oliver, Shelley Roussopoulos

Al & Eunice Blattner, Arnold & Paulette Clare, Brad & Mary Nelson, Greg & Becky Sievers

July 12: Drew Bailey, Chuck Bremer, Lynn Davis, Florence Lyons, Mal McCarthy, Darlene Saby

Tom & Julie Dammann, Laura & Tony Miller

July 13: Bruce Carlstrom, Dianna Nafe

Jim & Jennifer Cobb, Alicia & Daniel Pihoda

July 14: Bailee Kohrs, KaBree Krier, Kena Tackmann

July 15: Teresa Atkinson, Liz Hallaway, Stephanie Harvey, Mona Neumann

July 16: Tom Ringeisen

Jim & Diane Fuchs

July 17: Josie Langhans, Gary Pahl, Maggie Thieren

July 18: Jayden Borgschatz, Jill Cole, Katie Johnson, Will Stolzenberg

July 19:

July 20: Andrew Ahrens, Barb Boos, Dawn Heitman

Dawn & Steve Heitman

July 21: Julie & Wayne Karlsrud

July 22: Kim Boos

July 23: Wendi Bauer, Tana Cox

July 24: Jackson Berge, Nick Bobb, Nick Eckhart, Jean Johnson

July 25: Nancy Brooks

July 26: Tricia Oeltjen

Justin & Stacie Ratz

July 27: Jenna Grothe, Angie Haviland, Tom Heise, Lee Kirchner, Drew Morgan, Ruth Pflaum, Stacie Ratz, Matthew Schneider

Bryan & Brittany Grimley

July 28: Dean Flugstad, Ben Krehbiel, Nick Oeltjen

July 29: Karlee Fick, Arlis Meincke, Max Rogness, Richard Schafer

July 30: Jenny Gabor, Avis Swan

Chuck & Mary Wintheiser

July 31: Lily Fitterer, Christina Wallerich, Jillian Wieck, Jim Zwiener

Children's Ministry News



August 3-7, 2020

**With GOOD EARTH VILLAGE is
cancelled due to Covid-19.**

As new guidelines come out, I will be trying to plan some fun family gatherings for all of our members. Watch Facebook, the website, and email for updates.

Stay strong, stay healthy, and stay positive!
We can get through this!

If you need anything, please reach out.

Blessings,

Heidi