

HELPING HANDS ASSIGNMENTS

Month of November 2020

USHERING:

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m.: Cory & Katie Jorgensen family

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.: Traci Harrington & Deb Stafford

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 10 a.m.: Eric & Lisa Longnecker family

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 10 a.m.: Elliot & Beth Belquist family

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m.: Kayla Jay family

***Attention Ushers:** Please fill out the Usher Report provided at the back of the church on the shelf by the offering plates. It is important that you take a head count and put the number on the report. There is also a sheet on the bulletin board with the duties of the ushers.*

READER: Sunday, November 1: Shelly Ehni

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Lisa Longnecker & Karen Anderson

FUND: Carpet Fund

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

***Please note:** If you cannot do your task, please find someone to switch with!
If you cannot find someone to switch, please notify a chairperson.
Thanks for your help!*

Tis the Season for Giving Thanks

I've hit the three-month mark! It's been ninety days since I became your pastor. For ¼ of a year I have called New Rockford home. And it is November. The month we celebrate Thanksgiving. So, it seems an appropriate time for me to give thanks by making a gratitude list. So here are just a few of things I find myself humbled by and grateful for these days:

- * From the day I moved my stuff into a storage unit in May to the day I moved into the parsonage in late July, to my first Sunday church service, to my installation in the park, I have felt your warm, warm welcome.
- * Every day when I walk into my home, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to be living in such a wonderful house.
- * Zucchini, carrots, eggplant, pickles, fresh caught fish, fresh cut zinnias, are just some of the fresh things delivered to me. Add a fire-pit, a headboard, a bed, firewood, and then more firewood...well, suffice it to say, I am not lacking!
- * How can one church have so many talented musicians? I am beyond thankful for all the people who use their musical gifts to the glory of God. You enrich our worship experience, and I will never stop telling you what a gift you are.
- * Who loves to go to church council meetings? ME! I am so grateful for each member of the council, for their commitment, their willingness to dig deep and their willingness to laugh. Every pastor should have this much fun with Roberts Rules of Order!
- * Every week I get a couple of text messages or emails about the content and delivery of my sermon. I so appreciate the encouragement and feedback. Please keep it coming. I am a new preacher and need your feedback, both good and bad!
- * I don't even know the words to use to express this last note of gratitude. And that's because it is a REALLY BIG DEAL. So, let me just say that I would like to hug whom ever made the decision to hire Amy Perleberg a decade or so ago. She is seriously the best-knowledgeable, willing, humble, hardworking, deeply spiritual, and she has a heart for people like few do. Of course, I'm not telling you all anything you don't already know about her. Anyway, thanks for hiring her and keeping her employed until I could have the pleasure of laughing and serving with her.

I give thanks to God for calling me to First Lutheran and I give thanks to you for being wonderful. I'd say we're off to a solid start as church together!

- Pastor Amy

November Announcements

Thanks to all who continue to send in their offering, even if you are not yet attending in-person worship services. We appreciate you all and your continued support of FLC!

Communion will now be held on the first and third Sundays of each month as well as the Wednesday following those Sundays.

Confirmation Orientation will be on Wednesday, November 4th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. with both kids and parents attending that night. November 11th is small group fellowship event (time and date TBA), November 18th is Confirmation Theme Event from 7-8:30. No confirmation on Nov. 25th due to Thanksgiving.

Breakout will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18th during the school lunch break. Please join us for pizza and bring a friend!

A Blood Drive will be held on Monday, Nov. 23rd from 11:30 - 6:00. Please call Marydean at 302-0581 to schedule a donation appointment.

Community Thanksgiving Worship has been cancelled due to covid.

FL Foundation funds are available for church needs/groups in 2021. Applications can be picked up at the church office and need to be returned by December 31st.

The Women's Ministries annual Thank Offering will be taken on Sunday November 15th. The annual Thank Offering is a season of gratitude and this year the funds collected will be given to the Eddy County Ministerial Association so that they may continue the work that they do in our community helping individuals in need. A basket will be placed in the back of the sanctuary where your thank offering may be placed before or after worship.

A special offering for our missionary family will be held on Sunday, November 29th and Wednesday, December 2nd. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their important work in Cameroon.

Memorials given during October:

CARPET FUND

IMO Dennis Wold, by

Marilyn Gedrose

IMO Gloria Rud, by

Marilyn Gedrose

IMO Don Heinitz, by

Stan & Deb Stafford

IMO Marge Johnston, by

Stan & Deb Stafford

IMO Eileen Dockter, by

Stan & Deb Stafford

GENERAL FUND

IMO Pastor Steven Meadows, by

Carrie Widmer family

RADIO FUND

IMO Averiel Enger, by

Roger & Betty Westby



You Made a Difference!

On October 4th and 7th we collected a special offering for the Eastern North Dakota Synod Endowment Fund. We are happy to report that you all were especially generous, giving a total of \$336. Your gifts will help people from EaND Synod to attend seminary, pay seminary loans, and will help churches in our synod pay their pastors a living wage. As a pastor who received money from this fund during seminary, I thank you on behalf of pastors! You indeed are making a difference.

(Church Council continued from pg. 9)

Ardyce Update on Synod Assembly-Ardyce virtually attended the Synod Assembly. She shared a new bishop was voted in. Starting October 31, Reverend Tessa Moon Leiseth will be the Eastern North Dakota Synod bishop.

Portico Choice for 2021-Jon made a motion to continue with the Gold Plus policy, Katie seconded the motion, motion carried.

- Faith 5:
- 4. Pray
- 5. Blessing

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Ehni

(Advent continued from pg. 7)

This Advent we will gather for worship, all of us together, each of us with differing experiences of this story of a baby God. Rest assured that wherever you are on your faith journey, you will experience the goodness of this God who came down to find you, this baby God and all his blessed implications.



CHURCH RECORDS

ATTENDANCE: OFFERING:

Oct. 4 - 51	\$2,565.00
Oct. 7 - 7	\$ 185.00
Oct. 11 - 60	\$1,275.00
Oct. 14 - 10	\$ 115.00
Oct. 18 - 56	\$2,145.00
Oct. 21 - 7	\$ 125.00
Oct. 25 - 75	\$2,240.00

WEEKLY NEED:	\$ 2,839.76
Y-T-D EXPENSES:	\$110,879.41
Y-T-D OFFERING:	\$112,575.58
Y-T-D BUDGET:	\$123,056.03

General Fund
(Checking Account)
 Balance as of 10/28/2020:
\$12,137.55

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS:

Property Fund:	\$15,549.49
Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,605.32
Banner Fund:	\$189.99
Music Fund:	\$47.20
Budget Reserve:	\$3,684.98
Thrivent Choice:	\$452.00
Noisy Offering:	\$884.50
FLC Men's group:	\$2,503.98
Carpet Fund:	\$7,666.71
100th Anniversary:	\$3,609.84

Special Account
(Savings Account)
 Balance as of 10/28/2020:
\$36,194.01

Helping Hands

November (Group 6)

- David & Karen Anderson
- Elliot & Beth Belquist family
- Larry & Bev Broin
- Kate Smith family
- Kip & Shelly Ehni
- Traci Harrington
- David & Rachel Holzwarth
- Kayla Jay family
- Cory & Katie Jorgensen family
- Eric & Lisa Longnecker family
- Tommy & Jeanette Munson
- Dennis & Luann Rimmereid
- Deb Stafford
- Tim & Dori Tollefson

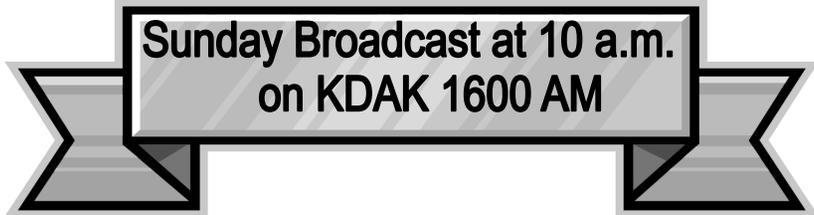
Acolyte Schedule:

- Sunday, November 1*
- Bradyn Collier & Bennett Meier
- Sunday, November 8:*
- Brody Weisenburger & Easton Benz
- Sunday, November 15:*
- Hannah Chamberlain & Bailey Baumbach
- Sunday, November 22:*
- Abigail Nystrom & Logan Cudworth
- Sunday, November 29:*
- Addysen Fandrich & Ava Peterson

Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

- Oct. 4:* IMO Larry "Buck" & Elsie Comer, by Deb Wobbema & family.
- Oct. 11:* IMO Marion Omoth & Kathy Omoth Bonderson, by Milt Omoth.
- Oct. 18:* IMO Eldon & Betty Clelland, by Jake & Lynette Clelland family.
- Oct. 25:* IMO loved ones, by Marilyn Gedrose.

All Sunday broadcasts for 2020 are booked. If you would like to sponsor a 2021 broadcast, please call the church office. The cost is \$50 for a Sunday. Thank you for all the sponsorships!



OCTOBER 2020:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS:

TRANSFERS:

Donn & Kristi Frahm to Calgary Lutheran, Alexandria, MN

ALTAR
COMMITTEE
for November
Vikki Cartwright
Joan Shroyer



Your 2020 schedules are
in your church mailbox!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Board of Education-The Board of Ed met with Pastor Amy to discuss the direction of SMASH. They decided to wait until November to make a decision.

Lay Ministry/Evangelism-A plant was given to Pastor Amy for Pastor Appreciation Month. They are looking for a pulpit fill for November 22 and December 27.

Property/Stewardship Board-Projects at the parsonage and church were discussed. Bruce is in charge of the November Helping Hands.

OLD BUSINESS

Sexual Misconduct Policy- Carissa, Katie and Erin shared that they do not feel comfortable with and feel they do not have enough information to put a policy together and asked the Council how to proceed. Deb Belquist made a motion to table this conversation until more information is gathered from the Synod, other churches, etc. Deb Stafford seconded the motion, motion carried.

COVID-19 Safety-The Council agreed that 100 people would be able to safely fit in the Sanctuary and 40 people in the Fellowship Hall for events. A limit of 40 people will be able to eat in the Fellowship Hall. For safety reasons, food will need to be catered or purchased from a food service industry. Organizations using First Lutheran will be expected to clean and sanitize after their events.

There was discussion on purchasing a disinfecting fogger. Carissa made a motion to purchase a fogger using peroxide with a purchase limit up to \$500. Erin seconded the motion, motion carried. Deb Belquist will research foggers and give her recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

Extra Benevolence-Katie made a motion to send \$250 to the Share the Joy event. Glenda seconded the motion, motion carried.

(continued on pg. 11)

CHURCH COUNCIL

First Lutheran Church Council met on October 14, 2020. In attendance were Bruce Hirschert, Melony Allmaras, Ardyce Snyder, Jon Johnson, Carissa Johnson, Deb Belquist, Kayla Jay, Deb Stafford, Erin Radke, Glenda Collier, Amy Perleberg, Pastor Amy and Shelly Ehni.

The meeting was called to order by president Bruce Hirschert. The agenda was approved.

Pastor Amy led us in Faith 5:

1. Share highs and lows
2. Bible verse
3. Discuss verse

Secretary's Report-Glenda made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ardyce seconded the motion, motion carried.

Financial & Treasurer's report-as of October 14, the checking account showed a balance of \$15,938.34. Erin made a motion to approve the financial report, Carissa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence-Thank you was received via text from Jon Johnson's mom for the get well card from First Lutheran.

Cards of Care-Cards were signed by the council.

100th Anniversary Update-Sunday, October 18 is the 100th anniversary for First Lutheran. The formal celebration will be held at a later date due to Covid.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report- Pastor Amy shared she is not completing in-person visitations but is making phone calls to those in need. She has hosted three confirmation sessions for parents and students. Six parents have agreed to be group leaders. They will participate in a leader training on October 21. The first night of confirmation will be on November 4th. Pastor Amy also stated she will be attending a continuing event at the end of October.

Women's Ministry

October 2020

A call to prayer in the time of a pandemic. This is a call to prayer, to be practiced every Thursday at noon. Use it daily if you wish.

Read: Romans 8:38-39 *"For I am convinced 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."*

Pray: follow each petition by naming specific individuals or needs; add additional petitions as needed.

- * For those who are ill
- * For those with little access to healthcare
- * For healthcare workers
- * For those who feel isolated
- * For those who are in unsafe places
- * For those who are anxious or worried
- * For leaders facing difficult decisions
- * For those driven by greed or careless disregard

Reflect: reflect on these questions. You may even be inspired to journal daily with these questions.

- ◆ How are you loving yourself today?
- ◆ What is your self-care strategy?
- ◆ How are you loving your neighbor today?

Journaling: Create your own sacred writings. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:39) "For we will rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

This article came from Connections, the EaND Women of the ELCA newsletter. Have a great month! Betty & Ardyce

November Birthdays

1 st - Meah Gehrtz	11 th - Kristy O'Connor
2 nd - Lisa Longnecker Ava Peterson	13 th - Helen Christianson
3 rd - Paul Hungness Curtis Larson Riley Longnecker Scott Taverna	14 th - Logan Munson
4 th - Elliott Belquist Halle Savageau	15 th - Nathan Holzwarth
6 th - Jean Schuster Roger Topp	16 th - Avolt Baumbach Lauren Roscoe
7 th - Tucker Longnecker	18 th - Sandy Koeplin
8 th - Judy Belquist Richard Carlson Gary Weigum	19 th - Brekken Zeltinger
10 th - Kalli Anderson Mitch Bjerke Bradyn Collier Joey Wobbema	23 rd - Chad Wobbema
	24 th - Michael Thompson
	25 th - Gina Clifton
	27 th - Lucas Langley Kristi Swenson
	28 th - Brody Weisenburger
	30 th - Keaton Cudworth

If you find that your birthday isn't listed, or if the date is wrong, please let us know.



Looking Forward to "It's True!" Advent Series

The church season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29 and continues through December 20th. Our worship theme for Advent is "It's True".

This theme is based on a song by Christian artist Sara Groves of the same name. Sara writes about how we as Christians believe this story of the baby Jesus. We believe it again and again, day after day, year after year, Christmas to Christmas despite our natural hesitation, despite it seeming like a tale for a child. We acknowledge that the story is filled with complications and that this story of a baby God can even seem farfetched; things like a star that led the way for the wisemen, a virgin giving birth, the angels appearing to lowly shepherds, and there being no room for Mary and Joseph in all of Bethlehem.

So in this song, Sara gives voice to our wonderings, writing: *You've heard it told, you think it's odd, the whole thing fraught with complication. The play begins with a baby God and all His blessed implications.*

All his blessed implications... to be sure. We know all about these blessed implications. Peace, joy, hope, love, and all the things of God now and into all of eternity. It's why we celebrate Advent, awaiting this holy birth.

And then comes the chorus:

But it's true, kingdoms and crowns, the God who came down to find you. It's true, angels on high sing through the night. Alleluia.

It is true. God came down to find us. To find you. To find me. Emmanuel- God with us.

And this is the truth that we will lean into and celebrate this Advent season. What might happen in our hearts, minds, and lives if we lean into this truth? Might we hear this story of a baby and a manger and young mom and angels singing with new ears? Might we see it with the eyes of a child?

"It's True" by Sara Groves has been one of my favorite Christmas songs for several years. One year I sang it for special music at Christmas Eve worship. A middle-aged man whom I did not know came to me after the service. He shared that he had believed the Christmas story was true as a child, but as he aged he believed it less and less. "I just didn't believe it was true anymore," he said. He told me it had been thirty years since he had been to church. Then he started to cry as he thanked me for singing the song, saying something had been stirred in him, and he once again believed "It's True."