

HELPING HANDS ASSIGNMENTS

Month of December 2020

USHERING:

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m.: Corey & Tammy Longnecker

Sunday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.: Glenda Collier & Larry Danduran

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.: Gary Weigum & Suzie Wobbema

Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.: Corey & Tammy Longnecker

Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.: Reed & Jenna Weisenburger family

Christmas Day at 10 a.m.:

Sunday, Dec. 27 at 10 a.m.: Jim & Fern Schuster

***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, December 6: Corey Longnecker

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Gail Weisenburger

FUND: Carpet Fund

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 9:15 a.m.: No coffee fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 27 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!

I began my “career” as a worship leader back in the early nineties. I had been singing in the contemporary worship team at my church, and when our team leader left, my pastor asked if I would consider taking the job. I said a quick yes and am so glad I did. As I planned worship each week, I came to understand the power of choosing certain elements in worship, the power of writing heartfelt prayer petitions, and the power of choosing music that moves the heart. Planning worship services was holy work, and I was learning so much as a person and as a church leader.

Over time, there was one central question that came up for me over and over, a question that begged to be asked, even more that it needed to be answered — what is worship?

Is worship what we do at church on Sunday? Is worship an action? Is it a matter of our hearts? Is worship a matter of the mind? Is worship a matter of our bodies?

What I came to know is that the answer to all of those questions is “yes”. Worship is indeed what we do at church, but it is also what we do every other hour of our week as well. Worship is indeed a matter of the hearts, but it is also a matter of our bodies and souls.

In recent weeks, I’ve been challenged to think of worship through a new lens, through that of surrender. This new lens came through the Bible study book *I Give Up* by Christian author and musician Laura Story. In this book, the author, who was also a worship leader at her church, talks of learning that worship was a conscious choice she had to make to praise God, whether she felt like it or not. She came to understand that perhaps what God expects was not some happy-lucky, emotional experience, but perhaps a deeper commitment to praising our “always-worthy” God.

The word worship actually comes from the Old English word “Worth-ship”, meaning the vehicle that brings worth to God. When we think of worship through this definition, we quickly see that surrender is definitely a form of worship. In surrendering our will, our fear, our anger, our doubt to our God, we actually place our trust in him. And as Paul tells us in his letter to Corinthians, Jesus said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Another verse in the Bible that speaks to our trust in God being a form of worship is Romans 12:1, “Therefore, present your bodies as a living sacrifice.” Laura Story notes the important distinction of the sacrifice spoken of here by Paul, being a “living” sacrifice. Worship, then, is a lived experience.

May you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ, live a life of surrender, and experience God’s always open invitation into his very presence through worship.

December 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 as we could not continue our ministry without each and every one of you!

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

December confirmation dates are Dec. 2, 9 & 16th. No confirmation on December 23 or 30 due to the holidays.

Breakout will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16th during the school lunch break. Please join us for pizza and bring a friend!

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 Altar Circle will once again be taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$16 and order forms will be available at the church. If you would like to call in an order, just let the church office know and we will fill out an order form for you. Deadline to order will be Monday, December 21st at noon.

Advent Offering envelopes are included in your newsletter this month. This years offering has been designated to Red Willow Bible Camp. We have set a goal of \$1,000 for the camp, and would love you to prayerfully consider helping us meet that goal during Advent!

The Angel tree is up in the fellowship hall and gifts are due back at the church by Thursday, Dec. 3rd.

2021 offering envelopes will be available in your church mailboxes by mid-December. Please pick them up as they will not be mailed out. All offerings for 2020 must be in the office by noon Dec. 31st. Anything received after that time will be posted as a 2021 offering.

Memorials given during November:

CARPET FUND

IMO Roy Taylor, by
Marilyn Gedrose
Tim & Amy Perleberg
Neal & Deb Rud
Marlyss Fleming

IMO Milton Nokleby, by

Mary Nokleby
IMO Jodi Carlson, by
Marilyn Gedrose
Roger & Betty Westby
Greg & Janine Anderson
Stan & Deb Stafford
Neal & Deb Rud

IMO Franklin Ellingson, by

Marilyn Gedrose
IMO Edith Gehertz, by
Neal & Deb Rud
IMO Gloria Rud, by
Bev Bjornson
Stan & Deb Stafford
IMO Doug Smith, by
Stan & Deb Stafford

Milton Omoth
Marilyn Gedrose
Greg & Janine Anderson
Marlyss Fleming
Tim & Amy Perleberg

QUILTERS FUND

IMO Jodi Carlson, by
Marylss Fleming

HOPES & DREAMS FUND

IMO Roy Taylor, by
Roger & Betty Westby

100TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

by Donn & Kristi Frahm

RADIO FUND

IMO Roy Taylor, by
Richard & Vicki Ryan
IMO Jodi Carlson, by
Richard & Vicki Ryan
IMO Doug Smith, by
Kenny & Luann Thompson

FL FOUNDATION

IMO John Wheelihan, by
Richard Carlson
IMO Doug Smith, by
Richard Carlson

MUSIC FUND

IMO Doug Smith, by
Roger & Betty Westby

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IMO Roy Taylor, by
Allan & Gail Weisenburger
IMO Jodi Carlson, by
Allan & Gail Weisenburger



We are once again collecting items at the food pantry to fill Christmas baskets to be given out in December. Some of the items still needed are: stuffing, canned sweet Potatoes and cranberries, jelly, pie filling, gravy, Jell-o/ pudding mixes, boxed meals (Hamburger Helper), cash donations to purchase vouchers for turkey, ham, potatoes, bread and buns. Please have food items to the church by Dec. 6th. Thanks for your help with this yearly project!



As we move towards year end it is time to think about your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Allocations can be made at any time but 2020 dollars must be moved by March 30, 2021. There will be one more allocation at year end into your accounts, but you can move the ones on hand at any time. It is totally up to you where you move these funds and there are many options. If you have any questions, Thrivent's 1-800-847-4836 number is fabulous with support. Thank you for the support you have shown our congregation this past year! Thrivent funds will be distributed in December. Applications are available in the church office. The group is meeting in early December to disperse 2020 funds. If you would like to apply for your church group, please stop by the office and grab an application.

CHURCH RECORDS

ATTENDANCE:	OFFERING:
Nov. 1 - 78	\$4,180.00
Nov. 4 - 17	\$ 285.00
Nov. 8 - 78	\$1,160.00
Nov. 11 - 12	\$ 170.00
Nov. 15 - 59	\$1,700.00
Nov. 18- 21	\$ 100.00
Nov. 22 - 51	\$1,805.00

<i>WEEKLY NEED:</i>	\$ 2,839.76
<i>Y-T-D EXPENSES:</i>	\$121,979.13
<i>Y-T-D OFFERING:</i>	\$122,360.58
<i>Y-T-D BUDGET:</i>	\$135,361.63

*General Fund
(Checking Account)
Balance as of 11/25/2020:
\$10,959.95*

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS:

Property Fund:	\$17,241.04
Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,610.32
Banner Fund:	\$189.99
Music Fund:	\$52.20
Budget Reserve:	\$3,684.98
Thrivent Choice:	\$452.00
Noisy Offering:	\$884.50
FLC Men's group:	\$2,503.98
Carpet Fund:	\$7,871.71
100th Anniversary:	\$3,769.84

*Special Account
(Savings Account)
Balance as of 11/25/2020:
\$38,260.56*

Helping Hands

December (Group 7)

- Kathy Allard
- Bev Bjornson
- Glenda Collier & Larry Danduran
- Helen Duda
- Frank & Anne Erickson
- Sharon Hirschert
- John & Karen Hovey
- Judy Meier
- Jordan Meier family
- Stu & Vicky Richter
- Cheryl Sandager
- Scott & Nan Taverna
- Arlene Weber
- Gary Weigum
- Allan & Gail Weisenburger
- Joey & Suzie Wobbema

Acolyte Schedule:

- Sunday, December 6:*
- Hannah Dockter & Kaiya O'Connor
- Sunday, December 13:*
- Mathew Schuster & Noah Wobbema
- Sunday, December 20:*
- Bennett Meier & Jackson Schumacher
- Christmas Eve, 4:00 p.m.:*
- Bradyn Collier & Easton Benz
- Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m.:*
- Brody Weisenburger & Tristan Shrock
- Christmas Day, 10:00 a.m.:*
- Hannah Chamberlain & Bailey Baumbach
- Sunday, December 27:*
- Addysen Fandrich & Ava Peterson

Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

Nov. 1: IMO Delbert & Janice Clelland, by their family.

Nov. 8: IMO Norman Hichert, by Sharon, Bruce & Jodi, Tyrell & Chelsea, Blake, Jameson & Carter, Jon & Carissa, Arabelle & Ivy.

Nov. 15: IMO Cliff Gedrose, by Mariyln Gedrose.

Nov. 22: IMO Lyle Christianson & Nate Omoth, by Helen Christianson and Kevin & Karen Omoth family.

Nov. 29: IMO Merv Bjornson, by Bev Bjornson.

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!



NOVEMBER 2020:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS:

Jodi Carlson on 11/11/2020

Doug Smith on 11/19/2020

TRANSFERS:

Chris & Courtney Bittmann to FLC

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

OLD BUSINESS

Sexual Misconduct Policy- Carissa made a motion to eliminate the back page of the Grinnell Mutual Sexual Misconduct Policy. Katie seconded the motion, motion carried. There was discussion on making a new policy and/or updating our current policy. Katie and Carissa will work on a committee to review our current policy and those of other area churches. Pastor Amy will also review two local church's policies and hand them off to the committee with her recommendations.

COVID-19 Safety-There is a new update in numbers due to being in the "Orange" status. We are allowed to have 25% occupancy which means 50 people in the Sanctuary and 50 people in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Extra Benevolence-Shelly made a motion to use \$50 to purchase a \$40 gift card from Baker's Dozen and \$10 for roses to be given to Danette Schmid as a gesture of appreciation for all her work during this time. Katie seconded the motion, motion carried. Shelly made a motion to give \$100 to Kipp Kouba. Carissa seconded the motion, motion carried.

Nominating Committee and Evaluations-Glenda made a motion to not complete evaluations this year. Jim seconded the motion, motion carried. The nominating committee will consist of Joan Heckaman, Jon Johnson, Carissa Johnson, and Katie Jorgenson.

Advent Offering Designation-Carissa made a motion to donate the Advent Offering to Red Willow Bible Camp. Katie seconded the motion. Carissa amended the motion to include setting a goal of \$1,000. Katie seconded the amended motion, motion carried.

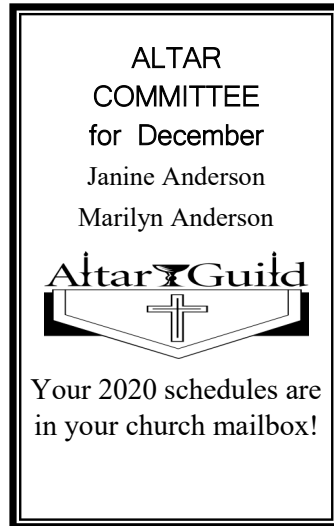
Faith 5:

4. Pray

5. Blessing

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Ehni



CHURCH COUNCIL

First Lutheran Church Council met on November 11, 2020. In attendance were Jim Schuster, Bruce Hirschert, Ardyce Snyder, Jon Johnson, Carissa Johnson, Katie Jorgenson, 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-Ardyce made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Glenda seconded the motion, motion carried.

Financial & Treasurer's report-as of November 11, the checking account showed a balance of \$18,289.51. Glenda made a motion to approve the financial report, Katie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence-Thank you's were received from Donn and Kristi Frahm and Pastor Amy.

Cards of Care-Cards were signed by the council.

100th Anniversary Update-There were several comments about how nice the service on Sunday, October 18 was.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report- Pastor Amy shared she has officiated a number of funerals and is conducting pre-wedding counseling with a couple. She is working on the Advent theme of "It's True." Tonight (November 11) was the first night of fellowship for the confirmation students.

Board of Education-Due to the COVID situation, no in-house SMASH will be held for the unforeseeable future. The board is discussing other options. They will be giving 3rd graders their Bibles.

Lay Ministry/Evangelism-Christmas services were discussed. Services will be limited to 50 people in the Sanctuary and 50 people in the Fellowship Hall. Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 and 7:00. Christmas Day service will be at 10:00. There is a need for Pulpit Fill for November 22 and December 27. Ushers will be reminded about COVID procedures during services.

Women's Ministry

November 2020

This is coming to you with good thoughts and wishes for wellbeing for all of us after living through "about" 9 months of the "Corona Virus Epidemic". This is definitely a different way of living, and some may give ourselves "pep talks" to keep our minds healthy and thinking about good things.

We have **much to be thankful for!** Here are a few examples: Our Sunday and Wednesday worship services, feed our need to hear the word of God that gives us hope and confidence that because of our faith in Jesus, everything is going to be all right! Our youth are beginning Confirmation studies, blood drives are held, the food pantry is available to give community folk an assist when needed. "Share the Joy" Christmas trees are out in the community, and we just had our Thank Offering November 15th and 18th, where the monies received will benefit our local Ministerial Association. Thanks to all that gave, we are able to present the local Ministerial Association with \$416.00. Our church is a warm and inviting place: Pastor Amy, our church board, and our church secretary, Amy, are available to us with helping hands and big smiles. And I know there are more examples!

Could we as a church and community ask for more? No! Praise God!

Note: The 2020 Advent Tea has been cancelled due to the virus.

In Christ,
Ardyce Snyder and Betty Westby, co-chairpersons

Stars and Promises Christmas Concert with Peter Mayer

In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Central time.

The concert is a gift to you this Advent season, a way for us to thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries. Register now to receive a free Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!

December Birthdays

1st - Lennix Langley
 2nd -Arabelle Johnson
 3rd -Jodi Hirschert
 Ervin Longnecker
 4th -Kelsey Larson
 Wayne Lesmeister
 6th - AJ Benz
 Leland Jensen
 7th -Gladys Carlson
 8th -Roger Longnecker
 9th -Janel Fortney
 11th - Joshua Homiston
 Barb Perleberg
 14th -Kathy Allard
 15th -Kerstin Allmaras
 Jon Johnson
 Debra Stafford
 17th -Marlyss Fleming
 Eric Perleberg

19th - Sheri Anderson
 Corey Longnecker
 20th -Marilyn Gedrose
 Ami Peterson
 21st - Talan Gehrtz
 MarJean Pfau
 24th -Ashley Fleming
 Scott Severs
 26th - Vivian Rimmereid
 27th -David Bymoen
 28th -Courtney Bittman
 29th - Nate Collier
 Alison Widmer
 30th -Richard Ryan
 Dennis Weber
 Roger Westby
 31st -Karsyn Wetzel



Join us for Advent Worship! Each week we will live into the wonder of this baby God who came to earth for us, proclaiming "It's True!" Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Wednesday worship services at 6 p.m. beginning November 29th.



Christmas Eve Worship services at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship service at 10 a.m.

We have limited seating in both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. We have worship spaces set up in both areas and you are able to view worship on the big screen tv in the fellowship hall. Please join us in celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus!

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

