



FIRST THINGS

First Lutheran Church of Brookings, SD

...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.

Volume 21 Issue 3 June and July of 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAVE

How are you?

It's probably a question we all hear too often nowadays...at least when we hear it in new ways. It seems that this has been a greeting without expected response for some time (unless "fine" counts), but now it has taken on new meaning.

Are you okay? ...emotionally? ...spiritually? ...physically?economically? ...domestically? ...vocationally?

We are listening a little more closely to be sure those around us are okay. Members are contacting other members and friends to check in; people are delivering groceries to those who feel unsafe in larger gathering; many people are taking precautions to keep those they love safe (distancing and masks primarily).

Psalm 104:30 says, "You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth."

Where can we find rest and peace when things feel so unsettled? How can we be okay when everything is shifting?

We turn to the one who renews the face of the earth – the one who creates and sustains all that is – the one who reminds us that we are loved, and invites us to share that love.

One of the ways we do that, is to listen to the response.

We became so used to asking without listening, and now we listen – How are you? Are you okay?

Yes, things are different, things have changed, and some things will not go back to what they were. But some things shouldn't go back. We should be a conduit for God's love to the world by caring enough, that when we ask that question we listen for their response.

It's easier to see the struggle when the world is allowed to be broken and quiet – but the world is always broken, and people are always struggling.

In 1 Samuel 3:10 it says – "Speak (Lord), for your servant is listening."

God is speaking to us all the time – through worship, nature, community, and those around us. Sometimes it's an invitation to respond with grace and love, sometimes it's a call to action, and sometimes it's a call to listen closely enough that we can hear the cry of the heart of those around us.

May we learn from this time to listen – listen for the voice of the one who creates, redeems, and sustains you in the midst of the realities of life. It is where we will find rest and peace and hope and life.



SUMMER WORSHIP



WEEKLY COMMUNION:

Starting on **June 6th**, we will take our Saturday evening prayer time and turn that into a short outdoor worship service with communion. We'll gather every Saturday at 7:00pm in the grass/parking lot for a time of community worship (planning for FM transmitter) with song, prayer, scripture, short message, and communion.

We'll do this outside and in community so that our communion gathers us together. The specifics include:

- ◆ Each person/family needs to bring bread and wine/grape juice for their communion.
- ◆ Physically distancing will be expected. Bring a lawn chair, or blanket, but be sure you are at least 6' from those around you (not including family).

NOTE: if physical distancing is not maintained, we will reconsider holding the service.

WORSHIP:

Traditional Festival Worship: Facebook Live at 8:30 am

Contemporary Praise Worship: Facebook Live at 10:30am

Traditional Festival Worship: AM1430 KBRK at 11:00am

CORONAVIRUS RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

We have put together a task force to help us evaluate the community's situation as well as the congregation's policies and procedures, and to help us prepare a space for you that is both safe and comforting. The task force includes David Meyer, Venita Winterboer, Mary Minton, Susan Ropp, Ken Knudtson, and Jill Ayres. We are meeting regularly, by Zoom, for ongoing evaluation and planning. We ask for your patience in this process. Our primary concern will continue to be the health and safety of the community. If you have any questions, please contact one of the members listed above.

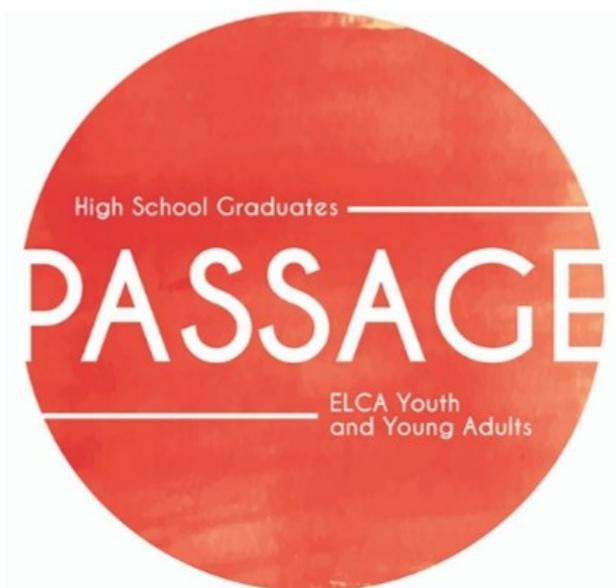


June 29-July 3, 2021

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

All students in 8th Grade -12th Grade during the 2020-2021 school year are eligible to attend. Please contact Pastor Nyla for more information and registration materials. Revnyla@firstlutheranbrookings.org



After ELCA Young Adult's great success with the abide small-group ministry, the ELCA Faith Formation team is excited to launch a special small-group series for recently graduated high school students.

Based on Isaiah 43, PASSAGE will be centered on mutual support and wrestling with faith and life in times of transition.

Please contact Pastor Nyla at 692-6251 or revnyla@firstlutheranbrookings.org if you interested in signing up for this ministry.



CHANGE A LIFE – SPONSOR A STUDENT IN BELIZE

FLC Mission in Belize continues. We are seeking continued scholarships for students in Belize. Tuition is \$350.00 per student per year or \$175.00 per semester. The 2020-2021 school year will again be challenging for these students. Families who are already struggling to send their students to school are being affected by the threat of the coronavirus as many have lost any income they might have had. Another issue affecting the entire school is the possibility of closing the school if the enrollment is not increased to 100 students from 80 students. The staff at the school have worked very hard to recruit new students, but also need to retain the current students enrolled. We hope to provide continued support for 13 students and humbly ask for any help you are able to give. To make a donation of any amount send a check with memo: Belize Scholarship to: First Lutheran Church Attn: Pastor Nyla - PO Box 300 – Brookings, SD 57006.

For more information contact Dee Shanley at deeshanley48@gmail.com or Pastor Nyla at revnyla@firstlutheran.org

I know these students and their families have been extremely grateful for your help, without which, many would not have been able to attend school. I hope to share with you stories of these great kids. I am asking for your help to continue your generous sponsorship of a student with either a full scholarship for one student for the year or a donation to the general scholarship fund.

Scholarships are as follows:

Tuition for one year: \$350.00 USD
Transportation: Approx: \$500.00 USD
School lunch expense: Approx: \$400.00 USD
Books and supplies: Approx: \$200.00 USD

Any amount will be greatly appreciated. We will collect the money and distribute it all to the students in need.

I hope to be able to have a meeting at church some day to provide an update on the work we do in Belize. God willing, I plan on returning to Belize in August to begin the 2020-2021 school year. I feel so blessed to have the support of all of you as I continue this mission.

Blessings to you,
Dee Shanley

Youth and Family News

**The grass is green, The sky is blue, the sun is shining,
and we can't wait to see you!**

Our world is in a constant state of flux. We are ready to hold VBS if the church task force deems it safe to do so. As we receive new information on VBS 2020 & Journey to Discipleship 2020-2021, updates will be provided.

Registration for both VBS & Journey to Discipleship will remain active. VBS How to Train Your Emotions is scheduled for July 27-July 30 from 5:45-7:45.

Registration can be found on website www.tdjesus.org Find youth tab, Journey to Discipleship & the link. Or this digital link from the Newsletter [VBS/Journey to Discipleship 2020-2021 Registration.](#)

Journey to Discipleship 2020-2021 "Prayer"

We are excited to take this fun and engaging Faith Formation journey with family and friends on either Wednesdays at 6:00-7:00 pm or Sundays at 9:40-10:25 am. Register at www.tdjesus.org! Find the youth tab, Journey to Discipleship & the link. Or this digital link from the Newsletter [VBS/Journey to Discipleship 2020-2021 Registration!](#)

Journey to Discipleship includes our 3-year old to 5th grade youth. It is a wonderful opportunity for adults to share in the faith walk of our youth. We are looking for adults who have a couple hours, a couple days, a couple weeks, or a couple months to walk with us. Contact Kari York at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

The Journey is never ending!

School is done, events are cancelled, but faith formation never ends. Here are a few resources to keep the journey moving along. Watch for more resources soon.

Sparkhouse Amazon Prime [Sparkhouse Whirl Videos](#)
Sparkhouse Family Sunday School Lesson [Sparkhouse family Sunday School](#)
Orange Kids Ministry [Orange Kids Ministry Parent Cue](#)

Stay safe, stay well, and know that you stay in our hearts when we are apart.

*Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your **God is with you** wherever **you** go."*

Isaiah 41:10



FLC PRESCHOOL NEWS

It has been incredibly quiet around the preschool for far too long. Unfortunately, our last day of preschool in the classroom was Friday, March 13. However, the preschool families were given the opportunity to receive learning packets through the end of May. The teachers did an excellent job of converting our hands-on teaching curriculum into distance learning packets. They included newsletters and instructions for the parents, and they also included many fun writing, art, and letter/number recognition activities for the students. All of these were centered around the "Theme/Letter of the Week".

We closed out the year by having a drive through "Last Day of Preschool and Preschool Graduation Parade". The Preschool staff was excited to see everyone. They waved and handed out all the children's papers and projects left at the preschool. The children graduating were also given their diplomas and hats. All the children and families had the opportunity to have their pictures taken in front of the windows the teachers decorated for them.

We are sad we are unable to have our Summer Fun Camps this year. However, we are looking forward to seeing all the new and returning students in August!

The staff and I hope you all have a fun and safe summer!

SueAnn



Left: FLC Preschool Staff
Lisa Thompson,
Director SueAnn
Mouw, Dawn
Hardin, Sharon
James, and Kelly
Trenhaile



Above: Proud FLC
Preschool Graduate

Right: FLC
Preschool
Graduation
Parade





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Congratulations to our 2020 High School Seniors who were recognized on Sunday, May 17th with a slideshow presented at the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services. We still hope to wrap our seniors in quilts when we re-open our church doors!

Ellie Abraham
Mackenzie Begalka
Finn Paso Little
Trevor Pederson
Hannah Einspahr
Sarah Hanley
Katherine Ropp
Emily Schleicher

Jayden Almos
Tyson Boeve
Cole McElhaney
Ainsley Powers
Cole Eller
Dylan Herrig
Thomas Ropp
Anya Schoeld

Abigail Ayres
Breyanna Bunker
Allyson McMacken
Joseph Prusa
Caleb Fixsen
Charles Hoffmann
Emily Rystrom
Paityn Schulte

Jaiden Bauman
Dylan Buschenfeld
Montana Myer
Nate Ramsey
Gabel Goldhorn
Zander Larson
Kennedy Schafer

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIPS 2020-2021

The First Lutheran Church Foundation and Scholarship Committee are thankful to provide scholarships in the total amount of \$14,100.00 for undergraduate study for the coming school year. Thank you to all who contribute to Foundation and scholarship endowments.

FLC Gladys VanderWal Memorial Scholarship:

Emily Rystrom

FLC Scholarships to graduating High School Seniors:

Ellie Abraham, Jayden Almos, Jaiden Bauman, Gabel Goldhorn, Charlie Hoffmann, Zander Larson, Allison McMacken, Montana Myer, Kate Ropp, Tom Ropp and Anya Schoeld

FLC Scholarships to students who are currently or will be attending accredited universities:

Anna Hoffmann, Malory Hoffmann, Nicole Larson, Aspen Myer, Aubrey Nelson, Caitlyn Nielson, Jazlyn Pederson, Kelsey Werpy and Kristen Werpy



MUSIC NEWS

Greetings to all. I am certainly missing gathering in worship and then enjoying a cup of coffee and conversation between services!

However, if you have not yet tuned into our live services via the internet, I would encourage you to do so. It will give you a lift and remind you that God loves us and the church is not closed, just changed. On Mother's Day weekend and the Sundays following, we have been featuring requested hymns with brass, strings, organ, woodwind accompaniments and vocalists leading the songs. I am so thankful to the musicians who have participated in any way during this time of social distancing. Thanks to Dr. Mary Ermel on the organ, the Ropp family for brass and strings, the Bergan Abraham families and Lisa Svobodny for leading the hymns and providing special music.

How glorious it will be to, once again, be in the sanctuary worshipping-realizing that it will take time to return to services as we know it. I am looking forward to that day of celebration.

Scheduling of activities is on hold for now. Keep watching your emails and social media for updates.

Music Coordinator 8:30 service
Pat Anderson

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL



council@firstlutheranbrookings.org

President: Nichole Berkenhoff
Vice President: Tiffany Lewis
Secretary: Barb Jensen
Brenda Algood
Rick Ribstein
Kris Seas
Erik Dahl



Mission Coffeehouse

News from Jeanne Eclov



Missing our patrons!

Hello friends! I hope this message finds you all healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. I have been spending my time at home and using it wisely to get my spring cleaning done before Memorial Day, which has never happened before, and have completed other numerous projects.

First Lutheran staff have been talking continuously about the concern we have to keep ourselves and all of you safe from contracting the Corona Virus. We have discussed precautionary steps we need to focus on and continue to research new information as it is available.

I am putting together a checklist designed to assist retail food establishments that were closed during this pandemic and preparing to reopen. We do not have a date scheduled and I will be sure to let you all know when that information is available. Most importantly, we want to protect employees and the public health as we reopen for business.

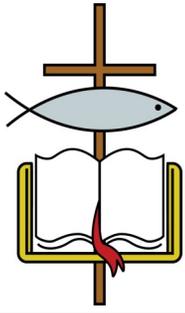
We are all in this together, so let's be patient and supportive. I am looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.



Thanks to our congregation and community, the Mission Coffeehouse tip jar collected \$644.82 for our March Mission of the Month, "Lutheran Disaster Response."

THE BROOKINGS COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

The Mission Board from the Mission Coffeehouse and friends from the church and community organized a food drive for the Brookings County Food Pantry on May 2. With the cooperation of Dick Peterson from Cinema 8, people could drive through the parking lot and drop off food or monetary contributions (and then buy some great movie popcorn from the Cinema!) **Donors dropped off 22 boxes of food and over \$298.00 for the food pantry. Well done! Thank you Dick!**



The Membership
Records of First
Lutheran Church from
April and May
of 2020

Passings:

*Margaret Lengkeek
Elwyn (Al) Roach*



April and May of 2020

Many memorials were received, but this is the list of memorials that remained at First Lutheran Church.

In memory of Elnore Johnson
Isabella Apland, Bob and Eleda Brotsky

In memory of Kathryn Torgerson:
Dave and Marcene Lenander

In memory of Francis McNeely:
Brad and Jennifer Erickson

In memory of Al Roach: *Joy Bretsch, Sally Damm Norby, Harry and Helen Jones*

CAN WE HELP?

We are working to identify all who may need assistance in any form – grocery or medicine pickup, phone conversation, mail, etc. If you need assistance, or know someone who does, please contact Diane at 605-692-6251 to let her know. **If you have an idea of how we can be of assistance**, please call and let us know – talk to Diane or one of the pastors. Never hesitate to call the pastors about personal or spiritual care.

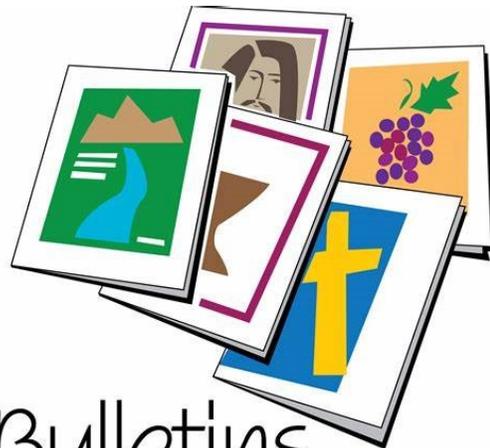


To offer your financial gifts to God, you can:

Mail your offering to the church – FLC, PO Box 300, Brookings, SD 57006

Use Automatic Withdrawal – (Form on pg. 3 of the Newsletter) Per your designation, the church will automatically withdraw from your account once/month (with no fees).

Use online giving through our website (firstlutheranbrookings.org) or the mobile app. You will have more control over frequency and days for withdrawal (there are fees associated with this). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave.



Bulletins

Would you like the 8:30 am bulletin mailed to you so that you can follow along while listening to the radio broadcast at 11:00 am on AM1430 KBRK? Give Diane or Jo a call at 692-6251 and leave your name, address and preference of large or small bulletin. You can also access the 8:30 and 10:30 bulletins by downloading the First Lutheran App!



First Lutheran Church
PO Box 300
Brookings, SD 57006

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Phone: 692-6251
Fax: 697-2760

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If you have an article or information for the August/September Newsletter, please have it in to the church office no later than July 15!

If you would like information put into the Sunday announcements, please have it in to the church office by the **Monday** before. Thank you!



THE FLC Mission Interest Quilters are in need of used or new sheets for liners and backs. All other fabric donations are welcome, too! For pickup service, please contact Mary at 605-690-8862 or leave a message at 605-693-3041. Many of the quilters have been using donated fabric while quilting mission quilts from home! Thank you for your faithful support.

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