Parish Partyline

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

July 2020

Prayers, Intercession, & Thanksgiving

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

WE PRAY FOR...

Those serving in the Armed Forces
Chris Wordekemper
Taylor Johnson

Those in Nursing Homes or Homebound
Bonnie Kellogg (Homebound)
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)
Marlen & Suzie Johnson (Hillcrest)
Ernie & Lyla Swanson (Brookdale)
Marilyn Wallin (CountryView)

Concordia Council Members
President – Carolyn Alt
Vice President - Hart Vollers
Secretary – Judy Martindale
Financial Secretary - Lee Johnson
Financial Liaison – Dustin Thompson
Projects - Trisha Reifenrath

First Council Members
President - Rod Ketelsen
Vice President - Paul Boyle
Secretary - Vickie Sands
Treasurer - Katie Olesen
Financial Secretary - Chris Beach
Events - Gloria Dowling

Concordia Members
Rich & Leila Fischer
Jeff & Tricia Grone; Josh, Joe
Jason & Valerie Hangman; Kyler, Rilyn
Warren & Danita Hanson
Ron & Marilyn Harder

First Members
Shane & Bridgett Connell; Keiziah, Tristan, Mackenzey, Hunter
Gloria Dowling
Nancy Ellis
David & Iva Geiger
Dwight & Ronnie Gotch

** If you know of people who should be added to our prayers, please contact Pastor Deb Valentine or Bridgett Connell*

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

During the call process we have been reminded that prayer is vitally important during the time of transition. We have prayed for our Call Committee, Councils and for the Pastor that God has in mind to serve Concordia and First Lutheran Churches. And we have recently learned that God has been at work (in record time) and that we have a candidate! Thanks be to God!!!

During the Easter season our texts came from the book of Acts, and we were reminded of the important role that prayer played in the early church. Prayer continues to play an important role in the church today. I would ask that the members of First and Concordia Lutheran Churches continue to pray for the Call Committee, the Church Councils, the Congregations, and your Candidate. And I would also ask that you would continue to pray for your new pastor. These prayers will help him or her as he/she transitions to the Churches, the communities of Concord and Allen, and as he/she joins you in ministry. I too, would appreciate your prayers, as I prepare for another transition.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Jane Vennard, a pastor, retreat and workshop leader and lecturer. She is the author of a book titled *A Praying Congregation*. Jane shared with us 6 things that she believes about prayer.

1) Prayer is relational. Prayer allows us to be in relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Our relationship with God is similar to our relationships with other people. Prayer opens us to intimacy with God.

2) God wants all of who we are – our full embodiment. We go into prayer as we are, with all of our thoughts and feelings: our fear, anger, greed, jealousy, hatred, etc. We need to be honest with God about our feelings. God welcomes our whole being into worship.

3) Whatever we do that brings us closer to God is prayer. Our whole life can be a prayer. Brother Lawrence shared in his book *The Practice of the Presence of God* that he found God as he was washing dishes. We too, can seek to find ways to pray without ceasing.

4) Prayer brings us more fully into the world. As we spend time with God, we become aware of the needs of others.

5) God hears our prayers. We can trust that our prayers are being heard – although we do not know how God will answer our prayers.

6) It's all a mystery. We don't understand how prayer works – but we know that it does.

Jane shared that Douglas Steer has speculated that when we pray for others with our heart and with love, that it lowers the threshold, so that God can get through, so that God can touch them and us and "besiege us with love." I love this premise that when we pray with our heart and with our love that it enables God to get through. We can trust that God is present with us during the difficult times of our lives, and that our prayers can help bring comfort and assurance to those in need. This can help us too, when we pray for people we do not know and for the situations that they face: including the doctors, nurses, first responders, law enforcement, essential workers, and all of those affected by COVID-19, those battling other illnesses, those affected by police brutality, racial inequality, crime, violence, war, natural disasters or manmade disasters, just to name a few.

Jane suggested that in those times when we do not know how to pray, that we should start where our heart is, and as we spend time in prayer, our heart will transform.

This is an exciting time in the life of Concordia and First Lutheran Churches. It is my hope that the congregations will enter into this time in prayer. Prayer is one of the greatest resources the church has at its disposal, yet it is often underused. Prayer benefits the person praying as well as the people being prayed for.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Deb

First Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

One unified body of Christ, called to be agents of love and service to all!

First Lutheran Council met via Zoom on June 1, 2020. Present were Rod Ketelsen, Vickie Sands, Gloria Dowling, Katie Olesen, Chris Beach, and Pastor Deb Valentine.

Opening prayer led by Pastor Deb.

Secretary's report for May was read and approved.

Financials were discussed.

Pastor's report was read and discussed.

We had a discussion on possibilities for opening church. It was finally decided that the presidents of both church's councils, the president and vice president of the joint council and Pastor Deb would meet to come up with a plan to present to the joint council on June 7, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:
The bell tower has not been inspected yet.

NEW BUSINESS:
We will move the bake sale to the fall to coincide with the Love-A-Lop swap meet.
Gloria will look at the toilet upstairs that keeps running.
We decided we would like to keep the annual church picnic on July 19, 2020.

Closing prayer by Pastor Deb.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

Joint Council Meeting Highlights

Joint council met via Zoom on June 7, 2020. Present were Rod Ketelsen, Vickie Sands, Gloria Dowling, Katie Olesen, Carolyn Alt, Lee Johnson, Dustin Thompson, Judy Martindale, Trisha Reifenrath, and Pastor Deb Valentine. Hart Vollers joined the meeting later. Also present for part of the meeting were Lynnette Krie, Barb Sands, and Pastor Kristen Van Stee (associate to the Bishop).
Opening prayer led by Pastor Deb.

Barb S. and Lynnette K. gave a call committee update.

OLD BUSINESS:
No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:
Church is tentatively scheduled to reopen on August 2, 2020.
It was decided to have at-home communion during the Facebook services. People would provide their own sacraments.
Table Grace Café will go-ahead and come to First on August 23, 2020.

Closing prayer by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Sands, Joint Council Secretary

Next joint council meeting scheduled for September 13, 2020 at FLC.

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!

The Concordia church council met via Zoom on June 7, 2020 at 7pm following the joint meeting with FLC. All members were present.

Pastor's report was given

Carolyn called the meeting to order.

The secretary's, treasurer's and financial secretary's report were presented. Judy made a motion to approve. Lee seconded. All were in favor. Peg Anderson presented bills to be paid and approval was given.

Old business:

- Call committee update given during joint meeting
- Furnace Project fund raising status update given by Trisha. We have nearly enough money raised to cover cost.

New Business:

- The Ice Cream Social will not be held this year.
- The congregational survey was reviewed for help in deciding when and how to resume in person services.
- Discussion on date to resume indoor worship. August 2nd - tentative date dependent upon active COVID-19 cases at the end of July.
- Outdoor worship services were discussed for June and July. We will begin outdoor services on June 21 in the church west lawn/parking lot. Dustin and Shelby will research sound system possibilities.
- The God's Work Our Hands projects will be finalized during July and Aug meetings. Ideas from the congregational survey will be reviewed and prioritized.
- Council set the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. for all future council meetings.

Carolyn closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Martindale

List of Upcoming Events

July 4th Happy Independence Day

July 5th 8:30 a.m. FLC Outdoor Worship
10:15 a.m. CLC Outdoor Worship

July 6th 7:00 p.m. FLC Council Meeting

July 11th FLC Meet & Greet Candidate 7-8 p.m.

July 12th 8:30 a.m. FLC Outdoor Worship by Candidate
10:15 a.m. CLC Outdoor Worship by Candidate
CLC Meet & Greet Candidate following Worship
7:00 p.m. CLC Council Meeting

July 16th 10:00 a.m. CLC WELCA Birthday Party

July 19th 8:30 a.m. FLC Outdoor Worship
FLC Congregational Meeting following Worship
10:15 a.m. CLC Outdoor Worship
CLC Congregational Meeting following Worship
FLC Annual Picnic – Details coming soon

July 25th FLC Farmer's Market – Details coming soon

July 26th 8:30 a.m. FLC Outdoor Worship
10:15 a.m. CLC Outdoor Worship

July 27th Newsletter Deadline

Upcoming Events & Celebrations

The Council has received a recommendation of a candidate from the Call Committee.

After meeting with the Candidate, the Joint Council voted and is moving forward and recommending this candidate to the congregations. The candidate will be leading worship service for us on July 12th. There will also be a special Congregational Meeting on July 19th following worship to discuss the Candidate and vote to Call.

In following with social distancing guidelines:

First will have a special meet and greet/social with the Candidate on Saturday, July 11th from 7-8pm in the church parking lot. Cupcakes and ice cream cups will be served.

Concordia will have a special meet and greet/social with the Candidate on Sunday, July 12th following the outdoor service. Sack lunches and a drink will be served.

WEATHER PERMITTING Outdoor Services will be held each Sunday Morning in July.

FLC will begin 8:30 a.m. in the east parking lot (We do have a limited number of hearing devices available for person's staying in their vehicle.)

CLC will begin at 10:15 in on the west lawn/parking lot

Bring a chair or stay in your vehicle if you would like. Please follow social distancing guidelines for families or individuals, whether in your vehicle or in a chair.

Summer Outdoor Services will still be recorded and posted online. You can follow along using the bulletin included in this newsletter. You are invited to assemble the elements for communion: Bread and Wine, Crackers and Juice, or Toast and Juice, whatever you have on hand. We remember that Jesus was gathered together to celebrate the Passover with the disciples, and he used what was left from their meal, bread and wine. You will be invited to take part in communion at the appropriate time during our service of worship.

The church council continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation for our area. If possible, our goal is to resume indoor church services on August 2, 2020. More information will be communicated via Calling Tree, late July.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

7/2 Cheyenne Keil
7/2 Sarah Beach
7/6 Garrett Tramp
7/8 Ann Carr
7/19 Clarice Johnson
7/25 Greg Carr
7/28 Tom Osbahr
7/30 Tom & Bea Osbahr
7/31 Noah Carr

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

7/5 Dawn Addison-Corbit
7/12 Danita Hanson
7/18 Terry & Peg Lutt
7/27 Lee & Joyce Johnson
7/31 Tricia Grone
7/31 Ron & Marilyn Harder

Ministry Opportunities

Council Meetings

FLC Council will meet on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting with be July 6th.

CLC Council will meet on the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting will be July 12th.

SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

INGATHERING JULY AND AUGUST

WELCA Hope Circle will be assembling school kits this fall for Lutheran World Relief. Please help by donating any of the following school items. A gathering box will be located in the narthex. THANK YOU.

- **Notebooks**: Spiral bound **70 sheet** wide or college ruled.
- **Rulers:** 30-cenimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- **Pencil sharpener:** individual, hand-held
- **Pencils:** unsharpened #2 lead with erasers
- **Scissors:** blunt end or safety scissors with embedded steel blades
- **Pens:** ballpoint blue or black ink (NO gel pens)
- **Crayons:** box of 16 or 24 count
- **Erasers:** 2 ½ inch

Cancellations / Postponements

CLC Ice Cream Social - Canceled

FLC Bake Sale has been postponed to coincide with the Swap Meet in the Fall

If you want to meet with Pastor Deb please call her to make arrangements.

Good News

Concordia's WELCA Birthday Party is ON!

Mark your calendars!

We will honor our ladies who are 80 + years young on Thursday morning, July 16 at 10:00 in the church basement. It is time for some fun! (All current virus precautions and physical distancing will be in place.)

FLC WELCA

is collecting supplies to assemble school kits this fall for Lutheran World Relief. Please gather up items and help the WELCA ladies pack more kits than they have before!

Each kits includes:

- 4 spiral bound notebooks (70 sheet)
- 1 ruler with inches and centimeters
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 pair scissors
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 5 black or blue pens (no gel pens)
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 – 2 ½" eraser

Supplies can be dropped off in the entryway after Outdoor Services during July. Then at the back of sanctuary once services resume inside.

July 27th

If you want something in the next newsletter please email it to secretaryatcf@gmail.com by the deadline.

Thank You's

We would like to thank you for the continued support and prayers that we receive throughout our college career. Also we would like to give a big thanks for the gifts/college care packages we receive each finals. We truly appreciate it and it helps make finals week a little better!!

Thanks again,
Shelby Krie and Izac Reifenrath

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, visits, cards for me over the last 15 months. I have good news my ankle is finally healing. Prayers have been answered. Thanks! God Bless you all. Doug Krie.

Thank you to Concordia members for all the prayers and support through calls, visits, hugs, cards and all the other expressions of caring and sympathy through the time of Steve's accident and death last month.

Words can't tell you all how grateful we all are. Thanks to Pastor for the wonderful service and to Carolyn, Peg, and Georgia for the beautiful songs. Steve would be pleased!

Thanks to the folks that provided food for the lunch after the services. The corona virus has changed all our lives recently, but we are thankful we were able to have a different, but meaningful farewell anyway.

Blessings to all.
Judy, Amber, Katie and Dane

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First Lutheran Church

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