

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for
harm, to give you a future with hope."
~Jeremiah 29:11*



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

We all have been making plans; plans to re-open, plans to re-engage in-person congregational life, plans for the welfare of all and not for harm, plans for a future with hope.

It is no easy thing, as you well know, to make plans and adjust, and think through so many details and decisions. Yet it seems we cannot avoid the challenges of our times.

As governors and health departments continue to proclaim edicts and advice, I have found the following to be helpful:

1. Efforts for in-person gathering should still prioritize creating a safe space for the most vulnerable. Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated alike need to feel safe and welcomed.
2. Consider the metrics given for bars and restaurants, currently at 50%. While our buildings are not bars or restaurants, they vary in size and capacity. Following a percentage, rather than a flat amount, makes more sense for our worship spaces.
3. Be aware of the rising or falling numbers of COVID cases and ICU capacity in your community and act accordingly.

Pandemic fatigue is a real thing, and we are all tired. Soon and very soon we will turn a corner. I believe every one of our NGLS congregations has been diligent and mindful, and pastoral leaders and councils have considered together what is best. Thank you for your faithful attention to safety, to staying connected, and to encouraging each other.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan



CHURCH COUNCIL

Our April agenda was quite long but we persevered and got a lot accomplished. The highlight is that we have a new custodian, Roger Bloom, who started April 20th. Welcome Roger! We also got the bid from the contractor but needed a couple of items clarified and the bid is at \$73,500. That was the bad news. The good news is that if the congregation accepts the bid he can get to us much earlier than first stated. We continue to work on new pastor options. We discussed opening for our Sunday morning coffee and movie nights but since Michigan's numbers are on the rise we are opting to keep closed (for those events) for the next month. We hope next month we can have more ministry options available, if you are comfortable doing that. We continue to welcome any more time and talent sheets you would like to give us. We would really like to have more members take part in our services and help the other members get a break. We are very appreciative of all that have stepped up to help us grow and succeed. We have renewed our subscription to Faith life. Please contact Curt Poulos if you have any questions. There are a lot of interesting things in the Faith life Program.

We are here to serve. Have a wonderful blessed month.

Sincerely,
Tracey Nelson, President



Treasurer Report April 2021

The Month of March saw more income than expense with the difference lying in offerings for the Facilities improvement of \$8450. The Roof campaign has raised about \$13000 so far this year. Along with the donations of stocks to be used for the roof we have raised about d\$40,000 of the \$73,500 needed to replace the roof. Congratulations.

Thanks for your giving!

In Christ, Jon Ahlberg Treasurer.



Installation of Church Council



The installation of council members was held April 18th.

Pastor Duehring presided over the ceremony.



Picture: left to right

Tom Karvala, Peter Wedegartner, Tracey Nelson, Ken Maki, Karen Kallio, and Morgan Labadie. Not present: Jon Ahlberg and Debbie Quarford

WELCOME ABOARD

Be sure to welcome our new hire,
Roger Bloom! Mr. Bloom will be First
Lutheran's new janitor.



Northern Great Lakes Synodical
Women's Organization (SWO)

The SWO is looking for women from the
Four River's conference (includes First)
to serve as voting delegates and/or
board members. If you are interested or
have any questions on what this would
involve, please contact Karen Reitz at
715-362-9610 or klbreitz@charter.net.
Karen is our Liaison and would be happy
to speak with you.



WELCA News

On 4/12 Women of the ELCA met in the
Luther Room.

The Lenten Wednesday Soup lunches went
well and we received several positive com-
ments on having it at noon rather than in
the evening. Thank you to all who cooked,
served, and attended.

We identified the need to do some reorgan-
ization in the kitchen area. Our plan is to
have a workbee during the May 10th
meeting starting at 10.00AM to accomplish
this. We'll go until noon and have a light
lunch following the workbee.

Next WELCA meeting will be May 10th at
10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall.



Worship and Music

Palm Sunday had a dramatic reading with meaningful sound effects. Jane Holms donated the palms. The prayers and several hymns were included. Thank you to all who were involved: As readers: Gale Holm, Karen Kallio, Pete Wedegartner; As instrumentalists: Curt Poulos and Joann Wedegartner. Also to Lynn Karvala managing the sound. Jill Poulos created the slideshow. Ensemble singers included: Marla Busakowski, Karen Kallio, Joann Wedegartner, Morgan Labadie, Myrna Cook, Gary Ebert. Sara Ehlert accompanied on the piano. Lori Ward was our president.

If you are interested in helping with something like this in the future, please let us know. **The Worship Music Committee** meets on the first Tuesday of the month at noon. Members include: Karen Kallio, Morgan Labadie, Joann Wedegartner, Sara Ehlert, Myrna Cook and Pastor DJ. We would be delighted to have you share your ideas and your talents. If you don't want to sing or read, we need instrumentalists periodically. Thank you for your support.



Alter Guild

Please consider participating in the Altar Guild. This is an easy and satisfying way to serve at Church and takes little time. You don't need to do a whole month...a week here and there is welcomed and appreciated.

On non-communion Sundays, a "set-up" includes filling the candles and checking to see that the Altar area is clean. Then shortly before 10:00 the Altar candles are lit.

On communion Sundays, there is the addition of setting out the vessels for the wafers and wine and removing them after service.

I will be happy to work with anyone interested. You can give me a call at 367-6135 or leave your name and phone# at the office and I'll get back to you.

Hope to see you soon! Lynn



Happy Birthday

Mariam Sorby	May 1
David Ray Barry	May 4
Nicole Purkey	May 4
Sandra Lynn Richards	May 6
Jennifer Secord	May 7
Landon Gene Geneman	May 9
Livi Jeanette Geneman	May 9
Paul Peter Wedegartner	May 10
Morgan Branch Labadie	May 13
Vicki Medovich	May 14
Gayle Wade	May 15
Ericka Richards	May 17
Edward Cook	May 19
Daniel Herman Kallio	May 19
Debra Clara Dobson	May 23
Riley Stine	May 28



Happy Anniversary

Greg and Sherry Garavet May 22

Michael and Tracey Nelson May 27



Technology

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Your council has approved to contract FaithLife to continue our Live Streaming platform. This platform has improved our streaming continuity and ease of operation. We are looking at ways to pay for this and other ministry technologies which cost approximately \$200 per month. Please consider your support of this important outreach. As always, let us know what you like and what could be improved.



Men's Group

The Mens group met on the third Friday of the month again, April 16. Topics discussed ranged from ministry outreach, to scheduling a spring church cleanup. As always, the discussions were lively and informative. Everyone and their friends are welcome to join. Next month Pete Wedegartner will lead the discussions. He will also provide training on the new AED the church has in the narthex. Tom K has volunteered to provide pancakes and sausage. Next meeting will be May 21 at 8:30am.





MAY 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 Service Communion	3	4 9:00 Quilters 12:00 Worship & Music	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 Service Mother's Day	10 10:00 WELCA	11 9:00 Quilters 10:00 Finance 6:00 Council	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 Service Communion	17	18 9:00 Quilters	19	20	21 8:30 Men's Group	22
23 10:00 Service	24	25 9:00 Quilters	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Service	31 Memorial Day					

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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«City_State_Zip»



First Lutheran Church

Sowing seeds of grace; growing faith in Christ

Come Join us!

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Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8-1

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