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## SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Church  
Council

**July Church Council Meeting Highlights:** Church Council met for its regular meeting on Monday, July 11th at 7:10 PM with 6 of 12 members present. Financial Report as of June 30th: General Fund \$7,946; Building Fund \$10,305; Memorial Fund \$11,067. Treasurer Nancy Schroeder noted that WELCA donated \$3,000 to the General Fund to be used at the Council's discretion. Fair Parking relies on volunteers from the church to man all three gates (*part of the proceeds earned will go toward the Van Fund*). Pursuant to the agreement with the Church Council, pastor will be on unpaid salary leave while Chaplain to LSM for four weeks. Mission Trip is going well - kids are due back July 17th. VBS is scheduled for August 7th -11th in the evening. Property Committee is addressing the paint peeling issue. Member Cindy Hagen is working on updating the Building Use Fees to be consistent for all events. Full minutes of the regular July meeting will be approved at the next regular council meeting and made available at the church office.

**August Church Council Meeting Highlights:** Church Council met for its regular meeting on Monday, August 1st at 7:10 PM with 8 of 12 members present. Financial Report as of July 31st: General Fund \$14,185; Building Fund \$13,825; Memorial Fund \$11,117. With JoAnn's resignation effective August 31st Christian Education Committee is taking the lead on updating the job description and interviewing potential candidates. Mike Griffin is taking the lead on repairing the peeling paint this fall. The Finance Committee is being re-constituted this month and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays to review and approve payments. Cemetery needs to remove a tree this fall that is leaning up against the vault. Council asks that Sunday meetings not begin until 10:45 AM on Sundays (*half-hour after the service*) to give fellowship time for everyone. Member Keith Belau tendered his resignation effective August 1st (*he is moving to Texas for a new job as a flight instructor*). In consultation with the synod, approved doing a fall financial appeal, Building a Culture of Generosity. Full minutes of the regular August meeting will be approved at the next regular council meeting and made available at the church office.

**Special Council Meeting August 21st:** Church Council met for a special meeting on Sunday, August 21st at 10:20 AM with 6 of 11 members present. Approved Amanda Martin to fill the positions of Youth Ministry Coordinator and Children & Family Ministry Coordinator. Compensation is set at the current budgeted rate and a probation period of 90 days.

**September Council Meeting Highlights:** Church Council met for its regular meeting on Monday, August 29th with 9 of 11 members present. Financial Report as of August 29th: General Fund \$3,300; Building Fund \$12,171; Memorial Fund \$16,649 (*now includes the separate Van Fund, no longer commingled in the General Fund*). Pete's Rubbish will be paying for our second Green Step plastic bench as a \$200 donation toward the Youth Mission Trip. We had 29 kids and 20 volunteers for Vacation Bible School this year. We now have a new (*pre-owned*) copy machine that is working much better than the old one. Several air conditioners were recently repaired by Steve Carlson, and he noted that they are nearing the end of their 20-year life span. More energy-efficient options and possible rebates in the future were noted as possibilities in the coming years. Full minutes of the regular September meeting will be approved at the next regular council meeting and made available at the church office.

**Thank You:** Dear members of First Lutheran, Thank you for the great quilt I received for graduation. I would also like to thank you for the wonderful scholarship I was awarded. It will help me on my educational journey. -Joey Papke



**Thank You:** The Church Council would like to extend a big thank you to W/ELCA for the \$3,000.00 donation to the General Fund in July. This was very timely and much appreciated. Thank you for all your work and caring.

**Thank You:** Thank you to Kathy McDonald, Sue Means, Muriel Bungert, Kathy Olson, Jean Hoffman, Yvonne Lind and Val Larson for creating the unique baskets and to everyone who made a donation and raised \$435 for the Church Bus. The winners of the baskets were Brenda Taylor, Jean Hoffman (2), Lael Erickson, Val Larson, Linda Tripp and Pastor Nathan(2). Congratulations!



**Thank You:** Dear First Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation, Thank you all so much for supporting LSM and allowing for students like me to spend time here over the summer! I have loved my time here so far - I play violin and enjoy being in the orchestra. I've also had the opportunity here to try new things, like organ and conducting, as well as continuing my interest in church music. I am so grateful to be here, so thank you so much for helping it take place!  
-Gabe



**Thank You:** Pastor Nathan & Congregation, Thank you all for thinking of me and baby Kenzie. The gas card came in handy to bring Kenzie to her many doctor appointments. She is now 7 pounds and doing well at home. Can't wait for you all to meet her. Thanks again. -Cameron Witte, Kristy and Kenzie Carlson

**Farewell to JoAnn Belau:** After almost ten years of faithful service. On Sunday, August 28th we bade farewell to our Youth Ministry Coordinator, JoAnn Belau. She and her husband, Keith, are moving to Texas where Keith has accepted a job as a flight instructor. In addition to praying for her at worship, we celebrated her ministry at Coffee Fellowship. A slide show of her time among us is now available on our Facebook page.



**In the Family:** We're happy to share births, baptisms, marriages and deaths for members and others connected to our church family. Keep in touch and let us know who we may have missed.

Birth - Kenzie Ryan Carlson (*daughter of Cameron Witte & Kristy Carlson*)

*O God, like a mother, like a father, you tend your children with care. With awe and thanksgiving we praise you for the birth of children. Watch over and bless them. Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing. Hold us all in the arms of your compassion and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Baptisms - Oliver Reinhardt Koepp Borlaug: baptized Saturday, August 27th.

Son of Barry Borlaug & Katlyn Koepp.

Godparents: Beth Borlaug, Zach Koepp, Gabe and Jessica Koepp.

Katarina Elizabeth Joyce Beata Jonas-Knudson: baptized Saturday, August 27th.

Daughter of Martin Johnson & Rachel Knudson.

Godparents: Kathryn Knudson, Kari Tauring, Brian Voss, Arvin Silva.

Oliver Duane Nessel: baptized Sunday, August 28th.

Son of Brian and Tabitha Nessel.

Godparents: Zak & Kaymen Smith.



*Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



**Goodbye:** It is with a heavy heart that I am saying my goodbyes to Rush City First Lutheran! I have met so many people, learned so many things and have made so many connections over my 9 years here at the church and my 16 years in Rush City.

I loved every moment of my time here and considered the kids, "my kids" and I hope they all know how much they meant to me! I loved every Wednesday afternoon, Sunday school class, Christmas Program, confirmation class (*well, let's be honest, love is a strong word to describe confirmation class*), youth group outings, dinners, trunk or treats, fundraising and Mission Trips. My favorite part of my role was connecting with the kids, and helping them along their religious journey that goes on for a lifetime. I once told one of the youth, my job is to guide you to make informed decisions, and I hope I did that for many of the kids.

Thank you to all the people who helped me succeed in this position as I couldn't have done it without the help and guidance of the Christian Education Committee and my faithful volunteers! (*or sometimes volun-tolds*) Special thanks to those who went on the Mission Trips with me and helped the kids to learn, see and serve in another part of the country.

I am super excited for Amanda and her enthusiasm for the youth of the congregation! She will be great!!!

When one adventure ends, another begins and I am looking forward to my move to Texas and getting re-involved with our "old" church in Kingsville. If you are ever in South Texas, give us a call and stop in and visit! I'm going to miss ya all!

**Welcome:** Hello everyone! My name is Amanda Martin and I'm so very excited to be a part of the youth programs. My husband and I are a blended family with 7 children ranging from 17 to 2 years old. I was baptized and raised Catholic. Attended classes throughout my youth with the St Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Braham. When I became an adult I started to explore my religious and spiritual views always having a solid faith but never quite found a specific church that I felt at home with until my older kids became preschool age and we started at Faith Lutheran in Isanti. I have worked in hospice for 3 years and have seen/heard so many stories that helped solidify my faith especially last year after my mom passed away. To me that was a pivotal moment when I had doubt because of the pain I was going through and the way I saw He showed me a new beginning for her with no suffering. It helped restore the desire to be more involved and help in any ways that I can. I'm so excited to begin my journey as the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator!

