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## JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

**June Church Council Meeting Highlights:** Church Council met for its regular meeting on Monday, June 7th at 7:00 PM with 9 of 11 members present. Financial Report as of April: General Fund \$28,719.20; Building Fund \$5,245.69; Memorial Fund \$12,072.68. Worship schedule for the summer has been planned, including an outdoor service and potluck on August 29th. Fellowship and Missions Committee applied for the ELCA Open Doors Grant to thank and honor healthcare workers. Christian Education Committee is updating the child protection policy and implementing background checks for all volunteers. Property Committee provided updates on the summer lawn mowing crew. Old Business included updates from the Day Care and Strategic Planning Committees, concerns about the safety of the church bus and the need for a new one, and the renewed search for a regular organist. New Business included a reminder of pictorial directory August 3rd - 7th, motion to give an honorarium to Pastor Ron Becklund while Pastor Nathan is away in July, possible involvement at the Chisago County Fair, concerns about the low balance in the Building Fund, and a motion to approve gift fuel cards for the lawn mowing volunteers. The next meeting is Monday, July 5th at 7:00 PM. Complete minutes of the June meeting are available in the church office.



**Notes from our Treasurer:** The Church Council expresses its gratitude for your faithful giving to our mission. Overall giving remains strong and a bit higher than last year at this time. The *General Fund* supports the general operations of the church. Average monthly expenditures total \$17,459. Included in the General Fund are committee funds totaling \$19,417.36, which means we began this month with \$9,301.84 available monthly expenditures. The largest expense - payroll and benefits at \$13,350 per month - is paid on the 4th Friday of the month. The *Building Fund* expenditures per month are \$5,849 paid on the 15th of each month for the mortgage and interest. We began this month with \$5,245.69 which will fall short unless the first two collections in June defray the difference. The *Memorial Fund* pays for special items, many of them designated by the donor. The current balance in the Memorial Fund is \$12,072.68.



**Luther Point Bible Camp:** - We were excited to welcome staff from Luther Point Bible Camp joined us on Wednesday, May 12th. They spent time with our Confirmation youth and held an informational meeting with families on our front porch. Participants in Luther Point's In-Camp summer program live in a community, centered on growing in their relationship with God and others. Their college aged summer staff share the love of Christ and help campers create new friendships in a safe and caring environment. Worship and Bible study give opportunities for campers to experience their relationship with God in new and unique ways. Luther Point believes EVERYONE should be able to come to camp. To that end, both the camp and the congregation offer scholarships. Go to [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org) for more information or contact the church office.



**Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** Bill Peterson was reading the newsletter from the Masonic Cataract Lodge and was impressed with the article titled, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The lodge had donated \$2,000 for material for volunteers to build bunk beds for children that are sleeping without a bed. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has two locations in Minnesota and are in need of mattresses, pillows, linens and quilts. Our quilters had just sorted their supply of quilts and had 8 that were just the right size and perfect for a child. Bill and his son Steve delivered the quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and they were over joyed to receive the colorful quilts and are in constant need for more donations. The quilters feel good to be able to help anyone, but especially when it is locally within our own neighborhood and state.



**Adopt A Highway:** 7 youth and 2 adults participated in the roadside clean-up on Wednesday, June 2nd located on Highway 61 between Rush City and Rock Creek.



**2021 Youth Mission Trip:** 5 youth from First Evangelical Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church and 3 adults will depart on Friday, June 18th for New Orleans, LA. They will return on Sunday, June 27th and do a presentation on Sunday, July 11th during coffee fellowship.

**Thank You:** A special thank you to Pat Knutson for her donation of the two flower planters (which are changed out to match the seasons) at the entrance of the church.





**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.

**First Communicants** - Alison Baylor, Levi Cummings, Avery Dahlberg, Hudson Grams, Maxwell Medina, Lola Mold, Addison Stavig, Kennedy Stavig, Chase Stream, Willow Stream, Ava VandeKamp, Kyle Winberg, Nolan Winberg, Hunter Zaske, Kinley Zeltinger and Riley Zeltinger.

*Loving God, you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Give us a hunger for forgiveness, life, and salvation in this meal, that together at this welcome table for all, we are strengthened to welcome others to Jesus. Feed us always with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son, that we may forever live in him and he in us.*



**Death** - David George Krippner (December 22, 1949 - May 27, 2021)

*Compassionate God, give courage and faith to all who mourn, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead with steadfastness and patience; not as those who are without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life in your presence, with those they love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Graduates** - Katelyn Bauer, Garrett Bengtson, Jacob Englund, Luke Flaten, Brina Fulcher, Mazie Hahn, Zeth Hahn, John Henthorn, Conner Ploetz and Allyson Rood.

*All-wise and loving God, we give thanks for your gifts to us: for creating us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us in baptism as your people. Look with love on all graduates and bless them as they complete this season of their studies. By your Spirit, help them to use their gifts for your glory and for the good of all people. In your lovingkindness guide them in their journey. We ask these blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**Thank You Note:** Friends from First Lutheran Church, Thank you all for your prayers and positive thoughts for our dad. Praise God and Jesus for his homecoming with our mother. God Bless. The family of Dave Krippner.

Lutheran Foundations: God the Redeemer  
by Pastor Nathan



Our series for this year focuses on the Small Catechism. Since the beginning of the church, many Christians have developed a "catechism" (a word that means "to resound in the ear") as a basic summary of the Christian faith. Our catechism, developed by Martin Luther, is famous for its brevity (it fits easily in your pocket!) Luther intended for his catechism to be learned by heart, a life-long habit of grounding our lives in God's commands and promises.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who...suffered on Pontius Pilate...On the third day he rose again." Although Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based upon the Old Testament scripture of Psalm 90, in the second verse he exclaims, "But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected." Jesus Christ is our champion! Our suffering brother, conceived by and filled with the Holy Spirit, is a champion over the "big three" enemies: sin, death, and evil (or the devil). Our champion comes to forgive all sin, overcome the power of death, and defeat the devil and the empty promises of evil.

The question is, how? For how Jesus fights for us and is our champion matters greatly whenever we face sin, death and evil in our daily lives. I remember well the funeral sermon a friend preached for his little brother who died way too young. They had watched many movies together growing up, including the ones that feature Sylvester Stallone as the boxer Rocky Balboa and the corruption fighter Rambo. "Jesus is not a Rambo," my friend declared, "but a Rocky."

Jesus fights for us - not from a distance with weapons of war, but intimately with his blood, sweat and tears. Like Rocky, Jesus is flesh and blood and struggles through sin, death and evil just like us. Like Rocky, Jesus is one of us, a hometown hero who is not ashamed to be one of them. Like Rocky, Jesus fights not for revenge but for love.

Jesus is not ashamed to suffer under the same sin, death and evil that we face in our lives. The good news is, not only has Jesus conquered these through the power of his resurrection, Jesus now abides with us through the power of the Holy Spirit and continues to suffer with us now. With our suffering brother at our side, we are never alone. Like Rocky, we need not be ashamed to reveal our battle wounds, to bring our bruised and bloody faces before God in prayer, and suffer for doing good in this world. Instead, we hold our heads high and rejoice that we are never alone in our sin and suffering.

Questions for reflection:

1. If you know the Sylvester Stallone movies, continue to compare and contrast the Rocky and Rambo characters. How is Rocky more like Jesus?
2. Read through the second article of the Apostles Creed, beginning with "I believe in Jesus Christ..." and ending with "and he will come to judge the living and the dead." Which line gives you the most comfort and confidence that you are never alone?
3. When have you most felt the forgiveness of Jesus? Peace in the face of death? Strength in the face of adversity?