

TEMPLE CHIMES

Volumes VI - No 6.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION

June 2022



Dear sisters and brothers of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation,

On a few occasions lately, my clergy friends and I wonder, together, how it's going to go when we return, some day to regular order. It certainly has been a set back these last couple of years. But, hope is on the horizon.

The church council minutes outline a lot of the work before us. We are organizing the pasta supper on Wednesdays. Still probably not starting until the Fall. If you have worked with a pasta team before, prayerfully consider stepping up again. If it is something you would like to consider doing for the first time, you are more than welcome to come and help also.

Summer worship moves to 10am starting June 12th. Speaking of worship, the choir will be taking the summer off, but will be working to grow the choir this Fall. Can you sing? Did you sing? Will you sing? Prayerfully consider stepping up.

VBS is planned for evenings, starting at 5pm and ending at 8pm. August 1-5. We will be doing it as a conference this year with us working with Prince of Peace in Kensington and Our Saviors in Newington. Applications for youth are available and we are reaching out to the community also. Please help us sign up kids ages 3 years to 6th grade. These kids have been through a lot. They need VBS.

On June 26th intern Sarah will be with us to preach and find out about our ministries. Sarah will soon finish her internship at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Charleston, RI. This Fall, she will be going back to finish her studies at United Lutheran Seminary. We support her year in a minor way and look forward to her being with us.

Finally, I am so thankful for your support as my wife, Carolyn, still deals with cancer and her M5 treatments. I could not do my job here without the pastoral calling support of Pastor Will. It's hard needing to be so careful.

Peace,
Pastor Joe.

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Church Council Meeting
5/17/2022 Minutes

The agenda presented was adopted.

A motion to approve the April Council Minutes was passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor spoke to Corbin about the concert and the need to end it earlier than expected. Corbin was advised to take the week off and take care of himself. Jeff Soneson is out of the hospital and staying with a friend and will be having dialysis three times a week. Nancy Gentry is back in the hospital. The memorial service for Mae Eisenhardt is at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 21. Sarah, the intern at St Andrews in Charleston, Rhode Island will be present to preach on May 29 (That date has since been changed to a time in June). Pastor emphasized that as we continue to move forward is it very important that we all work together as a team.

Committee Reports:

MISSION/OUTREACH – We are still in a holding pattern with our Monday and Wednesday meals but we need to start to think about re-establishing teams for the pasta suppers and plan for a service with music. Pastor would like to take a role in this planning as long as he is still with us. Savers will not be accepting the clothing we have ready to donate so we have to find another source. Pastor spoke to our outreach, evangelism and the need for us to be welcoming to new members and others as we go forward.

PROPERTY – Eric reported that he has signed a contract with Lee and Son Paving to repair the parking lot drains for a sum of \$9875. This is less than budgeted. We have a work date of June 1, 2022 with Cenaxo to do the west façade masonry repairs. Totora Maintenance was in and replaced and resealed the roof drain causing the persistent hallway drip. They will be back to repair the gutter on the Youth Center. Eric has spoken to Pastor Pedro about their renewed commitment to staying at 53 Franklin Square. His congregation has done numerous repairs to the facility and they look forward to future activities we might be able to participate in.

FINANCE- Gail reviewed several items in the profit and loss statement for April. Our offering envelopes were down for the month but our overall income exceeded our expenses. Pastor Will doesn't request payment for mileage very often so the council passed a motion to pay him \$50 monthly on a regular basis through 2022. Gail will notify Johanna. Our endowments took a hit in April due to the stock market.

STEWARDSHIP - Jim has filed an application for a matching grant from Daily Bread.

WORSHIP AND ARTS - Barbara reported that the committee had discussed hiring section leaders and the need to encourage new choir members. The committee will continue to meet through the summer to talk about where we are going with our music program. Donations at the concert were \$222. This collection supplements the \$3000 received from the Anthony and Evelyn Hulme Charitable Fund. These monies are designated to support our Grab 'N Go meals.

NEW BUSINESS – The Council passed a motion to change our service time to 10 a.m. beginning June 12 through August. This time will be re-visited before fall. The Council will not meet in July.

OLD BUSINESS – There is a meeting tomorrow (May 18) at 3:30 to discuss VBS. Robert Buchholz has worked with Executive Board to determine what services we will be looking for as we hire someone to provide custodial services in Fellowship Hall.

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Bates
Gail Bates, Secretary

Visitation Pastor's Report

There is a very special group of people in FLCR.

They are the homebound. They were active members, attending services regularly on Sundays and special occasions. They love remembering and talking about the past here at FLCR. Many were Baptized here and assured nothing would ever separate them from the love of Christ. They attended Sunday School, confessed their faith in Christ through the Rite of Confirmation and participated in youth ministry as members of the Luther League. Some were raised in other denominations and transferred to FLCR. Many had leadership roles in the life of FLCR. Many were married here in FLCR. They have many pleasant memories and love sharing them. They were the church of the past.

Now they are also the church of the present. They are very much a part of FLCR today. Their needs are very much a concern of the leadership today. For many years they have received love and support by Pastor Joe and myself and the members of the Caring Network. Cindy Pavano provides the direction. There are members who visit the homebound and bring them Holy Communion on special Holidays. The homebound care about what is going on here at FLCR. They love keeping in touch with members today. They are grateful they can share in the services virtually on Facebook. They are the church today.

Visitation Pastor Will Baumgartner

Online Fund Raising Event for FLCR

Dear Friends and Family of First Lutheran Church:

Starting on June 6th until the 20th we have an opportunity to raise funds for our feeding ministries. With partnership with ELCA, we have been awarded a Matching Grant from their Daily Bread Fund. A church-wide email will be sent out soon with instructions on how to donate. Those who don't have email access, please send donations to First Lutheran Church of the Reformation 77 Franklin Sq New Britain, Ct 06051 and I'll apply those to the total as well. Eric will also post our request on Facebook to reach as many as possible.

I would like to thank all to those who continue to support our feeding ministries throughout the year. Hopefully we might be starting the pasta supper again in the future, it all depends on how Covid-19 behaves. Those who are talking about starting this up again will be a challenge.

Many who served years ago may have died, we all have gotten older, and some might have burnt out. We will need to find new volunteers, which will create new friendships and opportunities to serve those in need. Not only was Wednesday evenings in the past a place to eat, but also a place to relax for a while

Thanks again to all, Jim Rinas-First Lutheran volunteer

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Mission Outreach Committee Minutes

Pastor led us in prayer

PASTA/PIZZA DINNER

We are still not certain when we can reopen the sit down pasta dinners due to renewed concerns about the COVID virus. The numbers are up again. In anticipation of opening again, we plan to contact our former team leaders and volunteers. We also discussed the Wednesday night worship program and what Corbin's role would be, as well as others. If he is still here, Pastor wants to take a role in planning and participating. In the meantime, Grab and Go continues for both the Wednesday evening and Monday Mingle with good participation in both.

CLOTHING RACK

Cheryl has been in contact with Savers and is waiting to hear back about donating our surplus clothing.

NOTE: Since the meeting, Cheryl has spoken to Savers and they have changed their program to "drives".

OUTREACH/EVANGELISM

Pastor spoke to our outreach, evangelism and the need for us to be welcoming to new members and others as we go forward. He mentioned the upcoming VBS as a way to bring families and congregations together.

NEXT MEETING June 7, 2022 at 1PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Brideaux
Alan Robertson

Prayer List June 2022

This list is current as of the publication deadline.

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow

Sandy Abucewicz; Myrtle Caswell; Anna Clayton; Walter Carlson; Jeffrey Merkle; Nancy Gentry; Eileen Buys; Jeff Soneson; Carolyn Ekeberg (Pastor Joe); Jean Rasmus (Nancy Robertson); Ryan Pavano (Cindy Pavano); Jim Buys (Eileen Buys); Sandi Quarello, (Susan Bisaccia).

**Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens (Beverly Walsh); Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn Dubois (Pat Brown).
Pr. Dominic.**

Prayer Works



We are in great need of ink cartridges.



If you are able, please save and give them to the church to offset the cost of office supplies. We receive \$2./cartridge. You can ask your family and friends to save as well. The cartridges can be placed in the basket located in the narthex or given to Nancy in the office. Thank you.



Worship and Arts Committee Report May, 2022

Altar Guild

taking down cross.
placing silk flowers on the altar

5/21 Funeral service for Mae Eisenhardt.

Music - Choir singing through June 5th Pentecost.

Resuming with rehearsal on September 7th, singing Sept. 11th.

Rehearsals in choir room, downstairs. This location is more accessible to all.

Tony Hulme is donating new hammers for Steinway in Choir room.

Cleaning of choir room needs to be finished before Sept.

Corbin's Concert is scheduled for May 15th.

Reception - Congregational Life

New Business: Corbin will be meeting with Executive Committee to review his contract and review "How to best do our Music Program".

Corbin and Barbara have explored current rates in the Hartford area for paid section leaders:

Students \$60-\$65 an appearance

Graduates \$85 an appearance

We would be looking at students, \$120-130 a week

1 week a month to help choir learn music

Weekly to support choir on Sunday or anything in between.

Next meeting June 14, 2022, 4PM

Devotions - Cindy Pavano

Submitted by Barbara Pond, Chair

Have a Blessed month



Call Committee

The Call Committee consisting of chairpersons, Gail Bates, and Susan Bisaccia, Gail Buchholz, Tom Abucewicz, Patrick Bridgett and John Halverson met with Pastor Wilco in February and met again as a committee twice in March. We are prepared to move forward with the call process but are in a holding pattern waiting for a viable candidate.



REMINDER



BEGINNING JUNE 12TH, SERVICE WILL START AT 10AM



**THE CHURCH HAS A BIRTHDAY, AND
IT'S CALLED "PENTECOST."**



JUNE 5 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Walk the Walk 2022

Walk the Walk 2022 is a fundraising program by Calumet to support its Annual Fund. It is a program for walkers, runners, bikers and swimmers. **Walk the Walk 2022** invites people to be a bit more active, encourages participation in a ministry, and grows community in the congregations involved.

Last year Walk the Walk 2021 had a goal of 1500 participants and had 1800, a goal of \$100,000 and raised \$115,000. The goal was 200,000 miles and the total was 269,000.

Walk the Walk 2022 has a goal of 2500 participants, 250,000 miles and \$150,000 for Calumets Annual Fund.

This is how it works. Congregations have a Team Captain. Ours is Jennifer Bates. Members join the FLCR team for a registration fee of \$25 which is a donation to Calumet. Both Pastor Joe and I, Gail Bates, are encouraging those of you who walk, run, bike or swim to join our team and record your miles between July 1 and August 31. Four times during those months, participants report their miles to the team captain who in turn reports the total team miles to Calumet. To learn more and to register go to www.calumet.org/walkthewalk2022.

Finance Report

The 2022 budget was presented at the annual meeting on March 27, 2022 and approved. It included approximately \$100,000 for necessary repairs to our facility and parking lots. We also included expenses for a new pastor hoping that we would have someone by July. At this point that doesn't seem possible with so many vacancies in the New England Synod.

Through the month of May our income exceeded our expenses by approximately \$20,000. This was due to the fact that we received approximately \$30,000 from the IRS for payroll during the last three quarters of 2020 and first quarter of 2021. Our accountant, Johanna Furgalack, is responsible for securing these funds through the governments' plan to reimburse businesses that maintained their payroll during the pandemic. We are very fortunate to have Johanna looking out for our interests.

Some of the other income came from three members who either paid for the entire year or half the year. Consequently, we don't see as much money coming in with the offering envelopes on a monthly basis.

We were able to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary due to generous donations and funds from the Johnson/Kallberg Endowment Fund.

We still have to do most of the repairs on the building and expenses for that will be coming through in the next few months.

Due to the downturn in the stock market our endowments have lost a lot on paper. However, we had seen huge gains prior to the last few months so we are currently in a favorable position.

Gail Bates,
Financial Secretary





First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

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www.1stlutherannb.org

Welcome Statement: *We warmly welcome people of any race, nationality, sexual orientation, age, ability, possessions, or education. As a community of believers, we are empowered by faith in Jesus Christ to make the Gospel open and visible to all whose lives we touch.—Adopted June 28, 2003*

First Lutheran Staff

Rev. Joe Ekeberg Pastor
Rev. Willard Baumgartner, Visitation Pastor
Corbin Beisner, Minister of Music
Nancy Peterson, Office Manager
Holly Erickson, Sexton

Sunday Worship Service

Beginning June 12th, Service will begin at 10a.m.
in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

Community Outreach

Monday 8am Grab-N-Go Breakfast
Wednesday night 5pm Grab-N-Go Dinner

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