

First Lutheran Church of Hope
Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love.
Reaching the World.

Worship Time: 9:00 am
Adult Bible Study / Prayer
10:30 am

“Come join our Family of God”

Location: 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope, MN 56046

Mailing Address: PO Box 7, Hope MN 56046

507-451-3854

Pastor Sandy Miller

Cell phone: 507-456-1794

FOOTPRINTS

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

“All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.” Psalm 25:10

Well, much has happened since our last published FOOTPRINTS. On September 5th, after much prayer and deliberation, I announced my retirement from pastoral ministry to be effective January 23, 2022. I have to be honest in saying that since that day I've had many bittersweet and conflicting moments in which I sometimes want to say 'just kidding'! But then the LORD brings me back and assures me that not only is this the right time for me, it's the right time for our congregation to enter into a new season of ministry with a new pastoral leader.

As Lisa has already written, this comes with a myriad of emotions for everyone, me included. At this point in time, the future is uncertain. Or is it? Hebrews 13:8 says that “Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Psalm 100:5 says “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” These are verses that give us the hope and assurance that we need in times of transition letting us know that *God* is the one who is faithful. He's been faithful to the congregation of First Lutheran for over 100 years, and He's given absolutely no indication that He's going to stop now! Amen?

Another reason that I have hope in the future is because of the amazing leaders we have. Your elected council - Lisa Borchert, Jim Springer, Mary Arfmann, Raquel Hansen, Randy Borchert and Dave Jensen – are incredibly gifted and godly leaders for which to lead the congregation through this transition. I've had the wonderful privilege of seeing them at work, accepting with grace the duties to which they've been called to, and moving forward prayerfully and responsibly. You can all be rest assured that these men and women are called by God Himself for such a time as this!

After announcing my retirement, someone said to me “what have we done to you?” Oh my goodness! The congregation of First Lutheran has done nothing but bless both Steve and I. My retirement has absolutely *nothing* to do with what the congregation has done or not done. Rather it has everything to do with where I'm at in my life and how I sense God calling me. At this time, I have no idea what the future holds. First and foremost, I want to rest and be quiet before the LORD. I need to be refreshed, renewed, and in some ways restored in Christ. I also want to have more time to spend with my family and grandchildren before they're all graduated from high school. And then, in God's timing, I know He'll call me to my next kingdom assignment as our work here on earth is never done until we meet Jesus face to face.

You need to know that my ten years of serving the congregation of First Lutheran have been some of the most joyful, rewarding days of my life and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You've been gracious, patient, responsive and compassionate with me in every way. Most importantly, I've had the great joy of being able to see so many of you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and in your service to Him in this world. *That truly* has been a most humbling privilege.

So please, encourage me by staying hopeful and faithful, trusting that the LORD truly does work all things together for good for those who love him and are called according to His purposes. (Rom 8:28)

In His JOY ~

Pastor Sandy

NOVEMBER WORSHIP at FIRST LUTHERAN

WOW THANK OFFERING SERVICE

Sunday, November 21st – 9:00 am

Vickie Skala will be here to share with us about **Community Pathways** (formerly Steele County Foodshelf & Clothesline) who offers both food and clothing to low income families in our county. An opportunity to give an offering will be provided.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 24th – 6:30 pm

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever.”
Psalm 106:1

A time of fellowship with pie and coffee will be provided after our service



Father in Heaven, We Thank Thee

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*For flowers that bloom about our feet, For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
For the song of bird and hum of bee, For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.*

*For blue of stream and blue of sky, For pleasant shade of branches high,
For fragrant air and cooling breeze, For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.*

*For mother-love and father-care, For brothers strong and sisters fair,
For love at home and school each day, For guidance lest we go astray,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.*

*For this new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.*

DECEMBER WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Each Sunday in Advent, a family will lead us in the lighting of the Advent Wreath. It's a special part of our Advent liturgy as we focus on the coming of the Christ Child who is the Light of the World.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nov 28 - Candle of HOPE | Aaron & Amanda Better, Jarrod |
| Dec 5 - Candle of PEACE | Amanda Buzzard (Alayna) |
| Dec 12 - Candle of JOY | John & Kim Pirkel family |
| Dec 19 - Candle of LOVE | Mary Arfmann & Nancy Brekke |
| Dec 24 - Christ Candle | Steve & Darla Skalicky, Jack |



*December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
4:30 pm*



Sunday, December 26th – 9:00 am

Nine Lessons and Carols

*The Christmas Story through Word
and Song*

Bring a bell to 'ring' in Christmas!



WINTER BIBLE STUDY & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY & PRAYER

Join us for Sunday Morning Bible Study as we continue on with “The Gospel Project”, an exciting journey through Scripture! We’ll be alternating study (2nd & 4th Sunday) with prayer on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. We hope you’ll join us for one or the other or both!!

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

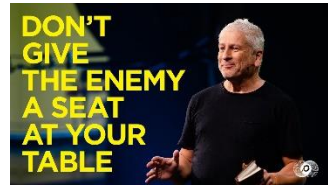
Calling all men! You’re invited to our Men’s Bible study that meets every Saturday morning at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. What do we do? We simply read a few chapters in the Bible and then discuss it, what it means and how it relates to our lives as men. Bring your own coffee and something to eat if you wish!

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

“Don’t Let the Enemy Have a Seat at Your Table”

by Louie Giglio

6-week study beginning Wednesday, Jan. 12th
6:00 -7:30 pm



The Enemy is constantly seeking to fill your mind with destructive and harmful thoughts—whether of fear, worry, insecurity, anxiety, temptation, envy. . . . It’s all too easy for Satan to manipulate his way into a seat at the table intended for only you and Jesus, and to try making himself at home in your mind. It’s an ongoing battle, but one you can win! Using **Psalm 23** as our guide, we’ll gain biblical insight on how to:

- Cancel the lies that will wreck your life.
- Take empowering steps to live fully alive in Christ.
- Stop the spiral of shame, temptation, and insecurity.
- Restore peace and rest in your life.
- Embrace the true purpose behind your journey through challenging circumstances.
- Break free from the endless cycle of destructive thinking.

You can find freedom from the war inside your mind—if you allow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to lead the battle. Learn how to find encouragement, hope, and strength no matter what valleys you face. It’s time to reject the lies and listen to the truth. Watch for sign up in December.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School is off to a great start! And what Sunday School program would succeed without the Word of God? Pictured here are our children receiving their own Bible! What a blessing! So far we've learned about Creation; Noah and the Flood; and the Call of Abraham. Once again, we lift up and give thanks for our ministry coordinator **Rhonda Nappin** and teachers **Alyssa Arnett** and **Carissa Ramsey**. They're doing a great job of providing a morning of fun and learning for our children!

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

In light of our Sunday School starting up, I think we just have to give a big shout out of appreciating to our Sunday School teachers **Rhonda Nappin, Alyssa Arnett & Carissa Ramsey**. Without them, we wouldn't have a program!! *You are appreciated!!*

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Communion: Lori Springer
Paraments & Banners: Nancy Brekke
& Kathy Peterson

NOVEMBER SERVICE GROUP



DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Communion: Lori Springer
Paraments & Banners: Chris Jensen
& Raquel Hansen

DECEMBER SERVICE GROUP



TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS



We will again be taking orders for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. If you would like to give one in memory of a loved one, or simply donate one, let us know by signing up on the sign-up sheet which will be available soon. Cost = \$9

DECORATE FOR ADVENT

*Friday, November 26th
Starting @ 8:30 am*



FALL CHARITY BAZAAR



The Fall Charity Bazaar is back! All women of FLC are asked to consider bringing baked goods and/or small craft items to help support this event being held on.....

**November 6th
8:30 am – 1:30 pm
Owatonna Community Center**

Items that sell well are:

Lefse, Kolachkes, Breads, Donuts, Fudge, Rosettes, Pies, Brownies, Caramels, Popcorn Balls, Cookies, Canned goods, Crafts and Cakes (no cupcakes, please). Proceeds will go to the **AFGHANISTAN CRISIS CHILDREN'S RELIEF**. Volunteers are needed to work Friday night and Saturday. Sign-up sheets are in the office door or call Lori Springer at 507-455-3419.

GENEROUS GIVING

This fall we had a couple of opportunities for generous giving and as always, First Lutheran rose to the challenge and gave sacrificially! Thank you all so much! All praise and glory to God!!

MN Adult & Teen Challenge – An offering of **\$1790** was sent to the Rochester facility to support their efforts to bring healing and restoration to those struggling with addiction.

Mission Mexico – We were so blessed to have ministry partner, **PASTOR ENRIQUE ESTRADA**, with us on Sunday, October 24th. Enrique is such a blessing to us as he shares from his heart about some of the things he's been facing in his own life as well as in his ministry in Monterey, Mexico. Once again, FLC responded with a generous offering of **\$790** to give toward Mission Mexico which supplements salaries and expenses for Lutheran pastors in Mexico.



LCMC ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER

January 4-6, 2022

Prayer Service on Thursday, January 6th at 6:00 pm

Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, “well, all we can do now is pray!”. Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like that of a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It’s an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. It’s a conversation between the Creator and the created...and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus.



Therefore, please join us along with other LCMC congregations worldwide for “**THREE DAYS OF PRAYER**”. A prayer brochure will once again be provided to help guide your prayers during each of the three days. Then, join us on Thursday, Jan. 6th at 6:00 pm, as we gather for a special prayer service to turn our hearts toward God in prayer for our ministry in 2022.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Keep bringing your Operation Christmas Child boxes in and have them here by **November 14th** at which time we'll bless them and send them off! What a wonderful way to share the message of Christmas with a child. If you have any questions, please see ministry coordinators Chris or Dave Jensen.

LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING - "SPEAK IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT" **OCTOBER 3-6, 2021 in COLUMBUS OHIO**

445 people attended Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's 21st Annual Gathering & Convention, held October 3-6, 2021 at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Hilliard, OH. The total number of in-person attendees included 280 voting delegates, 76 members, all eight board of trustees members, and five members of the LCMC staff.

"**Speak It, Live It, Share It**" was the theme for the event, which focused on exploring some practical ways in which the Gospel can be spoken, lived, and shared in one's everyday life.

Following are some of the comments of what people enjoyed most.

- "Reconnecting with dear friends and colleagues as we share the joys and heartaches of ministry. As Julie said "every pastor needs a pastor" and LCMC Gathering provides that, as we encourage and preach the promise to one another. See y'all in MN next year." – Andrea Paulson
- "The speakers were great. The focus on the Kingdom and as a new person to the LCMC, knowing I found a home!" – Mary Arfmann (THANKS, Mary for being our delegate!!)
- "The Gospel! The people and the presence of Christ which is joy! The priority of Bible, the prayers, the humor and deep love of God and each other. Spiritual Direction was a nice touch. Thank you to everyone who put 2021 Annual Gathering together." – Joseph Beal
- "Practical teachings and fellowship with others." – Bryan Anderson
- "I love the speakers, but the fellowship and networking is great. Those are conversations that are invaluable." – Eric Hullstrom

First Lutheran Treasurer's Report for September, 2021

Submitted by Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

	Beginning Balance	\$ 54,159.78
<u>Income</u>	Total Income	\$ 16,107.00
General Offering	\$ 15,216.00	
Other Income	\$ -	
Designated Giving	\$ 891.00	
	Total Expenses	\$ 7,828.31
General Expenses	\$ 7,242.31	
Designated Giving (Out)	\$ 586.00	
	Ending Balance	\$ 62,438.47

YTD Budget

Total Tithes and Offerings	\$ 88,498.25
Amount needed for Budget	\$ 77,205.01
Amount Over/(Under)	\$ 11,293.24

Scrip Report, September, 2021

Submitted by Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

	Beginning Account Balance	\$ 6,430.64
<u>Income:</u>		\$ 2,498.24
Donations	\$ -	
Scrip Card Sales	\$ 2,498.24	
<u>Expenses:</u>		\$ -
Expenses:	\$ -	
Cash on Hand - Previous Month	\$ -	
	Ending Account Balance	\$ 8,928.88
	Ending Scrip Card Balance	\$ 855.00
	Ending Account Balance	\$ 9,783.88

Scrip Sales and Profit

	Sales	Profit	YTD Profit
Hy-Vee	\$ 500.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 88.50
Fleet Farm	\$ 600.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 111.25
Kwik Trip	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 103.24	\$ 1,124.55
Kwik Trip Car Wash	\$ 60.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 90.00
Total	\$ 2,460.00	\$ 163.24	\$ 1,414.30

Council Meeting Minutes September 12, 2021

Present: Lisa, Raquel, Mary, Randy, Dave, Jim, Pastor Sandy

Devotion & Prayer: Raquel

Secretary's report: Mary; Jim made a motion to approve. Dave made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Raquel; Randy made a motion to accept, Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Tithes and offerings were \$9,128, \$314 favorable over August 2020.
- YTD Tithes and Offering are \$73,282, \$793 favorable to last year.
- YTD Offerings are favorable to budgeted offerings by \$4655.
- Spending continues to be favorable to budgeted expenses by \$1829.
- Ending checkbook balance is \$51829 excluding the designated funds.

Pastor's report: Pastor Sandy

- Monthly time review and special Sundays
- Sunday attendance is down
- Pastor Sandy shared information from the retreat in Colorado. She highlighted things to keep in mind when calling a new pastor.
- Pastor Sandy will take vacation October 15-23. Jim will preach.
- The amount collected to donate to Teen Challenge was \$1741.

Prayers for our Ministry: All

New Business:

- LCMC Gathering
 - October 3-5 in Upper Arlington, Ohio
 - The Theme is Speak it, Live it, Share it.
 - Mary Arfmann and Pastor Sandy will attend.
- Meatball Supper
 - The meatball supper will be canceled again this year because of Covid
- Pastor Sandy's retirement
 - Time was taken for questions and to process emotions surrounding Sandy's retirement.
 - Reviewed how to navigate the LCMC website
 - Format for leadership planning day with Pastor Perry Fruhling on September 26th
 - LCMC Health Plan available on request. Raquel will call to let them know we are interested.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee-Randy

- The preliminary budget review for 2022 is complete.
- Finances continue to be strong.

Board of Deacon Report-Randy

- Schedules for childcare is complete to the end of the year.
- Sunday School is starting.

Trustee Report: Dave

- Gas leak in furnace room is repaired.
- Bids obtained for windows. Steve Weigt will finish the East window.
- J&J Cabinet will measure and submit a bid.

Board of Education: Pastor Sandy.

- Gospel Project: All things New will be used for Adult Education this fall
- Experiencing God, by Henry Blackaby has started.
- Sunday School will begin September 19 from 10:30-11:15.

Ministry Report

- Laundry Love: Lisa
- Last month was the biggest month so far.
- Laundry Love needs finances. We held a brainstorming session regarding fund raising. Lisa had a brilliant idea!!
- Next Laundry Love is September 20th from 4:30-6:30
- WOW
 - Operation Christmas Child coming soon
 - Charity bazaar has not been canceled as of now.
- October Calendar was reviewed

Next Council meeting will be at 6:30 pm October 12, 2021

Raquel moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave second; motion carried.

Closed in Prayer all

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Arfmann

SCRIP FOR SALE



We continually have scrip cards available from HyVee, Fleet Farm, and Kwik Trip in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts. We also have Kwik Trip Car Wash cards. \$30 gets you 5/ea Ultimate Car Washes, a \$50 value! See Lori Springer or Dean Shankland before or after church to purchase. All proceeds remain in the Scrip Fund for future ministry needs.

Don't forget to stock up on Scrip for your holiday needs!

November, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 "Experiencing God" Bible Study, 6:00 pm	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study, 7:30am Daylight Savings Time Ends BD – Steve Skalicky
7 Worship with Communion, 9:00 am Sunday School & Prayer Service, 10:30 am	8	9 Finance Committee 6:00 pm Council Meeting, 7pm	10 "Experiencing God" Bible Study, 6:00 pm	11	12	13 Men's Bible Study, 7:30am
14 Worship Service, 9:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am	15 Laundry Love, 4:30 pm	16	17 "Experiencing God" Bible Study, 6:00 pm	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study, 7:30am
21 Worship with Communion, 9:00 am Sunday School & Prayer Service, 10:30 am	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 pm BD – JoAnn Shankland, Sandy Brooks	25 Thanksgiving Day BD – Steve Weigt	26 Decorate for Advent, 8:30 am	27 Men's Bible Study, 7:30am
28 Worship Service, 9:00 am – 1 st <u>Sunday of Advent</u> Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am	29	30				

December, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Board of Trustees, 4:30 pm	3 BD – Lori Springer	4 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
5 Worship Service, <u>9:00 am</u> Sunday School & Prayer Service, 10:30 am	6	7 Finance Committee, <u>5:30 pm</u> Council Mtg, 7:00 pm BD – Karlene Hansen	8	9	10	11 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
12 Worship with Communion, <u>9:00 am</u> Sunday School & Adult Bible Study, 10:30am	13	14	15 BD – Velma Suchanek	16	17	18 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
19 Worship Service, <u>9:00 am</u> Sunday School & Prayer Service, 10:30 am	20 Laundry Love, 4:30pm	21 BD – Rhonda Nappin	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm BD – Dawn Armstrong	25 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am BD - Jesus
26 Worship Service, 9:00 am	27 BD – Harvey Nelson	28	29	30 BD – Jerome Skalicky	31	

Bits and Pieces

We thank God for the guests and visitors who have been attending worship at First Lutheran. Please introduce yourself and welcome them warmly. Invite them to come again and ask them to sign the guest book. And don't forget to keep handing out your Invite Cards located in the basket on the table in the lower narthex.

Keep Them in Your Prayers

- Those in need of on-going strength & healing: Bobby Thompson; Gary Schwartz; Velma Suchanek; Dawn Armstrong; Doug Matthees; Emily Otto; Pastor Dave Steffenson; Angela Olson; Bev Meixner
- Those who we are in ministry partnership with: LCMC; Pastor Bob Mankaka; Pastor Siimon Hammer, EEMN, Enrique Estrada

November Birthdays

- 6 Steve Skalicky
- 24 JoAnn Shankland
- 24 Sandy Brooks
- 25 Steve Weigt



December Birthdays

- 3 Lori Springer
- 7 Karlene Hansen
- 15 Velma Suchanek
- 21 Rhonda Nappin
- 24 Dawn Armstrong
- 25 Jesus
- 27 Harvey Nelson
- 30 Jerome Skalicky

<u>Church Attendance</u>			
Oct 3	41	Oct 17	31
Oct 10	38	Oct 24	34



We recycle aluminum cans. Please place in the trash can under the steps (not in the WM container). Proceeds go to the building fund. Thank you for your help.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER WORSHIP at FIRST LUTHERAN



Nov 7	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
Nov 14	9:00 am	Worship Service
Nov 21	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
Nov 24	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 28	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion 1 st Sunday of Advent
Dec 5	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
Dec 12	9:00 am	Worship Service
Dec 19	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
Dec 24	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight service
Dec 28	9:00 am	Worship Service – Nine Lessons & Carols

LAY LEADER SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Sound Technician</u>
Nov 7	Dave & Chris Jensen	Raquel Hansen	John Pirkl
Nov 14	Darla Skalicky & Amanda Buzzard		Steve Miller
Nov 21	Charlie & Carol Anderson	Lisa Borchert	Warren Suchanek
*Nov 24	John Pirkl & Warren Suchanek		AJ Pirkl
Nov 28	Richard & Karlene Hansen		John Pirkl
Dec 5	Jim & Lori Springer	Kathy Streiff	Steve Miller
Dec 12	Wendell & Kathy Peterson		AJ Pirkl
Dec 19	Todd & Raquel Hansen	Randy Borchert	Warren Suchanek
*Dec 24	Randy & Lisa Borchert		John Pirkl
Dec 26	Dave & Chris Jensen		Steve Miller

<u>Date</u>	<u>Projection Tech</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Nov 7	Randy Borchert	Raquel Hansen	Todd Hansen
Nov 14	Mary Arfmann	Kathy Streiff	Dave Jensen
Nov 21	Steve Miller	Jim Springer	Kathy Peterson
*Nov 24	Randy Borchert	Lisa Borchert	Darla Skalicky
Nov 28	Steve Miller	Nancy Brekke	Chris Jensen
Dec 5	Mary Arfmann	Dave Jensen	Randy Borchert
Dec 12	Randy Borchert	Amanda Betters	Warren Suchanek
Dec 19	Mary Arfmann	Randy Borchert	Randy Borchert
*Dec 24	Steve Miller	Mary Arfmann	Chris Jensen
Dec 26	Randy Borchert	Darla Skalicky	John Pirkl

*If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, *please find a replacement and let Pastor Sandy know.* Thank you!