

January 2022 First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

When you receive this, you and I will have celebrated Christmas. I hope this Christmas was meaningful to you, and you could celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus in peace with joy.

Last evening, I watched a short video about a Lutheran Theologian, named Paul Tillich, and his book "Courage to Be." He was born August 20, 1886, in a small village in Germany. He went on to become a "giant" in the world of theology in the 20th century. The following statement by this influential thinker is from his book "The Courage to Be": "The courage to be is rooted in the God who appears when God has disappeared in the anxiety of doubt."

The book appeared in 1952 and is as relevant as ever. Paul Tillich was born and educated in Germany. When he resisted the Nazi movement, his life was upset. It was in 1933, after Hitler had assumed power, and Tillich had spoken out against Nazi thinking. Soon after, he was released from his teaching position at a University in Germany. Soon after this, Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary in New York encouraged Tillich to come and take a position on its faculty. He did so that year. He stayed in the United States for the rest of his life, teaching and writing.

I believe that today, courage is what we need more than almost anything. Courage and faith. Faith is God's gift. Courage is a blessing from God's hand. I also think it can be cultivated. Prayer and worship enhance our courage. Christmas's message is Immanuel, *God with us*, has come. God has come to save and to confirm that we are *accepted*. Though we are unacceptable, we are accepted! "While we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly," (Romans chapter 5, verse 6). God's love and acceptance of each of us is revealed in Jesus' life and teachings and the New Testament. This acceptance brings us joy.

This acceptance gives us courage to be. Mary showed great courage when she received, and accepted, the promise that she would be the mother of the Jesus, the eternal Son of God. She was a young woman, probably still a teenager. The apostles showed good courage in accepting the invitation to follow Jesus. And even if they didn't always "hit the mark" in their understanding, or their actions in response, he embraced them with a commanding love.

As we enter this New Year, we will also look back on the past year. What are you grateful for? How has God given you "courage to be" for the past year? I am sure that all of us fail to *consistently* live with faith and courage. Yet, God accepts and loves us still.

Here are a couple more quotes from Tillich's timeless book.

"He who participates in God participates in eternity."

"The typical American, after he has lost the foundations of his existence, works for new foundations."

As we enter the New Year, may God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, bless you (and all of us) with, faith, hope, and love; and the *courage to be*.

Pastor Dan

Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

- Dec 1 in memory of Pat Hoerneman from Deb & Dick Mahoney
Dec 2 In memory of Darrell Kirwin from Jo Solvie
Dec 3 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Charles & Laynae Blommer
Dec 4 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Charles & Laynae Blommer
Dec 5 In loving memory of Dewey Solvie on his birthday
Dec 6 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Charles & Laynae Blommer
Dec 7 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Charles & Laynae Blommer
Dec 8 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Dennis & Luann Henrichs
Dec 9 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Dennis & Luann Henrichs
Dec 10 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Dennis & Luann Henrichs
Dec 11 In memory of Pat Hoerneman from Dennis & Luann Henrichs
Dec 12 In memory of Marvel Anderson on her wedding anniversary from Allan Anderson
Dec 13 In memory of Greg Staples from Roberts Staples and family
Dec 14 In memory of Harlan Busse from Emilie Brustuen
Dec 15 In memory of Nance Erdahl's mom from Arlene Fellows
Dec 16 In memory of Mae Anderson from Eugene & Cathy Anderson
Dec 17 In memory of Mae Anderson from Eugene & Cathy Anderson
Dec 25 In memory of Mae Anderson from Eugene & Cathy Anderson
- Dec 24 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory of Candace Altonen
Jan 2 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory of Lenore Anderson

Coffee Hour is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **Peace Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hours during the month of December. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in the Grace Service Group are:

Jon & Heidi Anderson	Rochelle Anderson	Judy Bluth
Emilie Brustuen	Shane & Deb Decker	Terry & Jill Dybdahl
Doug & Sharon Ehlers	Rob & Peggy Jergenson	Dennis & Natalie Ketterling
Tom & Heather Schneider	Heidi & Neil Suess	Kent & Erica Swenson
Dorwin & Millie Tschetter	Jamie & Rochelle Van Kempen	Jill & Steve Van Kempen

Newsletter Deadline for the February newsletter is noon on Thursday, January 20th.

Gatherings for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch at noon (12:00pm) on Sunday, January 9th at Common Cup. Order lunch off the menu and enjoy an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones who are also experiencing life as a widow/widower. No need to RSVP. For questions call Pedersen Funeral Home 320-589-3220.



Lunch Bunch meets on Wednesday, January 5th at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch. Join us...all are welcome!

First Lutheran Women of the ELCA will meet on Sunday, January 9th after worship in the Gathering Room. We will be deciding on what charities we want to donate money to. Brings your ideas to the meeting.

Church Council Members We are beginning to organize church leadership for 2022. We have a wonderful staff in place who have many years of experience to minister with us, and to our needs as a congregation. Our financials are stable because of a generous congregation. We continue to support our youth and contribute to worthy needs in our community and church. We need continued input from our congregation to guide church council decisions and provide fresh perspectives. To provide continuity and also guide change, church council has a pattern of turn-over each year: two years of two members and then one year of three members. We will need to replace four church council members at the 2022 annual meeting. A term on council is three years. We ask you to prayerfully consider serving on the council. In closing, we thank you for your support.

Church Council Members,

Eugene Anderson, Tony Feuchtenberger, Jason Reed, Allyn Plattner,
Peggy Jergenson, John Dossdall and Jackie Heubner

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 100px; margin: 0;">January</h1>						
<p>2 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 12:00pm Gatherings for Widows & Widowers at Common Cup</p>	<p>3 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 7:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>5 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Pizza Ranch 6:00-7:30pm Element at FIRST</p>	<p>6 3:00pm Pastor at West Wind Village Worship</p>	<p>7 3:00pm Mission & Evang Meeting</p>	<p>8 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>9 9:30am Worship 10:00-11:00am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30 am WELCA in Gathering Room Heck family gathering in fellowship hall 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion at FIRST</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:00am Pastor's Text Study</p>	<p>12 6:00-7:30pm Element at FIRST</p>	<p>13 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 10:00am Pastor at Skyview Plaza Worship</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>16 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:00-11:00am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion at FIRST</p>	<p>27 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18 11:00am Pastor's Text Study</p>	<p>19 6:00-7:30pm Element at FIRST 7:00pm Budget Meeting</p>	<p>20 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall</p>	<p>21 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>22 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>23 9:30am Worship No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion at FIRST</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 11:00am Pastor's Text Study</p>	<p>26 6:00-7:30pm Element at FIRST</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>30 9:30am Worship No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion at FIRST</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p><i>"Christ is the Morning Star, Who, when the night of this world is past, Gives to his saints the promise of the light of life, And opens everlasting day."</i> —Venerable Bede, 8th Century</p>				

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

Sunday, Jan 2 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just family
Lector: Vicki Dalager
Acolyte: Skott & Abigail Anderson
Communion: Sharon Ehlers
Nursery: Michelle Just
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger
TV slides: Giana Feuchtenberger

Sunday, Jan 9: 9:30am Worship/10:00am Sunday school

Ushers: Al Harris, Paul & Sandy Grove
Lector: LeAnn Dean
Acolyte: Brayden Carlson & Jaxon Hilbrands
Nursery: Lindy Ekola
Video: Dave Jungst
TV slides: Sawyer Fynboh

Sunday, Jan 16: 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Bob Heck, Brian & Ann Erdahl family
Lector: Mike Odello
Acolyte: Aaden Schultz & Dane Dybdahl
Communion: Judy Buro
Nursery: Jone Anderson
Video: Steve Wagner
TV slides: Tyson Grove

Sunday, Jan 23: 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Steve Just, Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger, Michael Bjorklund
Lector: Shana Ulrich
Acolyte: Sarah Dougherty & Ellen Reed
Nursery: Amy Dougherty
Video: Kyle Dougherty
TV slides: Connor Siegel

Sunday, Jan 30: 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Sharon & Doug Ehlers
Lector: Natasha Mortenson
Acolyte: Grant Anderson & Isaac Just
Nursery: Sandy Grove
Video: Mike Odello
TV slides: Steve Just



HAPPY
Birthday

Jan 1: Grant Anderson, Owen Anderson, Brenda Boever, Peggy Jergenson
Jan 3: Doug Ehlers, Jane Johnson, Julie Thymian
Jan 4: Ashlyn Williamson
Jan 5: Andrew Hutchings
Jan 6: Ron Rosen
Jan 9: Ryan S. Anderson
Jan 10: Honor Knochenmus, Shiloh Knochenmus
Jan 11: Philip Ask, Denny Neisius, Jayce Plattner
Jan 12: Doug Beyer, Aubrey Williamson
Jan 13: Jazlynn Hilbrands

Jan 14: Cheryl Higgins, Glen Gillespie, Tyler Schneider
Jan 17: Jone Anderson
Jan 19: Steve Just, Sarah Larson
Jan 21: Jayson Galligan-Halbe
Jan 25: Jeanne Halbe, Adrienne Hilbrands
Jan 26: Mark Gunderson
Jan 27: Luella Anderson
Jan 28: Brian Williams
Jan 29: Gwyneth Hanson
Jan 31: Jamis Burnett, Blaine Hills, Zoe Krosch

HAPPY
Anniversary!

Jan 6: Greg & Naomi Fynboh
Jan 15: Al & Lavonne Watson
Jan 28: John & Marie Eblen



Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for entrusting me and my fellow adults with your youth! Ministry with Sr. High Fusion & Element has been fun, and eye opening this past year. In a world that is rebuilding, in a sense, after a rough pandemic year – we at Fusion are doing the same. I sometimes forget

that Fusion has only been in existence for almost 2.5 years and 1.5 of those years has been a pandemic and the uncertainty that comes with this causes us to continually look at what we are doing and why. We are learning as we go, changing to adapt to the needs of the youth, trying our best to teach these amazing youth about who Jesus is and how to follow Him in a day to day life. We may make mistakes and do things wrong from time to time. But I 100% believe that we are also doing so many things right! We are learning about who God is, who Jesus is and how to follow Him. Serving our community through service projects, learning how to communicate and live in community with each other, and all the while having some fun too.

Fusion is blessed with some amazing volunteer leaders who give of their time, talents and heart to minister to the youth of our churches. We have 6 adult volunteers in the Sr. High Ministry: David Black, Nick Milbrandt, Brent Gausman, Kendra Jergenson, Katie Moser & Amy Swanson. We have 11 adult volunteers in Element (our Jr. high group): Tony Feuchtenberger, Nate Haseman, David Black, Mike Odello, Mark Torgerson, Craig Swanson, Amy Swanson, Katie Hassler, Haley Ourada, Elissa Breuer & Naomi Fynboh. As well as our pastors who bring experience and wisdom to the table: Pastor Chris Richards, Pastor Dan Belgum & Pastor Matt Orendorff.

What an honor for me to serve along side of and lead these people! If you have a youth, know a youth or have a grandchild that attends Sr. High Fusion or Element – one of these people have made an impact on those youth's lives. And I will speak on their behalf – "it's our pleasure!"

Heather Black,
Fusion Youth Director



Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade

- Sunday, Jan 9: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran
- Sunday, Jan 16: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran
- Sunday, Jan 23: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran
- Sunday, Jan 30: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran

Parent/Caregivers of youth 6-12th Bible Study! Barb Barsness has volunteered to lead a Bible study for any parent who is interested in participating. It will be held on Wednesday evenings during Element's time from 6:00-7:30pm. Location will most likely be at First Lutheran Church. Look on Fusion's website at www.fusion-ministry.com for updated information.

Please Check out Fusion's updated website for more information. www.fusion-ministry.com
Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267



Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

- Wed. Jan 5: 6-7:30pm: Element at FIRST Lutheran
- Wed. Jan 12: 6-7:30pm: Element at FIRST Lutheran Church
- Wed. Jan 19: 6-7:30pm: Element at FIRST Lutheran Church
- Wed. Jan 26: 6-7:30pm: Element at FIRST Lutheran Church

Element Winter Retreat

FEB 11TH-12TH, 2022



LUTHER
CREST

Activities

- Snow tubing & Sledding
- Cross Country Skiing
- Broomball
- Connecting with Friends
- Learning about Jesus



**SIGN UP ON THE FUSION WEBSITE
WWW.FUSION-MINISTRY.COM**

First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021

The December meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 and was called to order by President Eugene Anderson at 7:05pm. Present: Eugene Anderson, John Dossdall, Jackie Huebner, Tony Feuchtenberger, Jason Reed & Allyn Plattner. Absent: Peggy Jergenson. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye (by Zoom). A devotion and opening prayer was given by Pastor Dan.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the November council meeting were reviewed by each council member. No corrections or additions. Minutes accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports were emailed to each member. No discussion was held.

Pastor's Report: A written report was given to each council member. Pastor spoke on a few highlights including holding a council retreat at Luther Crest in February, colleges of the ELCA and Element.

Committee Reports:

- A couple of Stewardship Committee members attended the council meeting. Discussion was held about the recent Stewardship Sunday, the budget and generosity, and the pledge cards that have been received. The church council and Stewardship Committee members will call those that haven't turned in pledge cards yet.

Old Business

- Replacement of the church pew cushions was discussed, with Tony providing a quote on the cost. A motion was made by John and seconded by Jackie to go ahead and replace the pew cushions with funds from Generous Gifts.
- Theatre Room Equipment updating. Tony made a motion to purchase a new smart TV and necessary accessories up to \$2500 for the Theatre Room. Discussion was held if the new TV should be placed in the fellowship hall instead. Jackie seconded the motion to purchase the TV and equipment. Discussion on placement of the TV to be discussed at a later date.
- Pastor discussed the possibility of replacing the Blue Hymnals. No decision was made.

New Business

- A new electronic keyboard/piano was purchased to replace the damaged one with funds from Generous Gifts. Due to time frame needs, approval was given for the purchase by the Council President. Motion was made by Tony and seconded by Jason to approve this purchase.
- Three council members have terms expiring: Eugene, John & Allyn. Discussion was held about contacting potential members. Notices will be put in the bulletin and newsletter.
- Pastor Dan received a notice from Peggy Jergenson that she will be resigning from the Church Council.
- Council approved the Personnel Committees recommended salary increases.
- Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00pm.
- Annual Meeting date has been set for Sunday, February 20th at 11:00am. Discussion was held about holding a meal after the meeting.
- A Boy Scouts Bankruptcy letter was received through the synod office. Eugene talked with Bob Dalager and it doesn't seem to apply to us.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Bye, Recording Secretary

Approved/edited by Jason Reed, Council Secretary

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First Lutheran Church ELCA

200 East 5th Street
Morris, MN 56267
Phone: 320-589-3242
website: www.flcmorris.org
email: office@flcmorris.org
Facebook:
Morris-First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am
*broadcasted via Facebook Live;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel*

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 2:00pm
Federated: Channel 6
MediaCom: Channel 117

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director heather.kill14@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist
Pastor Alex LaChapelle, Missionary

CHURCH COUNCIL

Eugene Anderson President
Tony Feuchtenberger Vice-President
Allyn Plattner Treasurer
Jason Reed Secretary
Peggy Jergenson
John Dosedall
Jackie Huebner