



# First Lutheran Newsletter

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Mt. Carroll, IL  
sharing Christ's love through  
worship, study, and service

## June 2021

### Pastor's Ponderings

What a Joyous Worship Service we experienced, complete with my Ordination and Installation as your called Pastor here at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. A special thank-you goes out to Bishop Jeffrey Clements, Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Rev. Denver Bitner and my dear friend Pastor Mark Oerlert for helping to make this time so special.

Barbara and I are so blessed to be in ministry with you and it seemed like everyone has had a hand in this Worship Service, be it behind the scenes in preparation, or participating within the service (in person or at home) and the reception that followed. Even our neighbors to the north at Christ Lutheran gathered in their Sanctuary and watch on a big screen, and joined us in Holy Communion all be it a few hours later. They commented on how "joy-filled" that Worship Service was.

Since September 2017, we have walked together; you teaching me how to be a Pastor, sharing your lives so openly and supporting my theological education for over three and a half years. Even the Bishop commented on, how long a time it has taken to get to this point, the pandemic not with standing. None of this would have happened without the love and support of my high-school sweetheart Barbara. I remember the first event we had in the parsonage. It was Reformation Sunday and we had a surprise visit from Martin Luther and his beloved bride Katie, played by me and Barb during the service. Everyone was invited to have Brats and lift a beer to Martin Luther. Barb and I were busy preparing things in the kitchen and we overheard Brian Woessner saying to someone from the kitchen door, "Yup, looks like we got a "Two-for!" That's just the way we roll!

Thank you for helping us to get to this milestone, and as we have taken a couple of days to let it all sink in, we are ready for the next leg of our journey together, continuing to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and reaching out to those within our community who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel and to discover Jesus in all that



we do. Several people have asked me what it feels like now that I am a Pastor? The laying on of hands and the words spoken by Bishop Clements as I knelt before God was an extremely humbling experience. It feels like we have begun a new chapter in our journey together and with your continuing support and my new charge as Pastor I ask God to help me.

As things start to open up and we seek to regain a sense of the way back to where we were before the pandemic, let's not lose sight that God has begun something new. The word is being pushed out beyond our doors, more people are watching and listening.

<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. **Isaiah 43:18-19**

Blessings on our Journey together,  
Pastor Bob

## Men's Coffee and Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the church fellowship area upstairs, or on Zoom if you prefer at 8:00 am. Last month we had 6 men gathered and we hope that more will join in

**Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021.** We will explore **Mark 3:20-35**. In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ. We will also look at **Genesis 3:8-15**, where immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.



**Wednesday, June 16th,** we will explore **Mark 4:35-41**. Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence. We will also explore how the Old Testament reading from **Job 38:1-11** relates to the Gospel reading. At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty. We hope to see more men attending, so come along and invite a friend, they will be glad you did.

## Parson's Report for April

Worship Services, visitations, committee meetings, community commitments were attended as well as MCMA and GRO Board meetings all via Zoom Conferencing. In April, I presided over five worship services, with Zoom and Live Stream Facebook attendees as church was limited to 20 - 25 people. Two series of Pony Express Weekly Announcement deliveries have helped us to do at home checks with many shut-ins and have extended to pastoral visits.

We had a good attendance at our Maundy Thursday Worship Service thanks to Zoom and Facebook. The Community Good Friday Service that we hosted at First Lutheran was extremely well attended on Zoom and Facebook Live streaming. It was also viewed at Allure Nursing Home that evening. Father Doyle gave an inspiring sermon and we all should be very proud of the music provided by Jo Lyn Kruse and Janice Smith. Our Video/Media technicians did a superb job of handling all of the extra online traffic. Kudos to Howard Helms, Brian Brinkmeier and Alan Schroeder.

The WELCA ladies of Deborah Circle put together a successful Bake Sale that raised \$1,200 for the Savanna Food Pantry. The food Pantry was surprised at the amount that was donated, just as they are moving into a new location.

A Northwest Conference of Pastors annual meeting was held that focused on shared ministry within the conference churches. I conducted two bible Studies and finished off teaching Community Care Workshops at Bridges; the Wiemerros joined in via Zoom. I have begun teaching a 5 week diakonia course on Communicating the Gospel.

We took a long overdue week vacation to Savannah GA, and a special thank you to all those that covered off for me on Good Shepherd Sunday. In April I also covered off 8 worship services at Christ Lutheran and officiated at one funeral.



## Drop Off your Weekly Offerings

Every little bit helps us get through this difficult period. Our expenses haven't gone away. New envelopes are in the Fellowship area, so drop by and pick up yours. The code for the door is 8044. You can mail in or drop off your offering envelopes in the mail slot at the back-door, bottom of the ramp.

### June 2021 Lectionary Readings

Sunday, June 6, Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1, Mark 3:20-35  
Sunday, June 13, Ezk 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Cor 5:6-17, Mark 4:26-34  
Sunday, June 20, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Cor 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41  
Sunday, June 27, Lam 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Cor 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

## Farmers Market Opened Memorial Day Weekend

The Cottage Bakers began selling baked goods at the Mount Carroll Farmer's Market beginning Memorial Day Weekend. The pies were sold out before 10:15 am. You know what that means, if you want pies you are going to have to get up early Saturday morning to make sure you have a good selection. From now and through the summer, they welcome donations of sugar, butter, pecans, walnuts, flour, corn starch, and corn syrup. Any help with these ingredients is greatly appreciated.

We will also need volunteers to man the booth, set-up and tear-down. We are hoping to find some younger legs. Please consider joining the Cottage Bakers as they will be happy to pass along the skills that you'll need. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, please consider helping with this important community Ministry. Thank you! Any questions, please contact JoAnn Palmer.



## The Baptism of Kason Allan James Coverdill

We were so delighted to have the baptism of Kason Allan James Coverdill during Holy Trinity Worship this Sunday. Each time the water touched Kason's head he gave out a little "ooh," and a smile. What a joyous event. The little tyke even allowed Pastor Bob to carry him down the aisle to introduce him to his new church family.

Congratulation to Kason, his mother Madison Olson and father Noah Coverdill. We look forward to watching Kason grow up in Christ within our midst and pledge our full support and to pray for him in his new life in Christ.

## Ice Cream Social is Coming Sunday, June 27, 2:00pm

Pie bakers and servers will be needed for our annual Ice Cream social on the Court House lawn. This popular event is co-sponsored by Thrivent Financial Services. Our special music will be provided by the talented trio "No Worries and Friends." Mark your calendars early so you won't miss the fun event. Bring your lawn chair, invite your friends and neighbors, and enjoy the tradition of pie and ice cream under the shade of the court house trees.



At the Farmer's Market each Saturday morning, during the summer months, those that man First Lutheran's booth are the hands that reach out to the public. They offer a wave, or a conversation, all keeping First Lutheran in the public's eye. We are looking for volunteers to help make the workload lighter. If you have time to volunteer your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

The \$22,000 tuck pointing project is completed and paid for. What a remarkable feat! Thank you very much to all who contributed! We will look at other church improvements that aren't nearly as large in the coming year.

So many blessings have and continue to walk through the doors of our small rural church. Parson Bob and Barb certainly has been two of them. God is great, God is good!

Sincerely,  
The Stewardship Committee



# JUNE

# 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			8:00a Men's Coffee & Bible Study 3:30p Deborah Circle at FLC In Fellowship Hall	9:00a Ministerial Association 10:30a Meals on Wheels	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges: Classic Horror	8:00a Breakfast at Mount Carroll Café 8-12 Farmers Market
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00a Worship Service in person, on zoom and Live Streamed on Facebook 4:00p Recorded Sermon Available		5:30p Evangelism 5:30p Finance 6:30p Council Meeting		10:30a Meals on Wheels	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges: Classic Romance	8-12 Farmers Market
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00a Worship Service in person, on zoom and Live Streamed on Facebook 4:00p Recorded Sermon Available	3:30a Shepherding 4:30p Social Ministry		8:00a Men's Coffee & Bible Study	10:30a Meals on Wheels	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges: Classic Sci-Fi	8-12 Farmers Market
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00a Worship Service in person, on zoom and Live Streamed on Facebook 4:00p Recorded Sermon Available				10:30a Meals on Wheels	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges: Action/Adventure	8-12 Farmers Market 10a -2p Thrift Store
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:00a Worship Service in person, on zoom and Live Streamed on Facebook 4:00p Recorded Sermon Available 2:00p Ice Cream Social	JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE					

**Your Council  
Members:**

**Liz Rath**  
President  
WELCA  
815-244-9597

**Brian Brinkmeier**  
Vice-President  
Finance  
815-631-4894

**Dennis Yochem**  
Recording Secretary  
Property  
815-244-1074

**Jo Lyn Kruse**  
Worship & Music  
815-213-0330

**Brett Yochem**  
Stewardship  
815-244-4004

**Ron Kaufman**  
Memorial  
309-887-4390

**Pat Erdmann**  
Mutual Ministry  
815-493-8057

**JoAnn Palmer**  
Social Ministry  
815-244-2343

**Brian Carstens**  
814-405-3499

JUNE 2021					
Birthdays			** Special	Anniversaries	
Dylan Yochem	3	Ronald Holm**	18	Alan & Colleen Schroeder	16
Tina Libberton	5	Jayce Welch	19	Brian & Jo Lyn Kruse	19
Howard Helms	7	Lauren Whitney	19	Richard and Caitlin Holm	20
James Meador	7	Pat Erdmann	21	Dennis & Shevawn Yochem	23
Susan Volz	7	Brady Cravatta	22	Allan and JoAnn Palmer	25
Lucas Berman	10	Brett Yochem	23	Brett & Becky Yochem	30
Ryker Robinson	11	Haley McColley	28		
Andrew Stingley	18	Fayellen Sanetra	29		

**May Council Highlights** (unapproved awaiting acceptance vote)

The May 11th First Lutheran church council meeting was called to order by Liz Rath at 6:30 p.m. Dennis Yochem moved to approve the agenda presented. Ron Kaufman seconded the motion and the motion passed. JoAnn moved to approve the April 13th council meeting minutes with the correction that \$75.00 dollars received from Lenten service offerings be designated for Synod benevolence and the \$5.00 received from Maundy Thursday service be also given Synod benevolence. Brian Carstens seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Brian Brinkmeier moved to approve the Treasurer's, Financial Secretary's, and the Memorial reports. Ron seconded the motion and the motion passed. Brian B. moved that the bills presented to the Finance committee be paid. Ron seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Property reported that Brett Yochem installed a back door and a storm door on the parsonage. Ron K. and Brian B. helped move the upright freezer into the church basement. The freezer was donated by Nancy G'mitro.

Steve, Ron, and Brian Kaufman gave \$7,500 in memory of their mother, Darlene Kaufman, to be split equally between the Organ and Memorial Funds. In Old Business, the tuck pointing has come to a close. May 29th the Farmer's Market will be starting and First Lutheran is looking for additional volunteers to help set up, work at the stand, and tear the stand down, all on Saturday mornings.

May 23rd the Ordination and Installation of Pastor Bob will be at First Lutheran with the Bishop and Synod Staff present. Council discussed the current status of COVID 19. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,  
Dennis Yochem

**Thank You To All**

A special thank you to all those who played a part in making my Ordination and Installation to First Lutheran Church such a joy filled Worship Service.

The cards filled with heart felt wishes and congratulations and the special gifts will be cherished forever. The beautiful Stoles will be used through out the year and bring back loving memories of our journey together as the Lord continues to equip us and sends us out in mission to our neighbors and the world. Our task lies before us, each day a new creation, called to action by the Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ, our Lord and Savior, Jesus in our corner of creation.

**In Our Prayers**

**This Month:**

- Nico Neely
- Charleen Smith
- Allison Powers
- Lori Cravatta
- Ida Merkel
- Haley McColley
- Sandy Shaw
- Jo Lyn Kruse
- Dolores Fredericks
- Nicole Merboth
- Greg Bazilewich
- Darlene Streicher
- Sandy Haas
- Steve Kehl
- John Hovorka

**In Assisted Living:**

- Donna Wurster
- Lyle Hartman

**In Military Service  
Here and Abroad:**

- Terry Gilmore
- Aaron Hartman
- John Kaufman
- Benjamin Rath
- Logan Rittmeyer

**Current Fund Report  
for April 2021**

Current Income	\$4,650
Current Expense	(\$4,908)
Difference	(258)