



# First Lutheran Newsletter

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Mt. Carroll, IL

sharing Christ's love through  
worship, study, and service

## July 2021

### Pastor's Ponderings

It feels like things are starting to open up a bit as we move into the summer months. Typically during these lazy hazy days of summer we cut back, take it easy and plan for a resurgence or rally back into church life in September. This is when a more structured schedule begins and children activities rule our lives. But this is not a normal time where that rhythm of life will revive our church community. This summer comes to us after an extended period of separation within our community. People have just begun to trickle back to church and, if we wait for the traditional push in September, we will find that many will have grown used to staying at home or doing other things with their time on Sunday mornings. After all, we have made it easier to stay home and watch our Sunday service at a more convenient time.

Now is the time for each one of us to reach out to our pew sisters and brothers whom we have not seen in some time and invite them back to in person worship if they are comfortable in that setting. We will continue to make our worship services available on line for those who can not meet in person and who live at a distance or are travelling.

Now is the time to invite our neighbors and those who have left our church community to return to Sunday Worship or join us in service to our community. Invite them to volunteer with you at Bridges or Classy Closet. Bring them to one of the Fit-For-Life Workshops or invite them for a coffee and game of cards or dominoes. Tell them you'll even buy for the coffee. They don't have to know it's free. Lunches at the Table will begin to be served the last week of July and should resume on Wednesdays in Mount Carroll that week as well. Invite them to take a shopping trip to Classy Closets where you can actually afford to go on a shopping spree while helping to fund GRO's initiative of building community within Carroll County. To learn more and see what events are coming up in July visit [www.greatriveroutreach.com](http://www.greatriveroutreach.com) and get connected right on the front page.



I found the following on-line and want to share it with you.... "Instead of celebrating Independence Day on July Fourth, let's celebrate Dependence Day -- dependence on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the 'Declaration of Independence' it reads "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Our founding Fathers realized they needed to depend upon God as they were throwing off the oppression of Great Britain, but today they remind us that really every day we need to depend upon God. On the 4th of July so many in the United States proclaim freedom but don't know what they are free from? As Christians we are set free from the bondage of sin and the result of death from sin through trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for us.

Trust in Jesus because He is our salvation, He is our Rock, He is our strength and our refuge. He is our Great Shepherd and we depend upon Him for our need of guidance and protection as His sheep. A great way to celebrate July 4th would be to seek the Lord in prayer and then share the Gospel with others and thank God also for the freedom to do so. Hope you have a blessed Dependence Day!" \*

Blessings on our Journey together,  
Pastor Bob

\*2Believe Ministries Blog

## First Lutheran Stands Out in a Crowd

Who would have thought that doing God's work would be so much fun? Of course when BJ Olson is in our booth at Farmer's Market how can it not be. There are so many people that make our participation at the Farmer's Market possible and successful. All the Cottage Bakers that work every week to ensure we have the best pies and baked goods in the county. There are those that print the labels, package up the goodies, price and label each item. Everyone that transports the goodies, sets up and tears down the booth as well as those that spend the time to serve and interface with our neighbors all reflect God's love and shine a light on First Evangelical Lutheran Church within our community.



Our booth is also the only place in Mount Carroll that you can purchase Fair Trade products that support farmers from around the world, and help to change lives in poorer countries in significant ways.

If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer make it a point to do just that in the coming weeks. There is something for everyone and you'll find a spot suited just for you. If you are a volunteer, invite someone new to come along and help, don't hog all the fun for yourself. If you have been wanting to invite someone to church, here is an opportunity to introduce them to some of our members in a fun environment and help them see how serving others brings joy into their life.



## 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 at 8:00 am. We hope that you will join in **Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**, 2021. We will explore **Mark 6:14-29**, when Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation. **Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will explore **John 6:1-21** where Jesus feeds 5,000 people. In

John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control. We hope to see more men attending, so come along and invite a friend, they will be glad you did.

## Pastor's Report for May 2021

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

We had good attendance throughout the month of May thanks to Zoom and Facebook. My ordination and installation service was well put together and was a joyous event. We had Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann swaying to the music in the front row and even Bishop Clements was swinging a candle to "This Little Light of Mine" at the end of the service. We all should be very proud of the music provided by Cynthia Woessner, Jo Lyn Kruse and Janice Smith. Our Video/Media technicians did a superb job of handling all the extra online traffic. Kudos to Howard Helms, Brian Brinkmeier and Alan Schroeder. The reception with cupcakes downstairs was a perfect ending to our day of celebration.

I finished off teaching a five-week diakonia course on Communicating the Gospel and we have two people graduating from the program after completing two years of study; Jo Lyn Kruse and Karen Davis. Brian Brinkmeier finished his first year. We will need to see if there is anyone else that will join Brian next year.

Provided a tour of Bridges, Classy Closet and the new Table for the delegation from the NISynod who were at my ordination. Bishop was very impressed with this store front mission we are engaged in.

## July 2021 Lectionary Readings

Sunday, July 4, Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13  
Sunday, July 11, Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29  
Sunday, July 18, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
Sunday, July 25, 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

**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**

414-405-3499

July 2021					
Birthdays			** Special	Anniversaries	
Brian Kruse	3	Charlotte Robinson	16	Jack & Sybil Doty	1
Cynthia Woessner	3	John Hovorka**	18	Howard & Virginia Helm	19
Sharon Behrens**	8	Jeanette Judas**	28	Richard & Victoria Collins	23
Kaylin Davis	9			Matthew & Kenzi Peirce	24
Kaelyn Carsten	12			James & Kathy Meador	31

**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

**Deborah Circle News**

This month we meet on Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Allure Nursing Home for a potluck picnic. Please bring your own table service and a side dish to share. We will have devotions, our meal, and discuss how we might further the work of our Lord within our church and greater community. This month's devotion will be on Ephesians 1:3-14, in Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation. All women are welcome. If you haven't attended a Circle Meeting now is your chance!

**In Our Prayers**

**This Month:**

Nico Neely  
Charleen Smith  
Allison Powers  
Lori Cravatta  
Ida Merkel  
Haley McColley  
Sandy Shaw  
Jo Lyn Kruse

Dolores & Al Fredericks

Nicole Merboth  
Greg Bazilewich  
Darlene Streicher  
Sandy Haas  
Steve Kehl  
Family & friends of  
Libby Thulen

**In Assisted Living:**

Donna Wurster  
Lyle Hartman  
John Hovorka

**In Military Service  
Here and Abroad:**

Terry Gilmore  
Aaron Hartman  
John Kaufman  
Benjamin Rath  
Logan Rittmeyer

**Current Fund Report  
for May 2021**

Current Income	\$6,731
Current Expense	\$5,323
Difference	\$1,408
Farmers Market	\$856



# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				9:00a MC Ministerial Assoc. 10:30a Meals on Wheels	8-Noon Cottage Bakers 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges - <i>Classic Horror</i>	8:00a Breakfast at Mount Carroll Café 8-12 Farmers Market
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Independence Day</b> 9:00a Worship Service on Zoom	Pastor's Sabbath		8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00p Deborah Circle Picnic @ Allure	10:30a Meals on Wheels	8-Noon Cottage Bakers 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges - <i>Classic Romance</i>	8-12 Farmers Market
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00a Worship Service on Zoom	Pastor's Sabbath 3:30p Shepherding 4:30p Social Ministry	5:30p Evangelism 6:00p Finance 6:30p Council Meeting		10:30a Meals on Wheels	8-Noon Cottage Bakers 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges - <i>Classic Sci-Fi</i>	8-12 Farmers Market
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00a Worship Service on Zoom	Pastor's Sabbath		8:00a Men's Bible Study	10:30a Meals on Wheels	8-Noon Cottage Bakers 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges - <i>Action Adventure</i>	8-12 Farmers Market
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<b>Christmas in July @ Timber Lake Resort</b> 10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Lunch served by GRO at TLR	Pastor's Sabbath <b>August Newsletter Deadline</b>				8-Noon Cottage Bakers 6:30p Movie Night at Bridges - <i>Surprise Title</i>	

## Ice Cream Social Highlights Best of Country Living

At 2:00 pm on the 27th of June, First Lutheran took over the county courtyard for our annual Ice Cream Social. How many years we have been doing this, nobody can remember! This year the music was provided by "No Worries" and friends. The five musicians provided 2 full hours of a variety of genres of music, including gospel, folk, bluegrass, and rock, while the crowd of about 85 basked in the wonderful June weather. Homemade pie and ice cream was available for sale and sold out fast raising about \$400! Nearby, Prof B3 (Steve Behrens) thrilled children of all ages with his bubble magic. Along with First Lutheran, the City of Mt Carroll and Thrivent Financial sponsored event, and the proceeds benefited Bridges of Carroll County. A good time was had by all!



## First Lutheran Church Blood Drive

June 24th, blood drive at Carroll County Farm Bureau had a good turnout to give the gift of life. 28 units of blood were collected that according to the Red Cross would save 7 to 8 lives. We had eight church members give blood and several volunteers helped set-up and tear-down the welcoming and refreshments tables, Treats were also supplied by our church. Good job everyone!!

## Christmas in July at Timber Lake Resort, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Don't miss this special annual event. We will be holding a worship service at the camp ground beginning at 10:00am. After worship, GRO - The Table will be providing a meal for all participants so we can enjoy a time of fellowship out in God's creation. A Giving Tree will also be available to provide gifts for the residents of Allure Nursing Home. There will be NO regular worship at First this day and all are welcome to join in at Timber Lake. We will be inviting our friends at Christ Lutheran Church of Stockton to join us at the lake or Live Streamed in their Sanctuary.

This will be a great service to invite your neighbors and friends to experience God's love and hear the Christmas story.

Volunteers will be needed to help set-up and tear-down before and after the service. Contact Alan Schroeder for more information or sign-up on the bulletin board in our fellowship area. All proceeds will go to support the GRO Resource Center on Main Street in Savanna and the Wednesday meals they supply for Mount Carrol throughout the year.

**Christmas in July**  
**At Timber Lake Resort**  
*Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
*Worship Service at 10:00 am*  
*Featuring: Musicians of Mt. Carroll.*  
*Hear the Christmas Story and*  
*sing all of your favorite carols!*  
*Lunch provided by the Table*  
*and a Giving Tree for*  
*Allure Nursing Residents*

If raining, venue moves to First Lutheran Church, 301 S. Clay St., Mt. Carroll

**GRO**  
The Great River Overeek  
offering a hand up in life