



Issue 7

Volume 33



First Lutheran Church, Plano, IL

The Anchor



Pastor's Letter

Challenges are defining moments for people and organizations. What I have learned is that First Lutheran has a strong base of support. Your faithfulness and generosity have allowed your leaders to focus their energies on important things. We are blessed. I am thankful that members have found ways to care for one another, stay in touch and find meaningful things to do during this time.

Challenging times can also be a good time to reevaluate. When I returned from 3 years from my African experience the best thing that I did was to make a list. My experience was both wonderful and challenging and to make sense of it I was advised to make a list with 3 categories. The first list was what I liked about my experience in Africa. The second list was what I did not like about my experience in Africa. The third list was a list of choices that I will make. The third list was what I had learned that would become part of who I am. What becomes part of you is your choice. It was such a positive experience if you asked me today about the list, I could still share that 25 years later. I would suggest the same thing for everyone during this time. What are some things that you liked about the last few months, and even if you had an overall challenging experience, I am sure there are still some things that you liked? What are some of the things you did not like? And what are the ways in which you choose for this experience to become part of you.

To claim that you are the same or that you want to get back to “normal” for me denies the reality that things will be different. Things are going to be different. But that is not necessarily a bad thing. Things being different is value neutral. Sometimes being different begins on the negative because people do not like change. But when the barrier of change is crossed one begins to see the value in the new. There is a remarkable gift of resiliency that God gives to us as we endure change and in the midst of challenges. God’s gift to us is perseverance, we know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint. For our hope is not in worldly powers, but in Godly power that shows us time and time again the pattern for a Godly life. Death to resurrection, suffering to character, endurance to hope.

Pastor Jonathan Black





Congratulations to Joe & Donielle Anderson in the birth of their daughter Josephine, born June 9, 2020. Pictured above is Josephine with her brother Landon and sisters Laila and Lyndee.



We would like to express our thanks to Pastor Black and all our friends at First Lutheran for your many prayers and cards during our time of loss with the sudden passing of Dennis' mother.
*Dennis and Sheila Harmon
 Ashley, Sadie and Cooper Losic*

Be the firefly
 that brings sparkle
 to tiny pieces
 of dark sky
 for the ones
 who need light the
 most. *egm*

IN SYMPATHY



Two months ago we announced the death of former member Don Johnson. It is with deepest sympathy we now announce the death of Don's wife and former member, Patricia Johnson. Pat passed from death to eternal life on May 31st. Pat was the mother of Bob and Kevin Hayes and Darrell Johnson.

JULY
 Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Darrell Meyer
- 3 Pastor Black
- 4 Jane HYTE & Anne Sears
- 7 James Johnson & Olivia Agajanian
- 10 James Agajanian & Rex Vahl
- 12 Jane Foster
- 19 Alice Crawford
- 20 Tim Kupp
- 22 Keith Baker
- 23 Norman Schlesinger
- 26 Ruth Ann Hoehn
- 27 Aden Baker
- 28 Lee Meyer
- 31 Wilma Simms

- 7 Steve & Jayne Turner
- 12 Tim & Kathy Tyler & Dan & Sarah Kuntzman
- 17 Mike & Nan Grommes
- 21 Tim & Vicki Kern
- 22 Dale & Karen Torkelson
- 31 Joe & Sheryll Trost



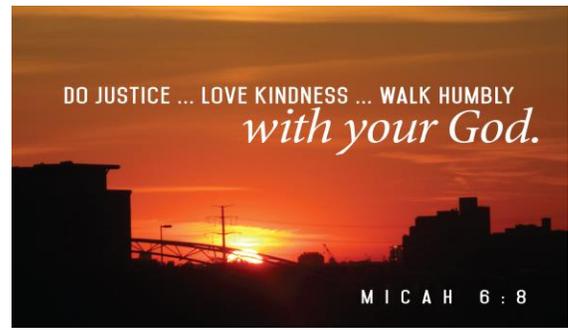
“LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATER”

“Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?” (Amos 5:22–25) Worship is worthless... if it is not accompanied by earnest words and genuine acts of justice.

Worship is worthless... if we present our religious sacrifices week after week while allowing others around us to continue to be sacrificed on the altars of greed and power and prejudice. Worship is worthless... if we close our eyes and ears and hearts to the poor, the oppressed, and the helpless. This is what the prophet Amos was talking about when he shared God’s warning to the religious people of his time: “Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.” This is what the writer of First John 4:20 was talking about when he challenged some of the earliest members of the Jesus Movement: “For those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen cannot love God whom they have not seen.”

This is what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was talking about when he proclaimed, “No, no, we are not satisfied, and will not be satisfied, until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.” Worship – our worship – is only truly good, truly worthy, when we choose to do what Paul urged the Christians in Rome to do: “to present our bodies as a living sacrifice.” These hands we use to worship are heaven-sent. In the words attributed to Teresa of Avila: “Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.” This is true religion. This is worship worthy of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God. Let us pray: O God of justice and compassion, by your Spirit help us who dare to follow Jesus to see you in the faces of all those we meet, and to respond faithfully. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, who came not to be served, but to serve. Amen. — Bishop Michael Curry

*From Daily devotions for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019



OFFERING REPORT

Year to Date Offerings as of 6/21/20

General Fund Income received: 678,904.78

Budget Amount Needed: 95,922.25

Short: (17,017.47)

Checking Account

Year to Date Income: 96,535.25 (11,000 from savings)

Year to Date Expenses: \$88,152.14

Balance as of 6/21/20: 11,609.57



Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who’s behind all those summertime joys.



Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a around words describing God’s actions. Draw an around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw under words that describe the ocean.

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God’s name in this Bible verse.

i t T w H s p j E k e m a b l f g O h b c R d
e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L
a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y





Answer: The LORD Almighty

WALKING TOGETHER...

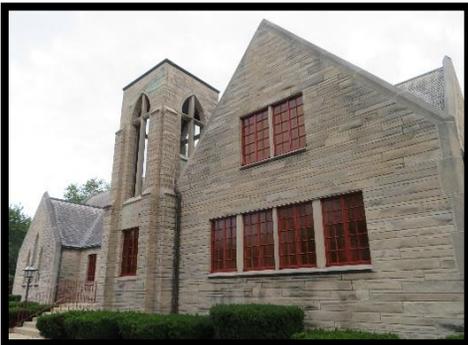
LOVING CHRIST

LOVING ALL
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Return Service Requested



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**Currently NO In Building
Worship during Covid-19
Pandemic**

Radio Ministries

Every Sunday at 10:00AM – a partial broadcast of the weekend Worship service airs on WSPY 107.1 FM

Recorded weekly services can also currently be found on our website.
www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com