

The Light



The patio at Indian Creek Nature Center will be the site of our

God's Love Reaches Across Division A Pastoral Letter

Summer Outdoor Worship!

God's Love Reaches Across Division
A Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

As a church and as a nation we are wrestling with how black and brown people experience prejudice and racism. We are learning a litany of names of people whose suffering and death are unjust. We are confronted with uncomfortable realities of racism and privilege that are difficult to be freed from as a society.

Let me first offer a pastoral word to our black and brown brothers and sisters in Christ who are members and friends of this congregation: we offer our love and encouragement in these difficult times. We acknowledge the vulnerability and pain you experience.

Frankly, I am humbled; I am convicted. I am also called to speak as a pastor of the Gospel. What does the Gospel message of Jesus Christ have to say?

The love of God is for the whole world. God's love is not based on the color of one's skin. God's love is all embracing. We also learn from scriptures that God's love reaches across the divisions of race, class and privilege that so often make up our world.

Always we find Jesus offering concern, friendship, and healing for those who are on the margins, those who suffer injustice, the least and most vulnerable. In a more pointed way, Jesus speaks against the racism of his time by lifting up the example of a Good Samaritan and healing a Syrophenician daughter. The vision of the Kingdom of God is profoundly anti-racist. The arc of the Church's mission is toward a more just and fair world.

Dear Members & Friends,
As we make plans to offer worship in-house, we thought it was important to have some fun during the summer by offering an outdoor worship service. The outdoor services will give us greater freedom to gather and worship. We will continue to offer worship online at 9 am, so you can enjoy the message and music at home. We have also planned three outdoor worship services on a Sunday morning at Indian Creek Nature Center, 5300 Otis Rd SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

- † Sunday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m.
- † Sunday, July 19 at 9:30 a.m.
- † Sunday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m.

We will conduct these services in a way that provides appropriate safety for all participants.

- We will meet in the large patio/grass area by the building.
- Bring a lawn chair and sit at a social distance of six feet.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen for sun protection.
- Bring bug spray to keep the bugs away.

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Special Worship Calendar

Sun., June 28, 9:30 a.m.
outdoor worship at Indian
Creek Nature Center.

Wed., July 8
in person communion
services at 10 a.m., 12:15,
and 6:30 p.m. in the Nave.

Sun., July 12, 9 a.m.
worship online with
Holy Communion
special celebration of the
50th anniversary of the
ordination of Women
in the ELCA.
Intern Kirsten Wee's
last Sunday preaching &
kickoff of "Women in the
Bible" sermon series.

**Sunday, July 19,
9:30 a.m.**
outdoor worship at Indian
Creek Nature Center.

Sun., July 26, 9 a.m.
worship online
Intern Kirsten Wee's
last Sunday with a
sending and hymn sing
after worship focusing on
women hymn writers.

Sun., August 2, 9:30 a.m.
outdoor worship at Indian
Creek Nature Center.

Sun., August 2, 9 a.m.
worship online with
Holy Communion.

Wed., August 5,
in person communion
services at 10 a.m., 12:15,
and 6:30 p.m. in the Nave.

*"God's Love"
cont'd from pg. 1*

What then does this all mean for First Lutheran that seeks to demonstrate God's heart for all in the heart of the city? It is more than a list of one-time actions, rather a commitment to participate in the work of God over time. The church council expresses the commitment to take meaningful action and affirms these first steps.

- Recognize that we need to listen and learn from the experiences of our black and brown sisters and brothers in Christ so that we can challenge our own assumptions and biases.
- Because these matters are bigger than any one church, we commit work with other churches, especially black churches in our city, and foster collaborative efforts to learn, serve, and witness.
- Create opportunities for people to explore matters of race and justice that bring together God's Word and the world today.
- Pay attention to how we show hospitality, welcome, and friendship so that we may reach across divisions of race and class.
- Renew our baptismal promise to strive for justice and peace in all the earth by working to end racism.

As the body of Christ, we know that we are one in Christ. As the body of Christ, we also confess that in so many ways we are not one in Christ, and that we need the healing and restoring work of God. May God bind up the wounds of race and division and grant us all a fuller peace and unity in Christ.



Rev. Dr. Steven Knudson

Holy Communion in the Nave

We will also provide a special mid-week Holy Communion Service on designated Wednesdays. These will be small gatherings of 20 or less per service and will provide a safe way for people to receive communion. Because we will limit the number at each service so that we can provide maximum safety, we will offer multiple service times each of the Wednesdays.

Wednesday, July 8 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 5 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Please reserve a date and time for participating in the service by calling the church office.

These services will be brief, about 20 minutes, offering the essentials of Word, Prayer and Communion. The elements will be blessed, and participants will then take the bread and wine in individual packets with them to consume at home.

"Outdoor Worship"
cont'd from pg. 1

- Bring your mask. We will provide masks for those without masks.
- The Nature Creek restrooms will be open for our use.
- There is a drop off by the building and parking available.
- In case of rain, the outdoor service will be canceled. We will post cancellation on the website and send a flashlight email.

For the safety of all we ask that older members, vulnerable individuals, pregnant women, young children and anyone not wanting to risk crowd gatherings are encouraged not to attend. If you have a cough, fever or recent contact with a person who has tested positive, please stay home. Our online Sunday morning service will still be available to you in the comfort and safety of your own home.

Let's take advantage of the blessings of summer for worship. Also, check out information for communion and fall worship plans below and to the lower-left.



We feel that providing worship opportunities outdoors as well as other summer activities will encourage us as a community of faith in a way that pays attention to the safety and well-being of members and friends.

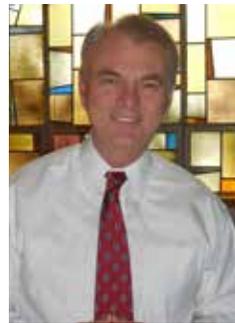
We continue to receive guidance from doctors and officials and explore ways to offer worship that is meaningful and safe. We all look forward to that time when it will be safe to resume our gatherings and worship services in that familiar way. Until then, we affirm the grace of God and the encouragement of God's Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Handwritten signatures of Steve Knudson and Mark Fersdahl in black ink.

Rev. Dr. Steve Knudson,
Senior Pastor

Mark Fersdahl,
Council Chair



Planned Resumption of Worship In-House

Based upon continuing guidance from national, state and local healthcare and government authorities, our Church Council and Staff, we plan to return to worship in-house the weekend of August 22-23.

Saturday Evening Worship at 5 p.m.
Traditional Worship at 9 a.m.
Celebration Worship at 11:15 a.m.

We anticipate social distancing guidelines will continue until a vaccine is available. A couple of weeks before worship in-house, we will send out instructions and guidelines.

The August start will help us ease into the fall program year. For education, confirmation, and other ministries, we are waiting to learn how we will provide ministry based on what the school districts will deem to be feasible in the fall; Stay tuned.

We Anticipate worship Resuming August 22-23.

*Saturday at 5 p.m.
Sunday at 9 a.m.
& 11:15 a.m.*

We will continue to provide a quality worship experience online through the fall and into the foreseeable future.

Synod Nominates Bob Koenig

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Office nominated our Director of Support Services, Bob Koenig, to be a member of their Audit Committee. Bob has accepted the position and his 3-year term on this Committee started in May.

Witness of Faith:

Celebrating 50 Years of The Ordination of Women in The ELCA

As the ELCA celebrates 50 years of the ordination of women, our upcoming worship series celebrates the witness of faith from various women in the Bible. Throughout the series we will examine stories of women who are maybe less known to us, but whose stories speak profoundly of their faith nonetheless. We will aim to show not only the historical context of the lives of these women, but draw special attention to the equal weight of their witness. Join us with our live outdoor or online worship services July 12 through August 16.

Read and discover more about the ELCA's 2020 celebration recognizing 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely. Visit elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10

Intern Kirsten Good-bye

All good things must come to an end! We will *already* be saying good-bye to Intern Kirsten Wee and sending her off back to seminary in Chicago in July. Our Internship Committee is still finalizing our final farewell plans amidst the pandemic, so stay tuned for details. Since this farewell will undoubtedly look different than all the others before, if you'd like to mail in a card or gifts to church a.s.a.p. we will get them to her! If you'd like to contribute to the church's love offering to Kirsten, please make your checks out to "First Lutheran Church" and write "Intern Kirsten" on the memo line and mail them to the church office by Friday, July 17.



Your chance to see and talk to her in person will be at the July 19 outdoor worship. Her official sending service will be during the online worship on Sunday, July 26.

Future of Internship at First Lutheran

When Intern Kirsten finishes her time with us in July, First Lutheran will take a short, unplanned break from internship. We had included an intern in this fall's budget, however the seminaries do not have enough candidates for all the sites. However, one year from now Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque will have a record class of 80 interns needing to be placed. This incredible rise in enrollment is due to the start of a new online program at Wartburg. Students can now study from home, stay in their current jobs and churches while they earn their degree.

What can we do? First, encourage someone to go to seminary! Today 1,100 churches need a pastor and all ELCA seminaries combined only graduated 100 new pastors. That's an 11-to-1 shortage. Who is someone you can encourage simply to consider that as a career choice? Another thing you can do is encourage people with your finances. Thanks to everyone who helped us start our Future Church Leaders Fund to help pay for future interns, we now have \$22,421. How might be God be calling you to contribute to our legacy to help the future of the church?

Middle School Ministry



Registration for Confirmation

We are planning for Confirmation next fall and with the year wrapping up in May, we are looking for registrations for Confirmation! Check out our online registration link below and fill out the form. All families need to fill out the form each year with updated medical, insurance and mailing information!

Follow us for updates and postings on Instagram and Twitter

@FLCRyouth and on Facebook.com FLCRYouth

and on the High School Ministry blog: firstlutherancr.org/hsm-blog



Summer Series

Our world is not as it should be. There is pain, evil, and injustice all around us. In the age of social media, it is easier than ever to stay informed about all sorts of injustices, but is sending a tweet, posting a selfie, or sharing a video about an inspiring cause really all it takes to make a difference in the world?

Or is it possible that justice is about something much more than a hashtag? In this series, we'll challenge ourselves to not just post about the injustices around us, but to actually do something about them by "loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly" (Micah 6:6-8).

Join the discussion online at Instagram, Facebook and at our blog for middle school and high school families. Videos will be posted Tuesday-Thursday with a Question of the Day.

Financial Peace Returns!

Learn how to dump debt, save for emergencies, and stretch that stimulus check with Financial Peace University. For the first time ever, you can take Dave Ramsey's life changing 9-week course on money basics for just \$20 (normally \$129). To help us all get through this difficult time, First Lutheran purchased a package that allows every household in our church family and visitors to sign up for just \$20.



You'll have complete access to all the online videos, forms, and local expertise. It is possible – even now – to dump debt and make a solid plan for your financial future. Virtual small groups are forming now! If you're interested, email Pr. Craig at craigb@firstlutherancr.org

A Note from our Neighbors at His Hands

It is an exciting time for His Hands! We are in the process of moving out of our location at the corner of 4th Ave & 12th St SE and will reopen to patients starting on July 7. For the first time in 28 years, His Hands' new space will be in a building that was originally built to be a clinic. Our new home is the Former Wolfe Eye Clinic, 1245 2nd Ave SE. God is good!

You have blessed us with your response to our Spring Appeal. Thank you! With the cancellation of Praise on the River, your donations have been critical in allowing us to continue to provide quality, respectful care to our community in need. If you missed the chance to donate, or wanted to share with your family and friends our link to do so, online donations can be made at <https://hishandsclinic.org/drbellnote/>

Please keep us in your prayers as we finish this momentous move. We pray thanksgiving to, and over, all who have made this opportunity possible. We have been entrusted with an incredible gift for our community and we look forward to sharing with you, amazing supporter, stories of God's work in the days ahead.

Joyfully,

Stacie Eastman,
Director of Development and Communications
His Hands Free Clinic



Spiritual Scavenger Hunt & Food Drive

First Lutheran Youth Henry Selk would like to challenge your family to join First Lutheran's "Spiritual Scavenger Hunt" which will help our community as part of his Eagle Scout Project. This fun and safe outing encourages everyone in your household to seek out specific Cedar Rapids landmarks, read a short prayer, take a family selfie and post it to your social media with the hashtag #FLCLifetogether. The final challenge is to take a selfie of you donating food *on your own doorstep* for our no-contact food drive to benefit Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

If you complete the entire checklist of places, our Hunger, Housing, Hope, & Global Outreach (H3GO) Team will donate \$5 in honor of each family unit to Loaves and Fishes!



FLC member Henry Selk is leading the charge of this Spiritual Scavenger Hunt & Food Drive.



The Brown family already found a location! You better catch up soon!

Start Scavengering!

Start by downloading the Scavenger Hunt flyer with prayers and locations from bit.ly/FLC-HUNT. After you find each location, you can mail your completed Scavenger Hunt flyer to church or post "COMPLETE!" on our Facebook group page; and don't forget to post your pictures along the way too! The Spiritual Scavenger Hunt will run from now until Saturday, July 4, when we will pick up the food items. Please have your donations on your steps by 9 a.m., and don't forget to send in your address to info@firstlutherancr.org!

If you will not be home to set out food for collection, items may be dropped off during our regular office hours at the church.

Help with the Collection

If you'd like to volunteer to drive around and help us collect food items, please contact Henry Selk at info@firstlutherancr.org.

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in July!

Beverly Harris, 90 years young on July 28.
Bonnie Mills, 90 years young on July 20.
Joyce Schaefer, 92 years young on July 25.
Donna Koch, 93 years young on July 19.
Hal Schaefer, 94 years young on July 17.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in July!

Tom & Shirley Stickney, 52 years on July 27.
Herb & Mitzi Wamboldt, 52 years on July 6.
Doug & Judy Torson, 53 years on July 29.
John and Margaret Hall, 67 years on July 4.
Dean and Ann Gesme, 70 years on July 22.

Hospitalized: **released as of June 18*

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| John Bonte* | Sheryl Sorensen* |
| Dean Schnack* | Bev Leinart* |

Our Sympathy to:

Dan, Nova and Marissa Kolander, family and friends,
on the death of their son and brother, Aaron Kolander.

FIRST LUTHERAN WORSHIP GUIDE

LIVE Online Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Firstlutherancr.online.church
Replay available anytime at Youtube.com/firstlutherancr

Radio worship radio on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on KMRV 1450 AM or 93.1 FM.

June 21– The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastoral Intern Kirsten Wee
Scripture: Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18;
Matthew 10:24-39
Special Music: Steve & Mary Nurre

June 28 – The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Additional 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service
Preaching: Pastor Steve Knudson
Sermon: "Showing Welcome to Jesus"
Scripture: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Matthew 10:40-42

July 5 – The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Craig Brown
Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Wed., July 8 – Communion Services

*Call ahead due to Reserved Capacity
details on page 2.*
10 a.m., 12:15, and 6:30 p.m. in the Nave.

July 12 – The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

*Worship online with Holy Communion
Starting the "Witness of Faith" worship series*
Preaching: Intern Kirsten Wee
Scripture: Galatians 3

July 19– The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Additional 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service
Preaching: Pastor Katie Lowe-Lancaster
Sermon: Daughters of Zelophehad: Witness of Place
Scripture: Numbers 27:1-11

July 26 – The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Sending Service for Intern Kirsten Wee
Preaching: Pastor Sarah Goettsch
Sermon: Pharaoh's Daughter- Witness of Freedom
Scripture: Exodus 2:1-10
Special Music: Hymn Sing following Worship
focused on woman hymn writers.

Change Service Requested

SEMP UPDATE

The Saturday Evening Meal Program [SEMP] at First Lutheran church started about 30 years ago to fill a Saturday gap in free meals available to the food insecure in our community. Normally it is a weekly sit down meal in the church fellowship center. With the COVID-19 shelter in place directive, the necessary change to provide a 'to go' meal at the door of the church occurred, and meals were also delivered to the Willis Dady Shelter and Overflow shelter where many of our guests resided.

Days turned into weeks that turned into months. Hungry people need to eat!

The abundance of free items offered by HACAP allowed SEMP to expand from one meal a week to providing weekend meals whenever needed at the shelters.

Protein items, fresh fruit, baked goods and green salad ingredients helped to round out menus, and keep costs low. Thanks to the helpful HACAP warehouse staff for their able assistance in locating items suitable for quantity cooking.

With the partnership of HACAP, First Lutheran was able to provide 2,144 meals during the month of May for our standard SEMP serving at our church door, as well as to residents of shelters. Kudos to all of the staff at HACAP food reservoir who made this possible!

Save the Date!

The Cedar Rapids Marriott will host a FamilyLife "Weekend to Remember" Marriage Retreat coming up on September 18-20, 2020. This link will take you to the FamilyLife Weekend to Remember, Cedar Rapids registration site: <https://bit.ly/3c0h7ed> Use code "marriage weekend" to save \$100 per couple at check out. As of the latest notice, this is being planned as an in-person event!



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 online at www.firstlutherancr.org

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Voicemail / Afterhours Extension 100 | |
| Rev. Dr. Steve Knudson extension 106 | Senior Pastor stevek@firstlutherancr.org |
| Rev. Craig Brown extension 105 | Associate Pastor craigb@firstlutherancr.org |
| Rev. Mark Urlaub extension 104 | Visitation Pastor marku@firstlutherancr.org |
| Kirsten Wee extension 133 | Pastoral Intern kirstenw@firstlutherancr.org |
| Bob Koenig extension 108 | Director of Support Services bobk@firstlutherancr.org |
| Marissa Kolander extension 113 | Dir. of Children & Family Ministries marissak@firstlutherancr.org |
| Marisa Inzerello extension 114 | Children & Family Ministry Assistant minzerello@firstlutherancr.org |
| Michael Beckmann extension 112 | Director of Teen Ministries michaelb@firstlutherancr.org |
| Brett Wolgast extension 111 | Cantor brettw@firstlutherancr.org |
| Marita Wolgast extension 110 | Coor. of Traditional Worship maritaw@firstlutherancr.org |
| Josie Crook | Director of Middle School Choir |
| Tanya Rosenkranz Malloy extension 132 | Director of Children's Choirs tanyar@firstlutherancr.org |
| Joel Reeves extension 109 | Dir. of Contemp. Worship Music joelr@firstlutherancr.org |
| Daniel Luepke extension 115 | Ministry Engagement Coordinator daniell@firstlutherancr.org |
| William Mittelsteadt extension 115 | Director of Communications willm@firstlutherancr.org |
| Tammy Horak extension 102 | Office Administrator tammyh@firstlutherancr.org |
| Rose Gordon extension 101 | Part-time Receptionist roseg@firstlutherancr.org |
| Ruth Ehrhardt extension 131 | Food Service Coordinator ruth@firstlutherancr.org |
| Rich Hillyer extension 116 | Head Custodian richh@firstlutherancr.org |
| Scott Peterson | Custodian |