

Living Connected... To GOD & EACH OTHER

July 2020

SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

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Worship:

Sunday - 10 AM

YouTube & Facebook Live
(All Age Worship)

Wednesday - 10 AM

Outdoor or Commons

Pastoral Staff:

Bonnie Wilcox

Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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GOD OFFERS TO MAKE US FULL IN MANY WAYS

"May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13)

No matter what stage of the corona virus pandemic in which we find ourselves, there is still reason to hope. And from this Bible verse from the letter to the church at Rome, the Apostle Paul says we can be Hope-FULL.

We will continue to primarily worship online during July and likely into August. We continue to monitor the decisions of our governor, legislature and school districts for planning.

I hope you found comfort and support from our series on the book of Job, and appreciated the creativity and humor of our tele-drama, The Spanish Flu Comes to Hilltop Ranch.

Beginning July 12, we pick up the themes our young people would have explored at Camp WAPO this summer: HopeFULL. Yes, we are intentionally spelling the word incorrectly to emphasize that in spite of isolation, limitation in our gatherings, and slow recovery in our economy.

God offers to make us FULL in many ways. Each week, we'll explore God's gifts to us through the Holy Spirit to make us:

- ◆ HopeFULL
- ◆ JoyFULL
- ◆ PeaceFULL
- ◆ FaithFULL
- ◆ PowerFULL



These gifts cannot be bought or bartered or acquired. They are gifts from God. I can't imagine my life without these gifts. I certainly know moments of doubt, fear and worry. But I seek to follow Jesus because he has freely given me these gifts! I have not earned them.

Pastor Bonnie Wilcox,
Senior Pastor



Outdoor "Sidewalk"
Worship - June 24, 2020

Worship Updates:

1. We continue to pre-record our **online worship services** for broadcast on Sundays at 10 AM available on Facebook, or on our YouTube Channel, "First Lutheran Church Columbia Heights." You can watch any service at any time after its first broadcast is complete.
2. We have identified about 95 **households without internet access**. Weekly, they receive a worship outline to use at home, along with a list of our First Prayers list.
3. **Holy Communion** is available on the first Sunday of each month (July 5 is the next) in the parking lot during the Community Meal. There is a separate station to receive communion after picking up the meal.

We offer a **weekly outdoor service at 10 AM on Wednesdays** for up to 25 people beginning July 1. This service is about twenty minutes long, includes Holy Communion, and music by Jeffrey Patry. This is open to anyone, but we ask you to pre-register with Joyce at the church office so that no one is turned away.

"I just wanted you to know how much I appreciated the service today. I have watched virtual Church and am so glad to have that available, but there still is a thrill to worship together face to face." ---Char Zarich



*Congratulations on your baptism and welcome to the family,
Sophia Ruth Beck! - June 21, 2020*



Sunday Morning Coffee Break & Bible Study

We have resumed our Sunday Morning Bible Study using Zoom video conferencing!

Grab a cup of coffee and join Michelle Edwards in a guided discussion on Paul's teachings on law, salvation and the redeeming, transforming work of God in our lives and what is yet to come.

Spending time in God's word and encouraging each other in our faith journey is a great way to start each week. Staying connected to each other and to God is so important for all of us in these challenging times.

The study will begin live at 8:30 AM each Sunday with a brief check-in of guests. If you do not have internet, you can still participate in the study by audio, using your landline or cell phone. *The study will also be recorded each week for you to watch at any time.*

For questions about the Bible study, how to connect, or suggestions for other times to meet, please contact Michelle Edwards, 763-300-8419, shell-lyn@hotmail.com

Sunday School & Music Class

Join Rachel reading the Bible story on Facebook live at 9:45 AM.

Sunday school activities are sent out weekly for kids to follow along during the Sunday worship service.

Music class with Miss Janet for toddlers and preschoolers is live on ZOOM each Sunday at 12 PM. Please contact Rachel for the link. rachel@flcch.org

If you'd like to schedule a ZOOM meeting for your Ministry Group, contact Joyce, joyce@flcch.org or leave a message at the church office.

Dear Connected Community Group (CCG) members!

Thank you all for your thoughtful responses. Due to volunteer capacity we will not be continuing the CCG leaders this summer. People have a lot on their plates and we don't want to overwhelm anyone.

Instead, we are encouraging people who had a meaningful interaction with someone this spring to check in once over the summer!

You also all invited to a Letter Writing Ice Cream Social for the CCG leaders (and a few more all ages volunteers)

All Ages are welcome to join us on July 15 as we gather in the Courtyard at Church at a safe physical distance to write letters to First Lutheran Community Members... and then have some ice cream!



Kick-off HopeFULL Camp Worship Family water play day!

Sunday, July 12, 12 PM in the church Courtyard

Join us for water balloons, water splasers and fun outside as we begin our HopeFULL worship series in collaboration with Camp Wapo.



Families can come for a drive through lunch between 11 AM and noon, and stay for fun. We will play some camp songs and have freeze pops for everyone. We will ask everyone to stay outside, physically distanced and invite you to wear a mask when in close proximity.

Youth Group Bonfires Wednesdays, July 8 & Aug. 12, 6-8 PM

We are hosting monthly socially distanced outdoor bonfires at the church for groups of 12 people or less.

Chairs will be kept more than six feet apart, no food or utensils will be shared, and youth are invited to wear masks.

Plan to join us in prayer, Bible study and games! Questions to Rachel, rachel@flcch.org



Friday Night 55+ Singles Gathering

Gathering in person has resumed with our group! We now picnic at Sullivan Park in Columbia Heights on Friday nights at 5 PM. The view is awesome and we have a bird who doesn't appreciate us being there. What a hoot it is to see everyone and just have a great time visiting. This is our definite plan for the summer and maybe will go into the fall if weather permits.

Join us at Sullivan Park (750 Parkside Lane, Columbia Heights) 55421. Please bring your own: supper, drink and chair (picnic tables available, but easier if you bring a chair). Question? Contact Faith White, whitefa@comcast.net

Happy Birthday!

During the month of July, two First Lutheran members will celebrate their 90th Birthday!



Hugs and prayers to... Ardis Hanson & Betty Sogge

Walk-through Outdoor Vacation Bible School (VBS) for All Ages, August 3-7

Get ready for a family adventure at First Lutheran Church as we learn about God's grace through our Vacation Bible School program: Knights of the North Castle.

Come to experience music, Bible stories, science experiments and crafts in small groups each night. Families will sign up for a time slot and walk through all the stations on the grounds of First Lutheran Church in the evenings. After you've visited each station families will pick up picnic lunches and a discussion guide so they can have dinner together and discuss what they've learned. *We will stay socially distanced, with no contact activities and invite families to wear masks.*

We are seeking volunteers to make this a great experience! Teens and adults needed to help with the stations and also to pack meals during the day. If you are interested, please contact Rachel, rachel@flcch.org



LIVING CONNECTED

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

FINANCIAL UPDATE: First Lutheran's major checking and savings accounts and the balances as of May 31, 2020 are represented below. For questions or more details, please call the church office 763-788-9653.

Period Ending May 31, 2020

General Checking at 5/1/2020	\$	21,914
Offerings Received	\$	35,002
Charter School Income	\$	20,805
Other Deposits/Transfers	\$	88,601
Payroll Disbursements	\$	(47,662)
Other Checks/Transfers	\$	(57,319)
General Checking at 5/31/2020	\$	61,341
Mortgage & Maintenance at 5/1/2020	\$	93,591
Offerings, Interest & Transfers	\$	3,953
Mortgage Payment, Maintenance Projects	\$	(17,859)
Mortgage & Maintenance Balance 5/31/2020	\$	79,685
Perpetual Reserve Balance 5/31/2020	\$	106,511
Special Projects Balance 5/31/2020	\$	1,197,319
Memorial Fund 5/31/2020	\$	37,069
*Endowment Fund Principal+Interest 5/31/2020	\$	1,186,860
**Undesignated Earnings	\$	78,557

* Endowment principal is held in perpetuity and cannot be spent ("Dollars Forever").

** Only the investment earnings are available for use with the approval of the Endowment Committee.

FAREWELL TO OUR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



Dave Reilly, our Business Administrator, has resigned his position at First Lutheran to work with a non-profit organization in St. Louis Park.

He has been a valuable and excellent leader in our administrative work, and we will miss him.

Please drop a note in the mail to Dave at the church office if you would like to thank him for his work.

GIVING



First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights (FLCCH) is financed by the generous, direct monetary gifts of its members and friends.

There are several ways you can bless this mission of Jesus with your gifts:

- 1) Drop off your **Check or Cash** during Sunday's Drive-thru Prayer & Meal or send a check thru the mail. Please use an offering envelope so we can give you credit for your gift.
- 2) **Electronic Funds Transfer** from our website, flcch.org (upper right hand corner). You can set up a one-time or recurring donation.
- 3) **Bill Pay**. Follow the directions of your bank or credit union to create First Lutheran as a Payee at 1555 40th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, and choose to make a regular weekly or monthly offering.
- 4) **Stock Transfer to the Church**.

For more information, contact the church office, 763-788-9653.

How to Have Better Conversations about Race & Racism Discussion Groups

As a white person, talking about race and racism is hard and can be very uncomfortable. Let's practice discussing race and racism in healthy, productive ways. This group is designed for white people, but all are welcome.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Discussion groups (12 people) will be held once a week for four sessions on Tuesdays, July 7-28 or Wednesdays, July 8-29 from 6-7:30 PM. This event is free. \$5 suggested donation for dinner. Sign up with Nathan Roberts - Anti-racism trainer & Director of Community Engagement at First Lutheran Church, nathanr@flcch.org



FLC may be temporarily closed... but not the kitchen!

Volunteers serve around 225 meals a week to the After School kids and Sunday Community lunch. In addition to a cooked meal, Columbia Heights Schools provide bagged breakfasts & lunches to include with our After School deliveries on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Thanks to the generosity of volunteers, cookie bakers, and members who have financially supported this ministry, we continue to serve approximately 125 meals to FLC members and the community.



Mission Jamaica

Putting Faith Into Action

This season, Mission Jamaica built nine homes, saw over 1,100 medical patients, and made many new friends.

Discover how God works through your life to change the lives of others.

Join us for a week of service in Jamaica. Plans are already being made for the 2021 season. A \$100 refundable deposit is due by July 15. If you are interested, please contact Larry Bugbee at your earliest convenience. 612-812-1633, lbugbee@msn.com



Cookies for Community Meals

Our church bakers have rolled up their sleeves and are baking 300 cookies a week to add to our community meals for After School families and Sunday Community Lunch.

We need cookie donations of homemade cookies to add to these meals. We are asking for donations on Tuesdays & Thursdays of 50 cookies each, and on Sundays of 200 cookies.

Sign up on the FLC Meal Train: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/9lldlo> or Contact Nathan Roberts, nathan@flcch.org

Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA) needs summer volunteers

- ♦ Packing and/or delivering food boxes one Saturday a month thru September.
- ♦ Assisting with fresh produce distribution at SACA July 25, Aug. 8 & 22, Sept. 12 & 26, Oct. 10.

Contact Larry Bugbee, 612-812-1633, lbugbee@msn.com



Larry presenting gift cards from FLC to Dave & Elaine (managers at SACA) - 2019

Summer Drive Thru Prayer & Lunch

We are so excited to continue serving Drive Thru Community Lunch and Prayers all summer on Sundays, 11 AM - Noon!

We will have grilled picnic style meals weekly, and administer Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month.

Six volunteers are needed each week to make this meal possible.

If you are healthy, without increased risk factors, and can help serve food curbside, please email Nathan, nathan@flcch.org



Election Judges for Aug. 11 Primary and Nov. 3

General Elections. Election judges serve as the officials in the polling places on Election Day. Some duties include opening and closing the polls, registering and signing in voters, and distributing and collecting ballots. Current pay is \$11 per hour.

For more information visit: www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/electionjudge or call Nicole Tingley, City Clerk, 763-706-3611



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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

**SUNDAY ONLINE
WORSHIP 10 AM
YOUTUBE &
FACEBOOK LIVE**

**SUNDAY MEAL
SERVED CURBSIDE
DRIVE-THRU
11 AM—12 PM**

CHURCH OFFICE
is currently closed due
to COVID-19 crisis.

Please check our
website or call for any
updates.

Come, see what's happening at First!

