

# Living Connected... TO GOD & EACH OTHER

October 2020

*Educator Blessing, Sept. 13, 2020*

SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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  
Jill Bergman  
Associate Pastor

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## *Living on a Prayer...*

We continue to worship God connected by the Holy Spirit. With only marginal changes in the number of people contracting COVID-19, our online worship format will continue to be our primary focus. We will also continue mailing a Worship at Home devotional for those who do not have internet access.

We aren't taking this pandemic lying down, though! While we have nice weather, we'll continue to offer outdoor-based programming for all ages, along with innovative online worship services. Here is some of what you can look forward to in October and November:

### Worship Events:

- **WAITING ON GOD'S PROMISES WORSHIP SERIES CONTINUES** Oct. 4 & 11 in online worship with two stories in the life of God's people through Moses and his siblings, Aaron and Miriam. Our worship will include additional interviews between God and these people entering heaven, "Welcome to the Great Place."
- **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** Oct. 4, 11 AM – 12 PM. Pets provide a lot of comfort in the stay-at-home environment of COVID-19. Honoring the traditional day of St. Francis on Oct. 6, you're invited to bring your furry, feathery, hairy, scaly pet (or a photo of a pet who cannot come to church). You may also enjoy our Community Meal, Holy Communion, Coffee Cart, and Live Music on this day!
- **CELEBRATION OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN:** Oct. 18 Online Worship. Bishop Ann Svenungsen, Bishop of the

Minneapolis Area Synod, will preach for our online service at 10 AM. We celebrate 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. We also celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors. As part of this anniversary year, we also lament that service in the Church still carries pain, especially for those barred from serving, and those who have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. Ordaining women goes to the heart of the gospel.

- **RITE OF CONFIRMATION:** Oct. 25, 10 AM Online Worship. As we have done for weddings and memorial services, we will hold an invitation-only worship service in the Sanctuary with families and invited guests the week before. We're recording the service to include in our online worship service on Oct. 25.
- **ALL SAINTS DAY:** Sunday, Nov. 1 (*This is the day our clocks FALL BACK Daylight Savings Time*)
  - 10 AM Online Worship. We will honor members of our community who have died in the last twelve months.
  - 5 PM Online Service of Lament: 200,000 Covid deaths in the U.S.
  - 6 PM Community Candlelight Vigil hosted by First Lutheran in Memory of more than 200,000 US Covid Deaths. The vigil will be held at Huset Park in Columbia Heights.

*Senior Pastor's column continues page 2*



# LIVING CONNECTED

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

### • THANKSGIVING 2020

We will not hold a Thanksgiving Eve service this year, but will use the last Sunday of our "Living on a Prayer" Stewardship Appeal as a day to make our 2021 commitments to support FLC with our gifts and talents, to make a difference in the lives of neighbors who do not have enough to eat, especially with the number of low income families who have lost jobs during the pandemic. Everyone who makes a gift (dollars or groceries) between 11 AM and Noon for SACA will receive a FREE pumpkin pie!

### • LOOKING TO CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

COVID may keep us from worshipping in the building for Christmas Eve, but stay tuned for some faithful, innovative and fun ideas to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

## Living Connected in 2021: Living on a Prayer

**Nov. 8:** Living Connected by Prayer for Others

**Nov. 15:** Living Connected by Prayer for Ourselves

**Nov. 22:** Living on a Prayer of Commitment; receiving gifts of money & grocery donations for SACA -- (every donation receives a free pumpkin pie)

### From SACA:

- Breakfast: cereal, milk, toast and juice for a family of four- \$1.12.
- Lunch: soup, sandwich, fruit and milk for a family of four- 94¢.
- Dinner: homemade spaghetti with meatballs, French bread and milk for a family of four- \$1.08.

High demand items for SACA are: peanut butter, tuna, macaroni & cheese, toiletries, and feminine products. Seasonal items are always appreciated around the holidays. All donations are tax-deductible.

## COVID Updates:

**A**t the August church council meeting, reviewing information from the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health, the council decided that there will be no regular Sunday in-building worship services until after the first of the year.

The staff and boards are organizing fall events using outdoor spaces as much as possible. We are allowing small groups to meet inside the building, with guidelines about what spaces are available to use, food service, length of the gathering, and mask wearing, etc., to provide for the safety of all who enter our building.

We continue to host funerals, memorial services, and weddings for 75 people or less in the Sanctuary with physical distancing and the wearing of masks. Singing is limited to soloists. A copy of our policies may be found on our website.

In case of an outbreak of COVID-19 by someone present in our building, the church Council has approved a COVID-19 Policy: Positive Case/Symptom Response (see pg. 7).

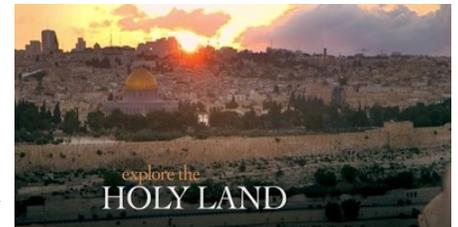
### Changes in Annual Events to Note:

- ⇒ The annual Holiday Market (bazaar) has been postponed and, if possible, will take place sometime around Easter.
- ⇒ January 2021's Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner has been cancelled due to COVID-19.
- ⇒ Our Annual Meeting in January 2021 will be held as a virtual, online event. *Church Council will announce more details in November.*

## 2021 Holy Land Tour Zoom Conversation Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 PM

### *We are still planning to go!*

You are invited to discover the beauty and splendor of our Christian roots as Pastor Jill Bergman and friends from this congregation share the life-changing experience of visiting the Holy Land and Rome. If a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Jesus and our faith has ever piqued your interest, made it on your bucket-list, or inspired curiosity, please join us in a Zoom conversation with Pastor Wayne Skaff, who will lead our tour.



We will Zoom on **Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30**. Use this link: [Holy Land and Rome Conversation. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82548264662?pwd=RTlOaHNBenV0eHk0NHpQVCtBdzdQdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82548264662?pwd=RTlOaHNBenV0eHk0NHpQVCtBdzdQdz09)  
Passcode: 709460  
Meeting ID: 825 4826 4662  
Or Dial in: +1 312 626 6799  
*Contact Pastor Jill with questions.*



### First Lutheran is honored to be a voting place for Columbia Heights registered voters!

When you vote on Nov. 3, do not go in with hate in your heart for anyone. Vote because you love this country, even with our imperfect government systems and imperfect people. Vote because you care for our world, and continue to believe in the hope and promise of equal justice for all, that all people are created equal--and in the image of God. Let us seek to vote for the common good of all citizens.

---Pastor Bonnie

### Take a Book Leave a Book

Have you noticed our newest building addition? Gary Berg, on behalf of the Board of Spiritual Growth, has **created** our very own Little Free Library. All we need now are BOOKS! We are seeking donations of spiritually uplifting books, both fiction and nonfiction, for all ages.



## Live Music with Lunch

Our outdoor live music on First Day was such a hit that we are adding live music to the following Community Lunch days: **Oct. 4, Oct. 18 & Nov. 1.** Music will be from 11 AM - noon [weather permitting]. Come and enjoy live music with your Community Meal!



## Beginning Music Class

Have you been wanting to improve your music reading skills or wished that you knew what different musical symbols mean? Now might be the time! I'm looking at offering a 4-week beginner music class to anyone interested. Classes will be small (10 or less) and held on Thursdays (either day or evening). We will follow the CDC guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing. If you have questions or are interested in joining, please get in touch with Jeffrey, 763-788-9653, ext. 109 or [jeffrey@flcch.org](mailto:jeffrey@flcch.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

## Halloween Spooktacular Oct. 31, 6 PM

Join Music Director Jeffrey Patry in a Spooktacular presentation featuring popular spooky organ and piano music. Musical pieces will include the famous *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, scary TV and Movie Themes, readings and much more. Lights, decorations and even a fog machine will be part of this Spooktacular event! This will be offered through Facebook Live. Don't miss this scary evening affair...if you dare!

## Fall Music Contest

What is Your Favorite Hymn/Song? These could be songs from childhood, Sunday School class, traditional hymns or more contemporary songs. During the fall months, we are going to have a favorite hymn/song contest. Please email your favorites and we will use the top five in worship. Keep in mind: The song must be religious. It could be an African-American spiritual, traditional hymn, a contemporary or gospel song. Please no Christmas Carols (we don't want to rush Christmas). *Happy hunting!* Email your song choice to: [jeffrey@flcch.org](mailto:jeffrey@flcch.org)

## National Lutheran Choir

The National Lutheran Choir's song of hope, faith, and love is not silenced. As they start their 2020-2021 concert season, a virtual subscription is available. The cost is \$90 for the full season of monthly events (September - May). If you prefer, you may subscribe on a monthly basis for just \$10/month. Contact the NLC Office: 612-722-2301, or visit: <https://nationallutheranchoir.secure.force.com/ticket/#/subscriptions>

## Fall Family Fun Day

All Sunday School and Confirmation families are invited to join us on Sunday, Oct. 11 at noon in the Courtyard at church for a safe, in-person event. We will wear masks and keep distanced while we enjoy hot apple cider, cookies and decorate pumpkins for the fall.



## Sunday School is Online!

Kids Age 3 through Grade 5 are invited to join us each Sunday for online Sunday School at 11 AM on Zoom. We will all meet together for a Bible Story and fun activity, then the kids will break out into classes for discussion and prayer. Sign up today!



## Confirmation Class is Online!

As youth enter middle school, we encourage them to take Confirmation classes to help make faith their own. In these online Zoom classes, 6th-8th graders will ask questions, learn about the Bible and talk about life together. We meet on Sundays at 11 AM. *Sign up now!*

## Celebrating the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism Oct. 18, 1 PM

Our Grade 9 Confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 1 PM at church. This is a private service for parents, grandparents and baptism sponsors to join us as we celebrate these young people affirming their faith. The service will be shown for our whole congregation in online worship on Oct. 25.

## Youth Bonfires & High School Leadership Team Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 21, 6-8 PM

We are meeting outside for bi-monthly youth bonfires at the church. All youth in Grades 6-8 are invited to join us for faith, fun, and friends. Once a month, our high school Teens-in-Mission team will meet with Edward O'Brien.



## Spudfest

On Sunday, Nov. 1 the youth will be serving up their renowned potato feast for lunch! Swing by the church from 11 AM-12 PM to pick-up a baked potato (with all the fixings) in support of their program fundraiser.

# MINISTRY NEWS



## Pastor Appreciation Day

is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October (Oct. 11, 2020). Let's remember to lift our leaders in prayer & appreciation, as this holiday month celebrates the contributions of priests, pastors, reverends & ministers in the U.S.



**Dearest Friends...** I would like to thank my FLC family for all the cards, prayers and food as I travel through my health concerns. You all have been a constant support to me and I appreciate it so much. *Love you all! Faith White*



Everyone is welcome to join us for Bible studies using Zoom at 8:30 AM on Sundays. You can find the link on the church website in the calendar or contact Michelle Edwards: [shell-lyn@hotmail.com](mailto:shell-lyn@hotmail.com)

### NEW FALL 2020 STUDY SERIES

*Study from Philippians: Heaven's Joy, of The Passionate Life Bible Study Series*

**Oct. 18:** God's Grace---Gloriously Expressed, Faithfully Completed (1:1-11)

**Oct. 25:** Our Chaos, God's Gospel Good (1:12-18)

**Nov. 1:** Christ Made Manifest, in Life or Death (1:19-30)



## MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT!

In partnership, First Lutheran's Young At Heart & the Book Club are planning a 'Meet the Author' event for Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 10 AM. Keith McConnell, a member of our group, was excited to have his first book published in April of this year. Entitled 'Shillingstone,' it is listed as historical fiction.

Keith and his wife, Carol, visited this southern England village of 1,000 residents in 2013. The quaint village

triggered a creative surge in Keith and he will share the sweat and the elation of having his story published. Further info is available on his website: [KeithMcConnell.com](http://KeithMcConnell.com). The book can be ordered from Amazon. It would be beneficial to read the book prior to this meeting but not expected.

The meeting will be held in the church Commons. We will practice social distancing & wear your favorite mask! You must call in your reservation by Monday, Oct. 19 so that seating can be planned. We have a good P.A. system so you will be able to hear. Please reserve your spot by phoning the church office or Paul Christensen.

## MISSION WORKSHOP RESUMES

All those interested in helping to make quilts with Mission Workshop are welcomed back to Katie Luther Cellar! **NEW HOURS:** Wednesdays, 9-11 AM **SCHEDULING PROCESS:** As a safety precaution, the number of people permitted in Katie Luther Cellar is limited each week. Please schedule your time in advance with Mission Workshop Coordinator, Lisa Tenhoff. Call 763-789-4101 to be added to the

schedule. If there's no answer, leave a message with your name and preferred date(s). Lisa will call you to confirm. **FOLLOW FLC SAFETY GUIDELINES:** Take a brief health screening & temperature check in the church Commons, wear a mask and practice social distancing while in the building. *Thanks for your participation and Welcome Back!*

## FRIDAY LAUGHTER & CUISINE

This Small Group has been meeting every Friday night for two years! Singles, age 55+ gather to eat and socialize on Fridays at 5 PM. While the weather is nice, they will continue to meet at Sullivan Park (750 Parkside Lane, Columbia Heights 55421). As the weather changes, the group plans to move to First Lutheran.

Emails are sent out weekly to invite interested Singles and advise you of meeting location. Please bring your own: supper, drink, mask & chair.

Contact Faith White with any questions or to be included in the weekly email 612-799-4245, [whitefa@comcast.net](mailto:whitefa@comcast.net).

## FLC BLOOD DRIVE

Thanks to those who have signed up on the First Lutheran Interest Survey, our participation list is over half way complete toward scheduling a date for an American Red Cross blood drive!

The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control and is also testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies.

This testing is to provide critical insight into whether donors may have possibly been exposed to this coronavirus, as some COVID-19 carriers can be



asymptomatic. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross needs the help of healthy blood donors and blood drive hosts to meet the needs of patient care.

If you have an interest in being a donor this fall, contact Joyce, 763-788-9653, [joycew@flech.org](mailto:joycew@flech.org) to be put on the list.

# MINISTRY NEWS

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

First Lutheran's major checking and savings accounts and the balances as of August 31, 2020 are listed below. If you have any questions or would like to obtain more specific information, please call Dave Reilly at 763-788-9653.

Period ending August 2020		
<b>General Checking at 8/1/2020</b>	\$	30,646
Offerings Received	\$	34,575
Other Deposits/Transfers	\$	67,192
Payroll Disbursements	\$	(47,480)
Capital Campaign Disbursements***	\$	(20,000)
Other Checks/Transfers	\$	(39,539)
<b>General Checking at 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,394</b>
<b>Mortgage &amp; Maintenance at 8/1/2020</b>	\$	75,680
Offerings, Interest & Transfers	\$	3,798
Mortgage Payment, Maintenance Projects	\$	(14,618)
<b>Mortgage &amp; Maintenance Balance 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>64,860</b>
<b>Perpetual Reserve Balance 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>106,796</b>
<b>Special Projects Balance 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>503,676</b>
<b>Memorial Fund 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>40,332</b>
<b>*Endowment Fund Principal+Interest 8/31/2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,221,015</b>
<b>**Undesignated Earnings</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>102,367</b>

\*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.  
 \*\*\* Parking lot entry resurfacing.

## GIVING

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights 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) **Stock Transfers to FLC**
- 3) **Electronic Funds Transfer**  
See our website, [flcch.org](http://flcch.org) (upper right hand corner). Set up your donation frequency.
- 4) **Bill Pay.** Follow the directions of your bank or credit union to create First Lutheran as a Payee at 1555 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. Choose weekly or monthly offerings.

For more information, contact Finance Manager, Dave Reilly, 763-788-9653, [dave@flcch.org](mailto:dave@flcch.org)

## \$10,000 Planning Grant Awarded to First Lutheran



Hopeful and exciting news to share: The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) has awarded our church a planning grant of \$10,000 toward our parking lot/rain garden project. What's next? We have a project team to work with our contractor, Earth Wizards, on designing ways we can limit how much water runs into the stormwater system in Columbia Heights and on to the Mississippi River. This will likely include rain gardens and other ways to allow run off from our large buildings and parking lot absorbed in other ways than only into the sewer system. We're also looking at a cistern (large water tank) to gather and filter water from the school roof for use in the Community Garden.

We will submit another grant proposal this fall to request funding from the MWMO to help cover a portion of the cost of the project itself.

We have a great group who have agreed to work on this project: Interim Operations Manager Julie Wilson, Jerry Erickson, Tiffany Lovik, John Miller, and elementary student Lucas dela Cruz, who has a particular interest in this topic!

A grant like this, added to your gifts to the Living Connected Appeal which began one year ago, will make this project possible! Your gifts to the General Fund help take care of day-to-day expenses for FLC, but your additional gifts to the Living Connected Appeal are designated for mortgage payments and to this project, as well as, one day, the resettlement of a refugee family in the Twin Cities. THANK YOU!

## 2021 Offering Envelopes

Your 2021 Offering Envelopes are scheduled to arrive at the church in early November. Look for opportunities to pick them up! Contact the church office to request that they be mailed.

**GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>** You can also support the church with this free mobile app!  
A VANCO COMPANY



**Thank you** to our volunteers for another great month of community service in our outdoor Sanctuary. With coffee, prayers, communion, live music, and fresh veggies...our parking lot on Sundays has served as a biblical temple, similar to how Jesus worshiped mostly outdoors. God has blessed us with many beautiful Sunday mornings of sunshine, surrounded by trees, and laughter with friends.

We continue to serve over 150 vital meals weekly to connect & encourage our neighboring community. Stop by from 11 AM - noon to taste and see that the Lord is good!



## Playground Spinner!

*Thank you* to all the amazing men that planned, shoveled, mixed cement, and then spun their kiddos on the new Comet Spinner on our Playground. We've witnessed hours of fun from church families, neighbors, and the teachers at our TESFA charter school say it's the "talk of their students!"



## Sunday Community Lunch

**11 AM - Noon.** Rock & Kari Hauser and a team of volunteers are serving up their signature delicious meals for our drive-thru from 11 AM - noon! Our Pastoral team offers curbside prayers and pastoral counseling each week, along with Communion and live music on Oct. 4!

If you or your family would like to volunteer to help, please contact Nathan Roberts, [nathanr@flcch.org](mailto:nathanr@flcch.org) or call the church office, 763-788-9653.



## Outdoor After School

Thank you for continuing to support this ministry providing social, emotional, and educational care to families in our community. In an abundance of caution, this program is being held outside this fall on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:30-6 PM. In addition to tutoring, basketball, playground games and soccer, dinner is served at 5:30 PM in the Courtyard. Kids and volunteers will get their temperatures taken and be asked to wear masks.

Volunteers are needed for all activities. Please contact Nathan Roberts, [nathanr@flcch.org](mailto:nathanr@flcch.org) or call the church office, 763-788-9653.

## Trick or Treat

**Thursday, Oct. 29, 4:30 - 6:30 PM**

FLC families and friends are invited to Trick or Treat at the nine outside doors of the church! We also need volunteers of all ages to hand out candy (socially distanced) at each of these doors! You're welcome to decorate your door with spooky decorations! It will be a fun-for-all ages activity for members & guests! Costumes encouraged...masks required. Contact Nathan Roberts, [nathan@flcch.org](mailto:nathan@flcch.org) to volunteer.



## Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, Oct. 11, 9:30 AM - Noon**

We are going to have the classic Pancake Breakfast served right up to your car window! Proceeds to benefit SACA. During the COVID pandemic and the economic downturn that followed, 1 in 6 Americans need some form of food support. *Your help is appreciated!* Contact Larry Bugbee, to join in support of this important ministry, [lbugbee@msn.com](mailto:lbugbee@msn.com)



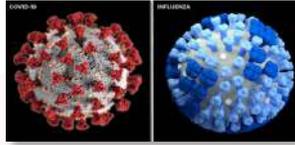
## Candlelight Vigil in Memory of 200,000 US Covid Deaths

**Nov. 1, 6-7 PM at Huset Park**

We will be joined by community leaders to hear reflections, music & celebrations of life from many cultures in our community. If you would like to help volunteer for this event with crowd control, handing out masks, or sound tech, please contact [nathanr@flcch.org](mailto:nathanr@flcch.org)

## COVID-19 vs. FLU

*Mayoclinic.org & Centers for Disease Control*



COVID-19 and the flu have many similarities and differences. Find out what to know and how to protect yourself from these two diseases.

The flu season in North America typically occurs between October and May. It's possible that the viruses that cause COVID-19 and the flu may spread in our community during the same time this fall. If this happens, (scary fact!) people could become ill with one or BOTH at the same time.

COVID-19 and the flu are both contagious respiratory diseases caused by viruses that are spread in similar ways. They both spread between people who are in close contact (within 6 feet). Viruses spread through respiratory droplets released through talking, sneezing, or coughing, along with touching a viral surface and then touching his or her mouth, nose, or eyes.

COVID-19 and the flu have many signs and symptoms in common, making it hard to diagnose, including: Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Both COVID-19 and the flu can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, organ failure, heart attacks, heart or brain inflammation, stroke and death.

COVID-19 differences: you may experience loss of taste or smell. Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure, it can spread virus at least one day before experiencing symptoms. It spreads more quickly than the flu. Lung injury is more frequent, along with blood clots, and the mortality rate appears higher than the flu. No treatment/vaccine is available for COVID-19.

Flu differences: symptoms appear 1-4 days after exposure. Flu can be treated with antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu or Zofluz. Each year's flu vaccine provides protection from about 3 to 4 influenza viruses, and may be given via injection or nasal spray.

**Standard precautions to reduce your risk of COVID-19, the flu and other respiratory infections:** Avoid large events or mass gatherings, stay away from someone infected or exhibiting symptoms. Avoid close contact; wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; wear a mask; cover your mouth with your elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Disinfect high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, electronics (phones) and counters daily.

**AND: Get the flu shot NOW in October-it is recommended for everyone over 6 months old. Wear a mask, wash your hands often! If you experience symptoms get tested for COVID-19.**

*Jane Bugbee, Parish Nurse*

## COVID-19 POLICY: POSITIVE CASE / SYMPTOM RESPONSE FLCCH COMMUNITY

For the safety of our FLCCH family and guests, we have created these policies and procedures to manage spread during the COVID-19 pandemic. Note: Failure to follow these policies may lose your event/group the right to use the building for some period of time.

**FLCCH has adapted precautionary policies as follows:** Screening / Cleaning / Small Groups / Weddings / Funerals / Phasing Reopening Plan - This is a fluid process.

**In the event an individual entering the building does not pass screening the following protocol will be followed:**

- The individual will be recommended to obtain COVID testing.
- If the individual refuses testing, they will not be allowed into FLCCH facilities/events for 14 days and/or 7 days from last symptom (whichever is longer).
- Individual will be requested to inform the church office of results for contact tracing to occur.

**In the event of a positive COVID test result of a person who attended FLCCH event:**

- Report the case to church office ASAP.
- Individual confidentiality will be honored as much as possible.
- Leadership will conduct an initial inquiry of others exposed (in the building at the same time that spent more than 15 minutes, without mask, or within 6 feet of individual).
- Those that were in contact with individual will be asked to quarantine for 14 days.
- The church building (not the school) will be closed for 24 hours to ensure a thorough cleaning of infected areas occurs prior to staff or guest entrance. (School will follow their prodigal)
- If the infected person(s) have been a part of food ministry, and they had direct contact with others, our food distribution would be halted for 2 weeks. *See communication below.*

### Status Changes at FLCCH

- If more than one positive case is found – all small group events may temporarily be suspended for 14 days.

### Communication

- If more than one positive case is found – the FLCCH community will be alerted regarding the status changes and suspension of events for 14 days via email distribution, website, and phone message.
- The church and school will communicate with each other as these occur.
- If our food distribution programs have been exposed or impacted, our website and phone message will be updated with messaging: *“Due to a positive COVID19 case, our food distribution program will be suspended for 14 days to ensure the safety of all our volunteers & participants. We will resume on [date].”*

Staff have identified Top 5 areas that would require back up and this is compiled for coverage.



First Lutheran Church  
1555 40th Avenue NE / Columbia Heights, MN 55421-3195  
WEB: [flch.org](http://flch.org) / PH: 763-788-9653

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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: 763-788-9653

*Come, see what's happening at First this fall!*

