

Living Connected... TO GOD & EACH OTHER

October - November 2021



SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Word..... 1

Ministry News..... 2-7

Photos 8

Stewardship Insert:
*2022 Statement of
Intent Pledge Form*

Sunday Worship:
8:45 & 10 AM

YouTube & Facebook Live
(All Age Worship)

Pastoral Staff:
Bonnie Wilcox
Senior Pastor
Jill Bergman
Associate Pastor

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Editor: Joyce Weaver,
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Doing Hard Things...

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13**

"I see your fear, and it's big. I also see your courage, and it's bigger.
We can do hard things." Author Glennon Doyle in her book, *Untamed*

I grew up on a farm in a small community that had every type of German Lutheran immigrant you could imagine. Some loved sauerkraut, others hated it. Less than eight hundred people lived in my hometown and we had four churches--all Lutheran, and all begun by German immigrants to northeast Iowa.

There were a few non-German Americans around, but I didn't know any of the farmers of Irish descent. And I only knew one Swedish-American farmer, and he was an old Army friend of my dad's living up in Minnesota.

Like many rural kids, I grew up without any racial diversity in my community. I never had a Black friend or a Latino classmate. I never saw anyone in a hijab or who spoke Arabic.

Then in 1990, in my early 30s, I helped to lead a mission trip to Milwaukee to help build and refurbish homes through Habitat for Humanity in one neighborhood: north Milwaukee. This community was similar to my hometown, except for one thing: race. Nearly 100% of north Milwaukee was Black.

My hometown in rural Iowa had been settled by people who knew each other in eastern Germany. Immigrants who packed the belongings they could carry and intentionally chose to come to Iowa to be neighbors with their old friends.

I quickly learned Black families had a very different story of how they come to north Milwaukee. These Black families had packed their few belongings and came to Milwaukee

from the South after the Civil War and after Reconstruction. Black Americans moved north for the promise of better-paying jobs and to distance themselves from the racism and discrimination in the South. They also wanted a better education for their children.

How they ended up in one neighborhood in Milwaukee was not their choice. They left the segregation of the South, only to find a new segregation in the North. These Black families were told by bankers and city planners that they could **ONLY** move to this neighborhood. And inside north Milwaukee, banks conspired to keep Blacks as renters, and not as homeowners. Home ownership, you see, accumulates wealth. Renting does not. This scenario of redlining happened all across the U.S.

At the time I was struggling to understand how so much hatred and racism could exist in God's world, and even within God's Church! I began reading the German Lutheran pastor and Nazi resister, Dietrich Bonhoeffer that summer. Some of you may remember his story from the Fall Drama in 2019. Bonhoeffer was living in Germany where Jews were being put in segregated neighborhoods. His book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, challenged me to do hard things, especially these words:

"Grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man (or woman) the only true life."

Column continues page 2

Senior Pastor's column continues

I didn't know the whole history of north Milwaukee until I had spent a couple of summers there, trying to understand why home ownership was so difficult in the Black community. It was hard and painful work to learn the difficult history of this city. And the more I learned the more I realized that this was happening all over the country. You can watch the PBS documentary, "Jim Crow of the North," if you want to learn more about this history in Minnesota.

Reading Pastor Bonhoeffer, and the Bible's clear embrace of diversity reminds me that this is faith work. Understanding each other as children of the same God is faith work. And it has always been a hard thing to do. Otherwise, St. Paul wouldn't have needed to write:

**"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:28**

In the year since the murder of George Floyd, what is a hard thing you have learned to understand or live out in your life about racism? It has certainly challenged me, and I continue to become painfully aware of my privilege and of the injustice experienced by our Black neighbors.

→ **What is the hard thing you want to understand in yourself in relation to racism and poverty in the Twin Cities and Minnesota? What are you willing to invest to learn more?**

'White privilege doesn't mean your life hasn't been hard. It just means the color of your skin isn't one of the things that makes it harder.'
Wherever you stand, I don't see how you can argue with that." Jimmy Kimmel, late night talk show host.

On another page in this issue of The Caller, I've shared some statements that explain white privilege in daily life. I hope you will find them helpful. As you know, my daughter is not white and she understood these "rules" long before I realized them. My faith work continues, as does yours.

In Christ, Pastor Bonnie Wilcox

Upcoming Worship

"HOMECOMING" continues through Oct. 10!

- **Oct. 3:** A Homecoming Bonfire with outdoor worship at 10 AM! We'll have a pep band, a fire to warm your hands, hot chocolate and a Bible story about God appearing in a burning bush! [8:45 AM service meets in the Chapel.]
- **Oct. 10:** When the Return Disappoints. "Going back" is a beautiful act of nostalgia...until it's not. When a place, a ritual, or a community has changed and moved beyond your best memories and/or comfort, what do you do with the disappointment? When God's people complain, how does God respond?

All Saints Day of Remembrance & A New Member Welcome

Sunday, Nov. 7, 8:45 & 10 AM

[Remember to "fall back" one hour this morning!]

Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Pie

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 PM



LIVING CONNECTED
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Stewardship Drive: Well of Faith

Join us as we dip into our Well of Faith. Jesus said in John 7:38, *"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."* During the first three weeks of November we will explore the depths of our reliance on Jesus and our relationships with others. How do we bring living water into our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and world?

We will be invited to commit to sharing the life we have received spiritually, physically, and financially on Nov. 21 during worship. Together with the whole Body of Christ, we have the capacity to flood the entire world with living water.

Advent Podcast - Hearing the Book of John

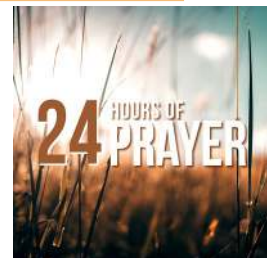
Advent is meant to be a time of reflection and preparing for the arrival of the Messiah. Let's make Advent 2021 an especially meaningful time as we add a daily reading from the book of John. The staff of FLC is working to record passages from John that will take us through the entire book during the four weeks of Advent. You are invited to listen daily and to pray for understanding. Starting on Nov. 28, you will find our podcast on our church website and Facebook pages.



Advent Virtual Prayer Vigil

Deliberately choosing to drink from Jesus' well of living water, we are planning a 24-hour virtual prayer vigil for Advent. Look for the opportunity to sign up to pray. We are seeking people to be in constant prayer for one 24-period, signing up for blocks of 30 minutes each. Yes, you may sign up for more than one block. Yes, we will need people all through the night.

We will provide the pray-er with prompts and prayer requests and ideas on how to fill the time. This is VIRTUAL which means, we pray where we are at, when our timeslot arrives. A signup form will be available in early November. For questions, contact Pastor Jill, jill@flcch.org



FIRST LUTHERAN'S MISSION NARRATIVE

At First Lutheran Church, we are called to connection with God, each other, and our neighbors in and beyond Columbia Heights. God connects with us through the reconciling act of Jesus Christ and the daily ministry of God's Spirit. We connect to God as a spiritual community through worship and prayer, study and the sacraments, and mutual support and service. This sacred connection calls us into relationship with our neighbors with whom God's love has knit us together.

We connect especially to the neighborhood and its youth who have been an essential part of our story from the very beginning when a rural ministry to immigrant children evolved into a long-standing and ever-present calling to love, nurture and mentor young people in our community.

As our neighborhood and world changes, we commit to adjust as well, making space for growth, healing, generosity and community-building. We will honor each other's diverse stories and continue living connected to God and to each other. We rely on God's Spirit to guide us.

UNDERSTANDING WHITE PRIVILEGE

This is a companion piece to Pastor Bonnie's column on page 1.

Journalist Ella Alexander wrote this article, "Understanding White Privilege: 20 Everyday Examples," in January 2021. I share seven of the points she made here to help understand privilege we may not be aware of in our daily lives:

1. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
3. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
4. Whether I use checks, credit cards or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.
5. I can swear, or dress in second-hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty, or the illiteracy of my race.
6. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
7. I can easily buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys, and children's magazines featuring people of my race.

To read the full article, visit: <https://bit.ly/3zhOZin>

"LIVING CONNECTED" IN THE COMMUNITY:

A. Support for Zion Baptist Church, north Minneapolis

The Memorial & Endowment Committee, Finance Board and Church Council approved a \$5,000 grant to Zion Baptist Church, whose boiler has been condemned. Along with several other Lutheran congregations, and sizable financing from the City of Minneapolis, we are helping to stabilize an important community of faith in north Minneapolis.



Pastors Bonnie & Brian from Zion Baptist Church

B. Bus Loan to Bilingual Learning Center (BLC), Mpls

When the Minneapolis Public Schools were not able to provide after-school services to take children to after-school programs for tutoring, we offered our older bus to help transport 30 children from school to Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church where BLC meets. We'll do this until the school district provides bus transportation again.



Helping kids stay safe & dry

C. Rapid Response Team for Columbia Heights

Nathan Roberts, Rachel James and Pastor Bonnie Wilcox are part of a task group in Columbia Heights put together by the mayor to talk about how the community can respond to a catastrophic event, whether an officer-involved shooting, a structural collapse, tornado, or other type of disaster that affects many people. The group is working in partnership with the Chief of Police and other community leaders to offer support in the form of community gathering spaces, pastoral care and emergency aid, etc.



Rapid Response Team with Mayor Amada Márquez Simula & Mayor Mike Elliott

A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY--- "KITCHEN" CONNECTIONS

Our new ovens have arrived! Thank you to Rock Hauser and his son, Sam, for getting them installed and ready to go! They were used for the first time for our Community Meal on Sept. 26 and will serve as a tremendous value to those we feed in our Community and in our Church! Thank you for making this long, overdue need an exciting reality.

*Ovens funded by the generosity & service of:
Men's Club: Kitchen / Lutefisk Dinner
WELCA / Memorial: Undesignated*



Halloween Spooktacular Oct. 28

All children and adults are welcome to come to First Lutheran in costume and trick or treat around the church. The evening concludes with a concert of spooky music!!

5:00-6:30 PM Trick or Treating for kids around the church grounds. **6:30-7:15 PM** Music concert with a costume contest, name that tune contest and PRIZES!



Augsburg Centennial Singers

Sunday, Nov. 14, 3 PM

Join our choir "in residence" here at FLC for a wonderful afternoon of music. The Augsburg Centennial Singers, directed by Paul Christensen, will present an afternoon of delightful tunes to get your toe tapping and your spirit singing. Join us as these men fill our Sanctuary with sound!

Mississippi Valley Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 5, 3 PM

Please join the Mississippi Valley Orchestra conducted by Ho-Yin Kwok and guest conductor Andrew Kim for a spectacular Christmas concert. A pre-concert talk will be in Martin Luther Hall at 2:15 PM. Come and hear some old favorites and delight in some new favorites as well!

Visit www.mississippivalleyorchestra.com for more info.

Chorus Polaris and the Bells

of the Lakes Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 PM

Chorus Polaris and the Bells of the Lakes present their holiday concert. Chorus Polaris is FLC's other choir "in residence" and is directed by William Mathis. Join us for a fun afternoon of singing and ringing to celebrate the season! For more details, visit:

www.choruspolaris.org



Bella Lumina Women's Ensemble

Sunday, Dec. 19, 3 PM

Bella Lumina Women's Ensemble directed by Michelle Gerhz presents a Winter Solstice Concert. Enjoy an afternoon of lovely singing to warm you up in the spirit of Winter!

Visit: www.bellaluminachoir.org for more info.

The National Lutheran Choir's 2021-2022 Season

includes in-person concerts, unique virtual programs, regular virtual content, and more. Check out the differences between Passes, Subscriptions & Single Tickets. Visit: NLCA.com

Fall Family Fun Day

All Sunday School/Confirmation

families are invited to join us on Sunday, Oct. 17 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

Kids Age 3 through Grade 5 are invited to join us each Sunday for online Sunday School at 11 AM. We will all meet together in the gym for a fun activity, then the kids will break out into classes for preschool, K-2nd and 3rd-5th grades.

Play-n-Worship Music Time

Sundays, 11:45 AM to Noon

Join us in the church Library for a music circle time just for preschoolers, toddlers, babies and parents! It's going to include egg shakers, rhythm sticks and songs about Jesus with movement for our littlest worshipers will lead the worship. Janet Zarich is an experienced Early Childhood Educator, who is currently the Music Director at a childcare center.

Confirmation Class

As youth enter middle school, we encourage them to take Confirmation classes to help make faith their own. In these interactive classes, 6th-8th graders will ask questions, learn about the Bible and talk about life together. We meet on Sundays at 11 AM in the Youth Room. **This fall, we will be doing an Interfaith Unit**, including visits to Hindu Temple and Orthodox Cathedral, and have guest speakers.

Congregation members are invited to join us for our guest speakers at 11 AM in the Chapel:

- ⇒ **Oct. 10** "Introduction to Islam" by John Emery and a youth from the Islamic Resource Center
- ⇒ **Oct. 17** "Judaism on One Foot" by a speaker from the Jewish Community Relations Council

Rite of Confirmation for Young People

Our confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, Oct. 31 during the 10 AM worship service. Join us as we celebrate these young people affirming their faith.

FLY Youth Group Each Wednesday, 6-8 PM

We want to walk with our young people in their faith development journey. Our 6th-12th grade youth gather for faith talks, connection and lots of fun! The lessons are enhanced with opportunities for Community building through games and team building activities, as well as prayer and discussions. Dinner is at 6 PM, the gym is open 7:30-8 PM.



**Sunday, Nov. 7
11 AM - Noon**

The FLC youth will be serving up their renowned potato feast for lunch! Stop by to enjoy a baked potato (with all the fixings) in support of their program fundraiser.



Join the Youth Gathering

Team! Info meeting is Sunday, Oct. 10, 12 PM in the Youth Room. Next summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering (July 24-28, 2022) will be held in Minneapolis for youth entering 8th-12th grades. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of inspiring faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Contact Rachel James for details.



Trick or Treat

Thursday, Oct. 29, 4:30 - 6:30 PM
FLC families and friends are invited to Halloween at First Lutheran Thursday Oct. 28. Dress up and come trick or treat around the church building, 5 - 6:30 PM. We'll then gather in the Sanctuary for a Spooktacular Concert, 6:30 - 7:15 PM. Masks required. If you'd like to hand out candies at a church door, contact Nathan Roberts, nathan@flcch.org to volunteer.



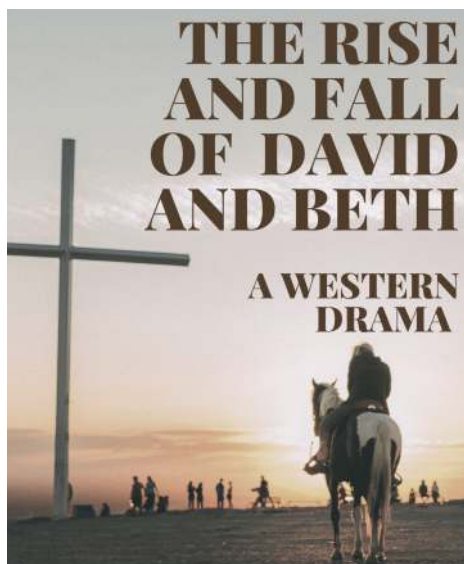
Fall After School

This program serves 20 - 30 youth from our neighborhood on Tues & Thurs evenings by providing mentoring, healthy dinners, crafts, and games. Thank you for your ongoing support to make this ministry possible! If you would like to volunteer, or for your children (5+) to participate, contact Nathan Roberts nathanr@flcch.org



Holiday Market: Nov. 13

There have been many inquiries wondering if FLC will have our annual Holiday Market this November. Cheryl, Dorothy and Lyn have met and here is what we can say. Our plan right now is to HAVE A HOLIDAY MARKET SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13! We will keep an eye on the numbers and send updates through the bulletin, email and social media with any changes. Will everything look like it has before? Some will be the same, while others may look different. We'll modify as needed to stay within CDC guidelines and to make sure our workers and visitors all feel safe. More info will be sent soon, but at this point we are planning to move forward. So... **START CRAFTING! START BAKING!** Nov. 13 will be here before you know it! We are excited to open up our church to the community and sell some amazing items created by YOU!



Fall Drama: A Western Retelling of King David and Bathsheba Nov. 18 & 19 at 6 PM

This fall we hope you dustin' off your best wranglers and cowboy hats and join us for a dramatic western! Please join us for an Appetizer Happy Hour at 6 PM and the performance at 7 - 8 PM. Masks required.

Angela Montero

has joined our staff as the CYF Associate for youth programming. She also is part of our After School staff. A bilingual transplant from Mexico, Angela is fluent in English and Spanish. She became involved at the church to be a larger part of the community. Angela spends time biking, baking and walking her puppy Pickle.



Faith Community Nurse

Recruiting continues for a new faith community nurse. Your prayers are appreciated as we look for a new licensed, registered nurse who practices holistic health for self, individuals and the community using nursing knowledge combined with spiritual care.

Thank you...

to all who made Jane Bugbee's retirement celebration special and memorable! Jane will continue as an active member of our community, continuing her ministry with our After School program, The Gathering, and other programs. Jane will take some time away from the community to help us let go of her as our parish nurse. But this time away, especially on Sundays, will make space for us to welcome a new faith community nurse.



Marigold Preschool (Room 108)

Marigold is a local start up preschool with a passion to serve children from our community. They hope to be opening up on Oct. 4, pending license approval. Director, Brenda Haak has been living out her passion with children for many years and we are so blessed to have her as a tenant. Please help them all to feel welcome.



Pastor Appreciation Day

is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October (Oct. 10, 2021). 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... Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and other expressions of support for me and Jon as I went through and continue to go through the healing process for my back surgery. It is a long process, but your continued support means a lot to me. *Marilyn Lueth*

Sunday Bible Study Returns!

The Bible study is being offered at 8:30 and 11:15 AM (same study at different times, in Katie Luther Cellar). Participants should feel free to bring in their coffee, morning cookie or snack. If attending the later study, participants can get their community lunch first and bring it in, or enjoy lunch afterwards at 12:15 PM.

This fall's study is from the book of Hebrews. This book, written to a group of Jewish Christians, focuses on the theme of Christ's superiority as High Priest and the perfect sacrifice for sins. It encourages believers to continue in their faith, to meet together faithfully, to beware of lapsing into sinfulness, and to cling to the truth of the gospel.

All are welcome to join any Sunday! Questions to Michelle Edwards, 763-300-8419, shell-lyn@hotmail.com

RAIN GARDEN/PARKING LOT UPDATE

Sunday, Oct. 24, 11:15 AM (in the Sanctuary)

This is an informational meeting to share what we have learned about how to reduce pollution in the water runoff from our property. With a \$10,000 planning grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), our church has been reviewing how much water flows from our roofs and parking lot into the sewer system and on to the Mississippi River.

We originally hoped to install a rain garden, and improve the appearance and function and flow of pedestrian traffic from our parking lot to the building, as well as resurface the parking lot.

There was a lot to learn about the landfill that sits under our parking lot, and consideration of the best way to address water mitigation on our property in light of that landfill. Your feedback is invited at this meeting.

Come and hear about the project proposal to be funded from our Living Connected Capital Appeal and our plans to apply for a Capital Project Grant from the MWMO for up to \$50,000 to help with the construction costs. This application is due on November 5.

SINGLES 55+

Singles, age 55+ gather to eat and socialize on Fridays at 5 PM. During the fall, they meet at First Lutheran. Emails are sent out weekly to invite interested Singles and advise you of any meeting changes. Please bring your own: supper, drink & a mask. Contact Faith White with any questions or to be included in the weekly email 612-799-4245, whitefa@comcast.net

DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS?

Impact Services / Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals on weekdays. Most deliveries run 1-1 ½ hours. Please consider taking an hour or two out of your week to help with First Lutheran's rotation with local churches. For questions or to volunteer, contact Anita Dillenburg, 763-755-7839. Or visit <https://impactservicesmn.org> click on VOLUNTEER and fill out form.

MISSION WORKSHOP

All those interested in helping to make quilts with Mission Workshop are welcomed to join in Katie Luther Cellar, 9 AM-Noon on Wednesdays! To confirm schedule, contact Lisa Tenhoff, 763-789-4101. If no answer, please leave a call-back message.

FIRST LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets Oct. 20 at 10 AM to discuss the book, *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Join them for fellowship & refreshments. Contact: Char, charzarich@gmail.com

YOUNG AT HEART

Join First Lutheran's 'Young at Heart' group for senior citizens for a delightful holiday event! Sign-up on their bulletin board or contact the church office.

- ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1 PM: Guthrie Theater 'A Christmas Carol'
- ♦ Tuesday, Dec. 14, 12 PM: Christmas Dinner

TOUR ROME & THE HOLY LAND

We are still planning to go!

With 20 people signed-up, we're excited to discover the beauty and splendor of our Christian roots in a tour of Rome and the Holy Land (Mar. 3-15, 2022). Once your \$500 deposit is received, Pastor Wayne Skaff will begin to send you highlights of places and people we'll see on our tour. What a joy it will be to embark on this spiritual, archeological, and Biblical pilgrimage together! **Final Payment is due Dec. 1, 2021.** Contact Pastor Jill with questions or to receive a brochure.

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCIALS:

First Lutheran's major checking and savings accounts and balances as of August 31, 2021 are represented below. For questions or more specific details, contact Julie Wilson, 763-788-9653 x104

| Account | Balance 8/31/21*** |
|--|--------------------|
| General Checking | \$ 34,400 |
| Debt Savings | \$ 28,067 |
| Mortgage & Maintenance (Building Fund) | \$ 18,493 |
| Special Projects | \$ 780,664 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 40,800 |
| Endowment Fund* | \$ 1,444,973 |
| Perpetual Reserve Fund | \$ 107,427 |

*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.

***Balances awaiting approval of Finance Board at the time of this report.

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:



- 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.

- **Stock Transfers to FLC**
- **Electronic Funds Transfer** See our website, flcch.org (upper right hand corner). Set up your donation frequency.
- **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. Choose weekly or monthly offerings. For more information, contact Julie Wilson 763-788-9653, julie@flcch.org

2022 Offering Envelopes

Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are scheduled to arrive at the church in late November. Look for opportunities to pick them up! Contact the church office to request that they be mailed.



Originally created as a launch party for GiveMN.org, Give to the Max Day has turned into Minnesota's *giving holiday*. It is a special 24-hour period to highlight the work and worth of nonprofits and schools all across Minnesota, and a day for generous Minnesotans to give back what they can to the causes and organizations that mean the most to them.

You can help us build a little excitement, start friendly competition and help our donor dollars go farther!

A few suggested ways to participate...

- Donate to the campaign (either on our GiveMN webpage or our FLCCH website)
- Share a link to donate with your friends and family
- Make a donation in honor or memory of someone important to you

Better yet, if you're adventurous and bold enough to start a fun & friendly competition....

- Would your Ministry Team or Board Committee consider a friendly *Team Challenge* or organizing a walk-a-thon? Or, are they willing to provide or raise matching funds?
 - ⇒ Set a financial or donor goal & make a brief personal video or statement of your passion for supporting the church's work in our community.
 - ⇒ Consider what fun, entertaining performance might you do if your challenge goal is met? (Take a whipped pie in the face from your child, spouse or neighbor? Demonstrate an uncommon dance or fitness move?)
 - ⇒ Share your video or story on your personal Facebook page, our Community site and/or send it to Joyce for our GiveMN webpage.
 - ⇒ Then, be prepared to video tape and repost your completion of the challenge!

Let us know! We're looking to have our GiveMN site active by late October. Give to the Max Day will be held from midnight - 11:59 PM on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

You can also make your donation on our FLCCH website under the GIVE button for a better processing fee. Make a note that it's in support of Give to the Max.

All donations made to GiveMN will be allocated to and appreciated by First Lutheran. Please Note: This supporting one-time gift should be considered above and beyond your current 2021 Commitment.

GIVEPLUS⁺ You can also support the church with this free mobile app!
A VANCO COMPANY



First Lutheran Church
1555 40th Avenue NE / Columbia Heights, MN 55421-3195
WEB: flcch.org / PH: 763-788-9653

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:45 & 10 AM

10 AM WORSHIP
ALSO AVAILABLE
ONLINE- LIVE
STREAMED VIA
YOUTUBE &
FACEBOOK LIVE

SUNDAY MEAL
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

CHURCH OFFICE
is open by appointment
due to COVID-19 crisis.

Please check our
website or call for any
updates: 763-788-9653

Fall-back time change:
Sunday, Nov. 7

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Come, visit us at First!





LIVING CONNECTED
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

WELL
of
Faith

COMMITMENT INVITATION FOR THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 2022.

Please fill out this statement of intent (front & back) and return to First Lutheran on Commitment Sunday, Nov. 21, or by the end of November.
To email, send to Julie Wilson, julie@flcch.org

*In gratitude for how generous God has been with me/us,
I/we offer these gifts with joy and thanksgiving:*

Please Print Name(s) _____

My 2022 Total Annual Pledge will be \$ _____

1. General Fund:

\$ _____ Per Week/Month/Year (circle one)

The General Fund pays the day-to-day expenses of ministry and mission, including building utilities and staff salaries.

2. Mortgage & Maintenance \ Building Fund:

\$ _____ Per Week/Month/Year (circle one)

To pay the monthly mortgage payment, along with building repairs.

3. Living Connected Capital Appeal (2020-2022)

\$ _____ Per Week/Month/Year (circle one)

Let us know if this is a new commitment, or an extension of a pledge made previously by checking the box: ☐ New Commitment ☐ Extension of Pledge

Automatic Giving:

☐ I am currently using **Simply Giving®** and would like to continue with this program. Please adjust my giving to reflect my 2022 Pledge amount. There is no change in my banking.

Provide your signature — no further info is needed. Signature _____

☐ I want to provide my gifts electronically through **Simply Giving®**. I have completed the secured, automatic giving form on the other side.

☐ Because I/We give electronically, please cancel the weekly giving envelopes sent to the home.

Legacy Planning:

☐ I/We have included First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights in my/our estate.

☐ I/We would like more information on how to leave a legacy gift to First Lutheran.

flcch.org

1555 40th Ave NE / Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Phone: 763.788.9653 / Email: info@flcch.org

Continued on the other side



LIVING CONNECTED

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Do you have any updates to share?

Cell phone number(s): _____

Email addresses: _____

Family Updates? New family members? Children who are living elsewhere? Winter or summer address change to keep on file? Emergency contact?

Do you want to receive these weekly or occasional email announcements?

Please include your email address: _____

- ☐ First Prayers (weekly prayer requests)
- ☐ Verse of the Week (devotional)
- ☐ The Caller (monthly newsletter)
- ☐ 1st FAM! (children, youth & family emails)
- ☐ Weekly Announcements / Notifications

Through Simply Giving®, your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the amount and frequency of your automatic gift. Your gift is deposited into First Lutheran's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

There is no cost to you for participating. **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** offers the program to further its mission of serving Lutheran congregations and institutions. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Wilson, julie@flcch.org

Print Full Name: _____

Check the appropriate box: ☐ New enrollment/authorization ☐ Change in authorized amount ☐ Change in bank account

***** ATTACH EITHER A VOIDED CHECK OR A SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP *****

Gifts/payments should be taken from the following account:

☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Routing Number _____

Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3

Account Number _____

Church Donation Amount

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$ _____ (minimum \$5)

Note: The total amount will be transferred based on the frequency selected.

REQUIRED:

I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Service, LLC to automatically withdraw contributions/tuition payments/donations from my account.

I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Account Holder Signature _____

Frequency of Funds Transfer (Please check only one):

- ☐ Weekly on Monday ☐ Weekly on Friday
- ☐ Monthly on the 1st ☐ Monthly on the 15th

Start Date: _____

Church Envelope Number: _____