

Living Connected... To GOD & EACH OTHER

June - July 2022

Photo by Gary Berg

SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

Written by Rev. Bonnie Wilcox

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(All Age Worship)

YouTube & Facebook Live

Sundays: 10 AM

Wednesdays:

5:30 PM Dinner

6 PM Worship/Activities

Pastoral Staff:

Bonnie Wilcox

Senior Pastor

Jill Bergman

Associate Pastor

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Editor: Joyce Weaver,
joycew@flcch.org

Three Things to Make Your Day Better

LAUGH

What creature do you find most laughable? The ostrich comes to mind. This is an imaginary conversation between God and the ostrich at creation:

God: you're the largest bird in the world.

Ostrich: really?

God: you can weigh up to 345 pounds.

Ostrich: wow!

God: and run up to 43 mph!

Ostrich: [nods] makes sense, gotta get a running start if I'm gonna fly good!

God: (looks away)

Ostrich: I mean that's just science :-)

~ Charles Peterson

Come on! What was God thinking? A bird that can't fly, that lays its eggs on the ground and walks away, forgetting that the egg might be crushed or trampled by another. Yet somehow, we seem to always have an ostrich in the universe. (Job 39: 13-18)

In a hurting world, laughter brings at least temporary relief to our hearts and minds.

GO OUTSIDE

In the Metro area, we will soon have two places where new bison herds are available for viewing in public spaces: The Belwin Conservancy in Afton has a Bison Prairie & Observation Platform as the herd returns in late May. Spring Lake Park (in Hastings) will introduce a herd in the fall of 2022!

Maybe you love the lakes of Minnesota for recreation and loon-watching. How about the free concerts available in many of our communities during the week? Maybe you've always wanted to learn about bird-watching or bee-keeping. And Wednesday night worship in the courtyard at First Lutheran is another place to spend beautiful evenings out of doors with friends and neighbors (5:30 meal, 6 PM worship), beginning June 15 (see pg. 2 info).

Looking at God's creation reminds us: God is God and we are not. (Job 38:28-30)

Whatever sparks your fancy, make a plan to do it outside this summer!

MOVE YOUR BODY

One of my yoga teachers, a woman in her 80s with arthritis, tells us every week: "Get down and up from the floor every day!"

Focus on what you can do. Stretch your limits. Walk farther, dance faster, jump once in a while. Gratitude is research-proven to change our mindset. Imagine what will happen when we are grateful AND we are active! (Job 40:1-5)

SUMMER WORSHIP

Pentecost Blessings

What is Pentecost? Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the “birthday of the church” and references the Holy Spirit descending on the people.



The Book of Acts describes the Pentecost as this: *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

So...on this day, the clergy wear red vestments to signify the work of the Spirit. It has been the tradition in many churches to wear red on the day of Pentecost as well to signify the fire of the Holy Spirit. Happy Pentecost! We look forward to seeing a sea of red on this festive day!

Pentecost Prayer Vigil Saturday, June 4, 9-11 AM

Board of Spiritual Growth is offering an in-person prayer vigil to anticipate Pentecost on the Saturday prior to Pentecost, 9-11 AM at FLC. It is open to all who are interested. The event will feature guided prayer, individual prayer time, and refreshments. It is a prayer open house, so stop by when you are available. If you are not able to attend in person, we invite you to pray with us wherever you are during these hours.

Pentecost Sunday June 5, 10 AM

We celebrate the birth of the Christian Church when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples and they could speak in many languages about Him with one outdoor service at 10 AM on the front walkway at church! Wear something **RED & festive** -- and for being outside! Live streaming will be available, too!

(Holy Communion, chairs & celebration streamers provided)

We will also recognize our graduating High School Seniors with prayer & a presentation of handmade quilts from Mission Workshop. **Remember, we will not serve a Community Meal on Sundays again until Sept. 11.



June 12 - Faces of Our Faith begins with the biblical story the Midwives, Puah and Shiphrah from the book of the Exodus.

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. This series digs deep into bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace.

As we journey with these characters, may they awaken us to the faces of our

Worship This Summer

Faces of Our Faith: Bold & Untold Stories

A Creative Worship Series For Lesser-Known Bible Stories That Have Shaped Our Faith

faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference. Through Labor Day, we'll talk about the lives of:

- * Puah & Shiphrah (Exodus 1)
- * The daughters of Zelophehad (Num. 27)
- * Queen Vashti (Esther 1)
- * Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (Dan 3)
- * Jonah (Jonah 4)
- * Deborah (Judges 4-5)
- * Mary Magdalene (Mark 16)
- * Joseph of Arimathea (Lk 23)
- * The thief on the cross (Luke 23)
- * Judas Iscariot (Mark 14)
- * Eutychus (Acts 20)
- * Lydia (Acts 16)
- * Philemon (Philemon 1)

During the week, we will have a journal to reflect on how your life may relate to these people in the Bible, or how they may challenge you to service and action.

Watch for a Bible study led by the pastors during the week, and Sundays when we'll offer healing prayers, as well as a couple of weeks when we'll hold a “Name with a Face” church event, similar to speed dating, where people sit across from one another: This will depend on COVID infections and the weather.

Family Worship

Wednesday nights, June 15 - July 13

We are doing an all-ages interactive experience for VBS this summer. Everyone is invited to join us for dinner in the church courtyard at 5:30 PM, followed by family worship with the Pastors at 6 PM on the courtyard patio!

We'll also have weekly special activities including games, science experiments, crafts, and conclude by 7:30 PM.

Council Updates:

FINDING A NEW TENANT: BULTUM ACADEMY

First Lutheran has found a new education tenant! Bultum Academy, a new Minnesota public charter school, will use much of our education space for a school opening the fall of 2022. We have a three-year agreement, with the option to renew beyond that time. Bultum Academy is founded by Oromo immigrants from Ethiopia, many of whom resettled in the U.S. following decades of civil unrest. (More on pg. 6).

The Church Council approved the terms of the lease, and it was signed on April 29, 2022.

Bultum Academy hopes to begin the school year with about 100 students, in Pre-K through 4th grade. The income to First Lutheran will be approximately \$170,000 for the first year, dependent on room use and enrollment.

Marigold Preschool will continue to use one classroom for the 2022-2023 school year.

For questions, contact Nathan Roberts, nathanr@flcch.org. He has been coordinating our charter school committee's work since February, with the additional support and leadership of Warren Watson, Chris Larson, Randy Bergman, David Hagen, and Pastor Bonnie Wilcox.

We are grateful to Christensen & Christensen Realtors, who helped us list the property for lease, and to Larry Bugbee, Derek Sabot, Paul Eddy and others who have done painstaking work to clean, repaint and repair all of the classrooms on our upper level.

PARKING LOT/RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

First Lutheran was named in March as a grant recipient for 2022-2022 in the amount of \$50,000 for this project, as we described it in our application:

Install a filtration basin to collect storm water from our facility and parking lot in order to reduce the pollutants that enter the storm sewer. In addition, we will remove old-growth plantings near our entrance and increase handicapped parking and safe pedestrian access to our main entrance. We will resurface our parking lot, which sits atop an old landfill on our property, improving the elevation to prevent some freeze-

thaw areas that have broken up part of the asphalt surface. The first lift of this portion of the project began in 2020.

The grant is from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) who oversees the urban watershed that drains directly into the Mississippi River. It is a joint-powers local government unit and one of approximately three dozen watershed organizations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This includes Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, St. Anthony Village and Saint Paul.

UPDATING OUR CONSTITUTION

The Church Council is committed to updating our Constitution for consideration and vote by our congregation at our next annual meeting in January 2023. Our last constitution was approved in 2010, and it is time to update with changes, both those required by the ELCA, and those we believe are needed for the effective mission of the church.

A POLICY TO ALLOW SERVICE OF ALCOHOL ON SITE

(previously in the February-March 2022 Caller issue)

The Council spent a good amount of time in 2021 considering whether or not to allow alcohol to be served on our premises. This review was prompted when the Synod asked to hold an outdoor reception on our grounds to include non-alcoholic and alcohol beverages.

The policy approved by the Council may be read here: [Alcohol Service Policy](#). It was approved in January, before 2022 members were elected, so that the work did not need to be reconsidered again.

Please note that our policy takes into consideration the requirements of the City of Columbia Heights, as well as responsible and hospitable service of drinks with food.

A ceremonial toast by members of the church at a meeting or other gathering does not require a license if everyone in attendance is a member of our congregation.

Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Senior Pastor
Warren Watson, Congregation President



Last Day Celebration May 22, 2022- Courtyard Blessing & Bouncy House / Nathan & Emily's Baby Shower



BIBLE STUDIES

The Sunday Bible Study, led by Michelle Edwards will continue its study on Revelation throughout the summer beginning June 5. Plan to join them at 8:30 or 11:15 AM either in-person in Room 101 or via Zoom! For details, contact Michelle, 763-300-8419, shell-lyn@hotmail.com

"Be Not Afraid" Bible Study

Is your heart moved by the stream of immigrants entering our communities? Are you discerning Jesus' call for you in this context? Join Randy Bergman for a three-part midweek Bible Study in August which will look for leadership from God's Word about this issue. Plan to join via Zoom on the following Wednesdays Aug. 17, 24, 31 at 7 PM. Contact Randy for the link: randyparkplace@gmail.com



TO MY FIRST LUTHERAN FRIENDS

I want to thank you so much for your prayers, cards & best wishes during the time that I was at Crestview, recovering from my accident. Thanks also for the phone calls. They were all appreciated!
Love in Christ, Cindy Parker

Staffing Updates

Position for Hire: Director of Operations & Finance

The Director of Operations & Finance oversees all business and financial functions of the church under the guidance of the Senior Pastor, Board of Finance & Congregation Council.

The incumbent will work collegially with pastors, program staff, support staff and members of the congregation to achieve the objectives of the church. We have a collaborative work environment that sees our facility as a resource for serving our mission.

In addition of participating in weekly staff meetings, including devotions and prayer, specific areas of responsibility include financial management, personnel management, facilities and risk management.

Financial Management: Implement and maintain appropriate budget and accounting systems, assuring the ministerial staff and others with budget responsibility are aware of expenditures and budget.

Facilities Management: Oversee the use and security of the church building, serve as primary point of contact for charter school tenant, and assist the Board of Finance in determining current and future building and equipment needs.

Personnel Management: Serves as the Human Resource Manager for the church. Oversee all aspects of personnel management and human resources in coordination with Senior Pastor and Personnel Committee.

This is a full-time position and requires on-site presence to manage our facility. Contact: Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, bonnie@flcch.org



Bookkeeping Assistant

Dave LaSota, a long-time member of the church, is helping part time at church with bookkeeping duties. Please contact Dave if you have questions about giving, bills that need to be paid, or other bookkeeping questions.

Office Assistants

We are grateful to Kathy Ballard and Marilyn Lueth, who are our current counters. They regularly document our offerings for record keeping purposes, and we're grateful that Marilyn is learning and managing our donor database.

Ministry News



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Lucas Bodell, James Bendix, Justin Kaplan, Carson Shull, Corin Barnhart, Lola Ehrenberg, Ethan Pederson
A blessing & handmade gift from Mission Workshop Ministry will be presented on June 5, 2022.

FIRST LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

Join the Book Club at 10 AM for fellowship, refreshments and a monthly book discussion! Contact: Char, charzarich@gmail.com

MISSION WORKSHOP

All those interested in helping to make quilts with Mission Workshop are welcome to join in Katie Luther Cellar, 9 AM-Noon on Wednesdays. To confirm schedule, contact Lisa at 763-789-4101. Feel free to leave a call-back message.

SINGLES 55+

Singles, age 55+ gather to eat and socialize on Fridays at 5 PM. During the summer months they will often meet at a local park or restaurant. Emails are sent out weekly to invite interested Singles and advise you of any meeting changes. Contact Faith with questions or to be included in the group's email. 612-799-4245, whitefa@comcast.net

MINISTRY NEWS / THANK YOU'S

New Church Photo Directory- *Faces of First!*

It's time to create a new photo directory for FLC!



This opportunity to update the many faces of First Lutheran, along with personal data for members, will begin in mid-June as we again, create and self-publish our member/photo directory.

Photo Options:

1. **Church Photo** – Members of the church will be available before and after worship on Sundays 9 AM-12 PM on June 26 & July 10, 17, 24 to take a photo of you and/or your family, FREE of charge! (Watch for confirmation or date changes in the Sunday bulletin & weekly email communications).

2. **Personal Photo** – Maybe you already have a great photo to offer, or love the one published in April of 2018---Let us know! Email a .jpg of an individual, couple or fun family photo to joycew@flcch.org (remember to include the full names of everyone in the photo in the body of your email).

If you prefer to use your picture from the 2018 directory, please assure that your contact info is current.

Data Updates:

During the same weeks our photographer is available, we will have a printout in the Commons of the current biographical information we have on file. Please take a few minutes while you are at church on Sundays to review and update contact information. In a changing technical world, we appreciate having current email and phone numbers. You may also identify which contact information to be included in the directory.

Printed Directories:

With enough participation and cooperation, we hope to be able to publish directories in late fall. Full-color photo directories will be available for the minimal cost of printing. (Since there is no one selling photos, we hope to recoup the cost of printing.)



Monarch Festival

Wednesday, August 17, 5 - 8 PM
Sullivan Park, 721 51st Ave NE, CH

The community is invited to celebrate the monarch butterfly. This will be a bilingual Spanish and English celebration with food trucks, games, traditional Mexican dance and music, an Encanto dance party, a monarch costume parade, and an opportunity to learn more about how we can help monarch butterflies. And, if dressing up for fun events suits you, come dressed as a butterfly or pollinator!

Families Celebrate Summer

This is colorful deck of 56 cards is full of faith-based activities, rituals, reflections, and other ideas for families to try at home and on the go!



Each card is color coded to show activity type: red for specific days, orange for at-home fun, yellow for ideas during travel, green for rituals to try, and blue for acts of service. Pick up your set at church this summer!

Help Wanted

The Board of Worship is looking for 4-6 people to help update and put into action our Emergency & Safety Manual developed in 2018. We would appreciate help from those with experience or knowledge in medical, fire, building maintenance, police, are familiar with our building or willing to be a part of this experience.

We hope to begin soon! Faith White & Jan Meyen have already met with the Police & Fire Chiefs in Columbia Heights who complimented FLC on our current manual and offered a few minor suggestions. Please contact Faith, 612-799-4245 or Jan, 763-571-8738.



Calling all Summer Music Volunteers!!

Are you interested in providing some special music for our worship services this summer? Do you play piano, cello, flute or other instruments?

We are looking for middle school, high school and adults who are willing to share their gifts of music this summer. Do you have a sacred, classical, gospel or contemporary Christian piece ready to play? Sorry, no secular pieces please. Thank you for your willingness to share your gifts at FLC!

Contact Jeffrey, jeffrey@flcch.org to schedule a time!

FLC Musicians

Thank you to the many musicians and instrumentalists that have brought glory to God through our worship services over the past school year!

A special thank you to members of the Sanctuary Choir & Campanile Handbell Ensemble that have given so much of their time to rehearsals and worship services. Your music truly has given glory to God!

Have a wonderful summer!

Jeffrey Patry, Dir. of Music Ministry

Sunday School Teachers

Thank you so much to our wonderful Sunday School teachers: Cole Young, John Miller, Corin Barnhart, Lola Ehrenberg, Roger Rogne, Chris Million, Janet Zarich, Lyndsey Barnhart, Aria Bergman, Anna Presseller and Angela Montero.

Thank you also to our fantastic Confirmation class teachers: Randy Bergman, Pastor Jill Bergman, Rachel James and Nathan Roberts. Each Sunday, they connected with kids, taught Bible lessons, played games, and prayed with the kids.

We are so grateful for their faithfulness and patience.

MINISTRY NEWS

Columbia Heights Community Market

The market will be returning to FLC on Thursdays, July 14 - Sept. 1 from 4-7 PM. They are seeking growers, artists, crafts, etc. to join them! Vendors can apply by contacting them at colheightsmarket@gmail.com



We are excited to welcome Bultum Academy's staff, students & families...



Guest Speaker Pastor Yadasa Daba sharing about the Oromo people at the Young at Heart Event, May 24, 2022

Principal's Welcome

*Arif Bakar, MA-ED,
Executive Director*

Bultum Academy is committed to providing a challenging and rigorous STEM based curriculum that helps each student progress at a developmentally appropriate rate and provides a safe environment for all students.

We also strive to ensure our children are engaged in an environment focused on high expectations reflecting academic, social and emotional development. Our teachers provide relevant, engaging content while building strong relationships with all students and families. Our partnership with our families and community is an integral part of the success of Bultum Academy.



Mission

To meet the academic and socio-emotional needs of our students by providing an enriching and focused learning environment in science, technology, engineering and math, and a positive school culture supported by family partnerships.

Vision

Bultum Academy is recognized as a unique and innovative school that engages, empowers, and meets the specific educational needs of a high risk and underserved population of students.

Community Garden

2022 ushers in the 9th year of the First Lutheran Church Community Garden. There have been many changes and improvements over the years and this year will be no different.



A \$3000 grant from Anoka County helped purchase new cedar lumber for raised bedframe replacement and much needed garden soil and mulch will help maintain fertility and weed control.

A new drainage system was also installed to eliminate erosion from water coming from the church roof. On Saturday, May 7, volunteers helped install the new materials purchased from the grant. 20 adults, youth and toddlers made quick work of a very large job!

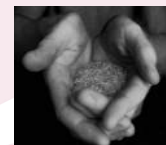


The garden has a great new partner with the Marigold preschool – many days you'll see the preschool children exploring and maintaining the garden. Sunday Farmers' Market events will resume in the Commons so we look forward to seeing you all there as produce becomes available!

If you have an interest in assisting with the garden in any way, please contact Dan Fishbeck 612-817-7837.

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 Worship 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) to set 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 the church office, 763-788-9653, info@flcch.org

GIVEPLUST You can also support the church with this free mobile app!
A YANCO COMPANY

Interesting & Fun Congregational Business Meeting Notes

Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting - April 14, 1959

64 members present

Pastors' Report

43 baptisms were conducted
8 wedding ceremonies were performed
6 funeral services were held
3 communion services held with 1833 guests participating

Lake Wapogasset

In order to make it financially possible to improve and develop the camp a request was made of \$0.50 per confirmed member per year or a total of \$682.

1962 Executive Board

Earl Bakken, Henrietta Anderson, Clint Schultz, Russ Lyons



1987 "The Witness"

*Fun Youth
Musicals!*



1997 "Welcome Back Billy Best"



1991 "Oh Jonah!"

1999 "The Rock Slinger"



Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting - October 14, 1975

Board of Parish Education

634 students enrolled in Sunday School -
119 at 8:30, 276 at 9:45 and 239 at 11:10
Confirmation has 75 students in grade 9; 55 in grade 8
VBS attendance was 178

Board of Deaconesses

Nine Deaconesses visit 65 people each month, 21 people every other month. Three visited 30-35 people at Bywood East

Director of Christian Education

Sept. 4 general teachers' meeting had 70 teachers
Rally Day on Sept. 7 included a picnic with 300 people
55 Bibles were presented to third graders

Treasurer's Report

We have \$3,381 in our checking account

A little humor from some earlier meeting minutes

July 1912:

Emilie Jerpbak was elected organist--and also for many succeeding years.

It was moved to pay the janitor \$5.00 a month from the first of November until the first of May. It was left up to the trustees to choose one.

Jan. 1913:

The congregation voted to have morning services in Norwegian and evening services in English. They approved the purchase of a "preacher's chair." Peder Lee was elected janitor.

Apr. 1919:

Mr. Twedt reported that we still owe \$3.50 on the mortgage and that this amount is now due.

Nov. 1922:

The question of pay for the janitor was discussed. Mr. Lee reported he would take it for \$5.00 with the understanding that he would not have to do any scrubbing. Motion made and passed to accept Mr. Lee's offer.

Jan. 1915:

Voted to give the organist \$10.00 a year as a token of appreciation for her work.

Dec. 1916:

The total income for the year was \$438.05. Disbursements were \$404.27.

Jun. 1917:

Voted to pay Rev. Kaale \$20.00 a month.

Dec. 1918:

A committee of 3 was elected to make a new constitution since they could not find the original constitution, and these 3 were unanimously elected: Miss Maren Jerpbak, Ole Rishovd and P.A. Lee.

May 1923:

Mr. Lee brought up the matter of grading the front of the church lawn. A motion was passed that the men of the church be compelled to help with this or send someone in their place. It was left with the Board of Trustees to compel the men to do the work.

Feb. 1925:

A motion was made to ask the Ladies' Aid for \$150.00 to pay church bills.



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

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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

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

Don't miss Worship, Music & Family Fun at First!

