

THE VOICE OF FIRST LUTHERAN

September 2020 Edition

September 15, 2020

First Lutheran Church, Pecatonica

From the Pastor's Desk

Late Summer—Early Fall Greetings to All!

Hard to fathom that it was during Lent that the COVID-19 Pandemic struck the world and in the meantime thousands of people have gotten sick and thousands have died, thousands are without work and the whole economy has ground almost to a halt. We find ourselves on a slow comeback with a long journey ahead for a good recovery.

In spite of it all, I keep my eyes focused on the Book of Matthew, Year A 2020 of our lectionary, where we are reminded of our call to discipleship.

It's in Matthew 28 where Jesus Commissions the disciples who have traveled to the end with him to "Go, and make disciples." He did not say "Go and recruit members." There is a difference. Disciples are people who follow their teacher wherever they are led. Members in our culture belong to an organization. Disciples make the way of their teacher the focus of their lives. Members take what they want from what the organizations offers. Discipleship is an often hard to keep commitment that leads to joy, transformation and blessed life. Membership is easier and lets us stay just as we are.

I think that now as we have reopened for in-house worship it serves us well to think of the important aspects of Discipleship. And, if we do take these dimensions seriously, our individual lives and our life as a congregation would be transformed more and more to the image of God.

Our lives together would, indeed, Make Christ Known and we would always be Putting Christ First!

Go and be disciples, that we may go and make disciples.

Blessings to you dear friends...keep well and stay safe!

Pastor Nord

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance	2
Church Council News	3
Welcome Back!	4
Service Projects!	5—6
Volunteer Opportunities	7
In Our Prayers	8
Birthdays and Anniversaries!	9
Website Make Over and Spread the News	10

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistant



We are happy to welcome Jennifer Camplain as First Lutheran's new Administrative Assistant.

Jennifer, who goes by Jen, has been a member of First Lutheran Church since 1991 and has a great understanding of how the church works and what

needs to be done to run smoothly.

As many of you know her, her full time job is with Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and she brings her experiences with technology and processes with her. We are blessed to have her with a flexible schedule in order to serve our congregation in this position. Her wealth of knowledge and skill has been a true blessing during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Though her schedule will be different than our open office hours, she is committed to getting the job done and serving our members and community to the best of First Lutheran's ability. She is in either in the morning or afternoon throughout the week. Fridays, she will be in from 8 am—2:45 pm while little Iris is at school. Make sure you say "Hi" when you see Jen.

We are truly happy to have her here at First Lutheran!

Inside this issue:

**Welcome Our
New Administra-
tive Assistance** 2

**Church Council
News** 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

**Volunteer
Opportunities** 7

In Our Prayers 8

**Birthdays and
Anniversaries!** 9

**Website Make
Over and Spread
the News** 10

Church Council News!

The Church Council is now meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

The re-opening of Sunday in-person Church Service has been very successful. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this happen. We have started with a small number of people returning to church; we know that we will only grow as you feel more comfortable returning. We hope to see everyone in church soon!

Church Council Members

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10

President-Dr. Bob Ebbesmeyer Jen Camplain—815-871-1329
815-541-2182 Judy Clark-815-742-2628

Vice President-Kent Peterson Sue Eckburg-815-239-2198
815-964-0952 Dorene Lagerstam-815-232-6753

Secretary-Janis DeWall Bob Morgensen-815-222-5285
815-703-1772 Craig Peterson-815-871-2085

Treasurer-Sallie Morgensen Roger Wacker-815-871-6131
815-222-2638 David Zumdahl-815-988-7959

Pastor Nord Swanstrom -
815-520-5026



Welcome Back to In-House Worship Service!

On August 16, 2020, First Lutheran Church started in-house worship service on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We are happy to have a successful re-open for almost a month. We are limited to 50 members in the sanctuary at this time; but encourage all those who feel comfortable returning to in-house worship to join us on Sunday mornings. When you are ready to return please review the First Lutheran Church Covid-19 Guidelines before returning to worship. You may find those guidelines on our



website: firstluthpec.org. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at firstluthpec@gmail.com.

Though we have started in-house worship services, we will continue to provide a weekly Holy Gospel and Sermon to those who choose to continue worshipping at home. We are researching other ways to bring worship to your home on Sundays. We hope to start Facebook Live during worship on Sundays in October. We will let everyone know before we do so.

If you have other weekly worship needs, please let the Church Office know so that we may continue to support your spiritual needs.

Inside this issue:

**Welcome Our
New Administra-
tive Assistance** 2

**Church Council
News** 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

**Volunteer
Opportunities** 7

In Our Prayers 8

**Birthdays and
Anniversaries!** 9

**Website Make
Over and Spread
the News** 10

Service Projects!

Collection of health and school items for WELCA and Lutheran Relief begin!



It's that time of year again for our drive to collect health and school items to send over seas. We will be collecting until the 1st week of October. The following items are what is needed:

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10

Health items:

- * light to medium weight, bath-size towel (approximately 52" X 27" or smaller), dark colored recommended
- * bath-size bar of soap (4-5 oz.) in original packaging
- * adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging
- * sturdy comb-remove packaging metal nail file or clippers w/ or w/o file attached (no cardboard emery boards please)



School items:

- * 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college – ruled paper approximately 8' X 10.5
- * blunt scissors (safety scissors embedded with steel blades work well)
- * 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- * pencil sharpener
- * new unsharpened #2 pencils with eraser
- * ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- * eraser approximately 2.5" long
- * boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- * sturdy cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with drawstring closure

Please drop off any items you would like to donate to the First Lutheran Church office. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Zumdahl at

Service Projects!- Continue

Pecatonica Community Food Pantry

Did you know the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry has moved? It is now located at 527 Main Street in Pecatonica. They have scheduled drive though distribution each month during the following days and times each month:

2nd Saturday 10:00 am—11:30 am

3rd Wednesday 3:00 pm-4:30 pm

4th Tuesday 10:00 am—11:30 am

First Lutheran is collecting food items for the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry. Please bring your donations to the church and we will arrange to have it delivered at the end of each month.

We will be focusing on **can vegetables** for the month of October.

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

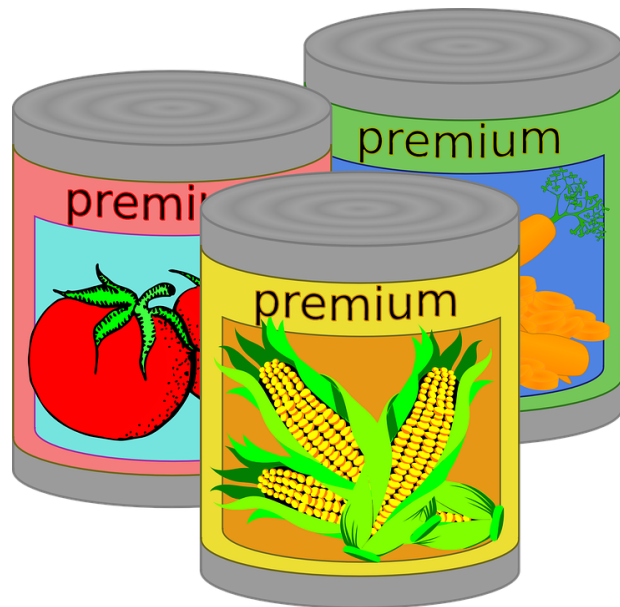
Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10



Volunteer Opportunities

First Lutheran has several volunteer opportunities available currently. If interested in any of these opportunities, please fill out the online form or contact the Church Office at firstluthpec@gmail.com

Worship Volunteers—We are currently gathering a list of volunteers who are interested in volunteering during in-person services.

- ⇒ Reader - Reads the Lessons of the Day during worship.
- ⇒ Usher—Works with Kent to usher our members to their seats safely and exits after service safely.
- ⇒ A/V Tech—Runs the A/V system during worship service.

If you are interested in any of the opportunities, please fill out this online form and choose dates for the upcoming month when you are available.

Social Media Committee— We are looking for 3 to 4 volunteers who are interested in helping Jen Camplain develop the following for the Church:

- ◇ Social Media Guidelines for First Lutheran's Facebook page and Website.
- ◇ Social Media schedule keep our members, potential members and community active and in the know of First Lutheran's activities.
- ◇ Develop a plan to grow our website and social media to invite and welcome new members or potential members to First Lutheran.

If interested please contact the Church Office by **September 25, 2020.**

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



In Our Prayers



Beverly Banks (friend of Kathy Dougherty)

Stacey Beyer (member)

Anne Dietz (sister in law of Susan and Joe Enzenbacher)

Martha Ebbesmeyer (member)

Betty Wacker (member)

Kathy Dougherty (member)

Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10

We continue to pray for those in care facilities or homebound

Margaret Stahl and Frank Johnson

And for those serving away from home

Addison Haas, Jake Jenkins, Jason Hoover & Jacob

Invite a Friend to Church!

If you know of a visitor or anyone else who would be interested in becoming a member of our family, please notify the office. We would love to help them become a member of the family of First Lutheran.



Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

September Birthdays

5 Frank Johnson
 8 Taylor Merrick
 10 Erik Durand, Samantha Worley
 11 Karla Dorgan
 12 Douglas Hoover, Randy Martin
 14 Allie Green
 15 Luke Zimmerman
 18 Kathy Dougherty, Eric Morgensen
 21 Sallie Morgensen
 22 Kent Peterson
 24 Amy Bukoski, Andera McGrew,
 Taylor McGrew
 30 Rose Jensen

September Anniversaries

18 David & Linda Book
 30 Mike & Terri Lundberg



Inside this issue:

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistance 2

Church Council News 3

Welcome Back! 4

Service Projects! 5—6

Volunteer Opportunities 7

In Our Prayers 8

Birthdays and Anniversaries! 9

Website Make Over and Spread the News 10



Friendship is a Tapestry

Friendship is a Tapestry
 Woven through the years,
 with treads of joy and
 laughter, happiness and tears.

It's a work of art
 so priceless, its shared
 by precious few, yet
 easily created by a loving
 friend like you.

First Lutheran Church, Pecatonica

P.O. Box 540
627 Taylor Street
Pecatonica, IL 61063

Phone: 815-239-2390
Email: firstluthpec@gmail.com
Website: firstluthpec.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranofPecatonica>

Website Makeover!

Have you seen our new homepage? Browse our website and check out some of our blogs on the homepage.

We are still updating each page of the website, so check it often.

Wonder what's coming up on First Lutheran's schedule? Check out the new interactive calendar and see what you could participate in. Have an event or meeting you want to add? Email the church office with all the information!

Spread the News!



Have a positive story or awesome news to share with the congregation?

Send an email with information, flyers, pictures...anything you want to share to firstluthpec@gmail.com. We will include it in our next newsletter, Facebook post, or blog on our website.

Let's show our community First Lutheran is here doing awesome things!

