

THE VOICE OF FIRST LUTHERAN

October 2020

October 1, 2020

First Lutheran Church, Pecatonica



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We are excited to be open this fall for in-house worship service on Sunday mornings at 9 am. With the start of fall, it is important to be with our spiritual family as we head into the holiday season.

Join us as you are able this fall for worship. As we had laid out in last month's edition of The Voice of First Lutheran, we are following every safety measure we can to keep all of our members and our community safe as we continue to be a key service for those around us. You will find a copy of our guidelines for returning to worship. We welcome everyone back to worship, including children.

Please remember masks are required to enter First Lutheran. We do have masks available with hand sanitizer in every pew. We can't wait to see our church family back on Sundays.

If you have any questions, please contact First Lutheran's office at firstluthpec@gmail.com or 815-239-2390.

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings dear siblings of Christ!

Living Our Baptism...

It was on Tuesday, September 22nd when I had the privilege of conducting a graveside service for long time First Lutheran member Mary Lagerstam. As a church family we express our sympathy to her four step-children and her extended family.

The after the graveside service, the family came back to First Lutheran so that we could baptize Mary's newest great grandchild, Eloise (Ellie) Doreen Evans. whose parents are Matt and Jaime Evans.

This day was unique in that we laid a person of faith to rest and then baptized a child, who we hope and pray will be nurtured in the faith for new life in Jesus Christ!

Baptism means living a life nurtured by the faith practices of discipleship.

Martin Luther taught that every morning we are to rise and say, "I am baptized into Christ" and then go about our daily life inspired, guided, and empowered by our baptism as we live a life made new by Christ. The Holy Spirit guides and inspired us to continue in the covenant of Holy Baptism".

Ellie was born just six weeks ago and on September 22nd was born to new life again. She, of course, cannot rise every morning to recite what Luther wants us to say. But, rest assured, that as Ellie grows and is nurtured in the faith, she too will be able to join with all the rest of us in saying "I am baptized into Christ"!

With all the distractions in the world today, may we never lose sight of the importance of our Baptism and the new life we have in Jesus Christ!

Be safe and guided by the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Nord

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Church Council News!

A small update from our Church Council:

During the month of September, we were able to replace shingles on the church, rental house and garage due to hail damage from earlier this summer.

Church Council will be meeting on October 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Church Council Members

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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



Letter From Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. — Ephesians 2:14

In response to the grand jury decision in Louisville, Ky., we offer a word of prayer and healing following the decision not to charge police officers for Breonna Taylor's death. As a nation, we are struggling with and divided by the decision. It has affected so many of us in so many ways. We grieve the brokenness of the criminal justice system. We are tired and weary of the violence. Has not God created all of us to have inherent dignity, value and worth?

Despite the anger, violence and injustice connected with this sad and horrible tragedy, we should not abandon our neighbors. Our baptismal covenant with God calls us to better relationship with one another than we are currently demonstrating. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ's presence in the world. The covenantal relationship we have with God in Christ leads us to our neighbors in a common cause to confront the reality of systemic racism in our country.

We come together at the cross. The proclamation of the gospel is the only nonnegotiable in the life of this church. Yet, we know the gospel can be divisive for us in our ministry for justice and peace. As we dwell in God's word, we pray God will give us the strength and the courage to act in service of the gospel's free course for the life of the world.

Because of the cross, we have peace; we have hope; we are loved. We join with you in prayer for the Taylor family, Officer Hankison and his family, the prosecutor and his family, the grand jurors and their families, the community of Louisville and all who work for justice and peace.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

William O. Gafkjen
Bishop
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA

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Service Projects!



Hope Charity would like to thank everyone who helped collect the items for health and school kits for the WELCA/Lutheran World Relief collection. First Lutheran was able to collect enough supplies for 21 health kits and 65 school kits. Way to go First Lutheran!

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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 through 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

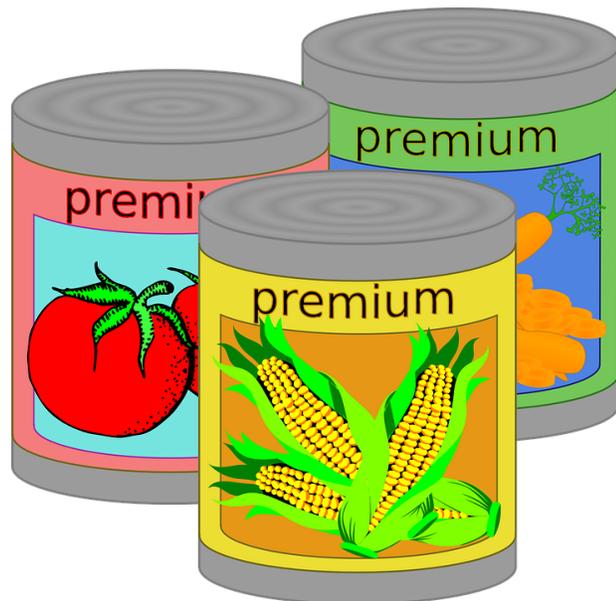
4th Tuesday 10:00 am—11:30 am

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.

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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

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.



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



In Our Prayers



Beverly Banks (friend of Kathy Dougherty)
Stacey Beyer (member)
Zach Camplain (member)
Kaden Degner (Pec HS Sophomore)
Aiden Doner (Pec MS 7th grader)
Kathy Dougherty (member)
Martha Ebbesmeyer (member)
Dee Hickman (Pec Elementary School Librarian)
Alan Olson (Former head custodian at Pec CUSD)
Audra (Carlson) Smith (member)

We continue to pray for those in care facilities or homebound

Margaret Stahl

And for those serving away from home

Addison Haas, Jake Jenkins, Jason Hoover & Jacob McGrew

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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

October Birthdays

1 Sarah Dougherty & Margaret Stahl
13 Connie Stein
15 Dolly Mathias & John Peterson
17 Shawn Pattison
21 Gerald Osowski

October Anniversaries

4 Joshua & Christy Merrick
6 David & Terri Buzzard
8 Doug & Stacey Beyer
19 Jim & Janis DeWall



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Member Information Update

We are working on our new member directory and would like to ensure we have everyone's information up to date. Please take time to fill out the form that is inserted; so that we have the most up to date contact information for you and your family!





First Lutheran Church,

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FirstLutheranofPecatonica](https://www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranofPecatonica)

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!

