



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PROCTOR

May 2021



Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!

One of the things I love about May is that all the stores set up greenhouses and get their plant shipments in. Bright blooms are a welcome sight after months of cold! I often have to remind myself not to rush to buy at the beginning of the month, knowing that planting too early will lead to the extra work of covering plants when the cold sneaks back in. It's hard to restrain impulse buying, but I know my efforts are better focused on preparing the garden and flower beds, and planning the harvest I want to attain.

It takes planning and preparation before I can bring my plants home, and tending and nurturing before my plants will produce a harvest. In our shared life as a congregation, that same ongoing dedication is necessary. A vital, life-giving community in which faith changes lives and affects the wider neighborhood doesn't simply happen spontaneously. It grows out of deep engagement, faithful worship, challenging teaching, cultivating welcome, learning how to be community, doing spiritual practices, and building relationship with neighbors.

It's important for us to have a vision of what we hope to grow in order to know what to plant. It would be ridiculous for me to expect my apple tree to give me oranges! After the disruption caused by COVID, what is the church we want to be for the future? Now is the time for us to be drawing plans, making preparations, and beginning test plots of practices that will form us into the church God calls us to be for the sake of the world.

In scripture we read, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," (Galatians 5:22-23). This is the relational harvest God intends for us to reap out of our engagement with our church. In order to enjoy that harvest, we have to be mindful of what we are sowing. Little seeds of love ripen into greater love. Small acts of generosity bloom into greater generosity. Gossip or hurtful speech won't grow gentleness or kindness, and frustration won't grow peace. God has spoken God's vision for how we ought to treat one another. The more we live in to that vision, the more we will produce the harvest God intends.

God has planted good seeds within us and within our congregation. God has sent the Holy Spirit to be the master gardener among us. We join God in tending to ourselves and our community so that we might enjoy the harvest.

God is with you!
-Pastor Liz Davis

Pastor Liz's drop-in hours: Mondays 9-11; Wednesdays 2:45-4:45
Email: pastorliz@oursaviorsduluth.org
Cell (Sun-Thurs workday, or emergencies): 218-461-0933

How to Join a Zoom Meeting

Using your computer/Smart Phone and Web Browser:

1. Open a web browser on your computer and type in the following address:

<https://join.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 218-624-4255

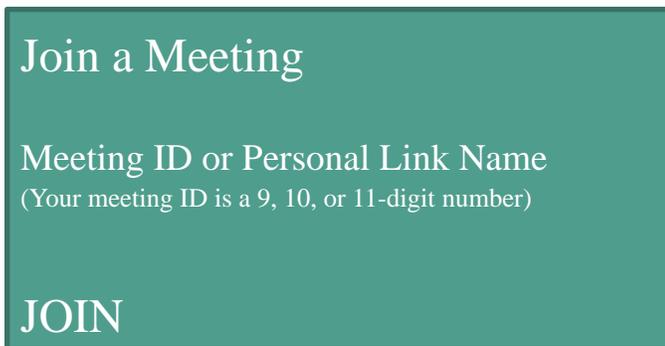
Password (same as ID): 218-624-4255

Using your landline or cellphone to call in (audio only):

1. Call 1-312-626-6799 (long distance charges may apply)

2. Enter Meeting ID number:
218-624-4255

Password (same as ID): 218-624-4255



2. If you have never used zoom, you will be prompted to run a small plugin. You may have to say OK.

3. Click Open Zoom Meeting or Open zoom.us to launch the meeting.

4. Depending on your browser, you may have to "open the link." Don't be concerned if you do not get this prompt.

5. You will then be prompted to connect your audio. Test your audio settings, then

IN OUR PRAYERS

Military folks serving our country;
Marge Thoreson, Amber Spillman;
Alice Sommer's sister, Margaret;
Sue Schwarz's mother, Clarice;
Gladys Haugen; Jan Bakke; Durrell Richard;
Betty Merling
Nancy Grote

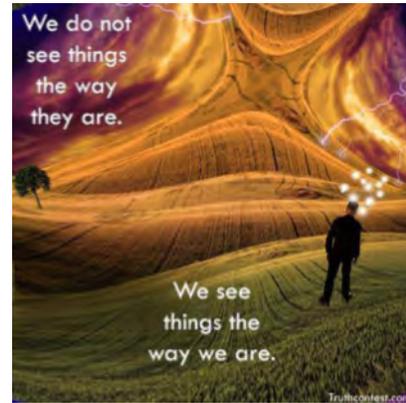
All prayer requests can be called to Alice Halvorson-Rohweder at 218-464-0201 or submitted online: proctorlutheran.org/prayer

All requests are important and we welcome any of your concerns.

May Birthdays



- 8th Kalie Sletten
- 11th Alice Rohweder
- 12th Tammy Segel-Crilly
- 14th Tate Sletten
- 18th Lisa Olson
- 22nd Jackson Peterson
- 23rd Chris Davis
- 25th Donna Crilly, Kaitlyn Crilly
- 27th Gwen Nelson
- 28th Larry Sommer
- 31st Tammie Kmecik



Does the church office have your email address? Is it up-to-date? It's important that we have your current email address, so that you can stay informed. If you aren't sure, please call or email the church office.

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Pick up the latest copy (April, May, June) of *Christ in Our Home*, just inside the back door of the church on a little table.

Stop by during office hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.



When can we reopen?

As our COVID-19 numbers in St. Louis County drop, the United Lutheran Smart Team and the Church Council are working on ways to reopen safely and responsibly. Watch this space!



WORSHIP

Worship Update:

May 2 worship will be by zoom at 11 a.m. In-person worship in the parking lot begins May 9 at 11am. Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers and readers. Please call Alice Sommer at 218-340-2834 if you can help.

You may sit in your car with the radio on to hear the service or you may sit in a lawn chair while wearing a mask. The worship leaders will be outside for you to see. This is a stepping stone with a lower level of risk that will move us toward returning to worshipping in the building. It will be a wonderful opportunity to be physically together while keeping the community safe.

What you need to know:

- Enter the church parking lot from 3rd Ave
- Follow the ushers' instructions on where to park
- Receive a bulletin and communion elements from the ushers; you may give your offering at this time
- Tune your car radio to the station listed on the bulletin
- You may bring a chair and sit in front of your car or on the lawn physically distanced
- Wear a mask at all times, unless you are in your car with the windows up
- To depart, follow the instructions of the ushers

The Smart team encourages you to enjoy the Drive-In Worship!



Property

Property Director Larry Sommer is looking for volunteers to help beautify the church grounds. Also looking for those interested in working the community garden this year. Please contact Larry at 952-232-7919 if interested or if you need more information.



Evangelism & Service

Minnesota March Food Campaign Results:

Thank you to the Proctor community for again supporting our local food shelf. \$5,598.73 and 1,126 pounds of food were donated during the campaign. A special thanks goes to Forbes United Methodist Church. They donated \$2,698.00 and 97 pounds of the total donations.

Linda Southerton, Chair

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Working in my garden, I was reflecting on Jesus' Mustard Seed parable from Matthew 13:31-33. "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds yet when full-grown is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."



The crowd listening to this parable knew very well that the mustard seed is an invasive weed. It is the last thing anyone wants in their garden. No one in their right mind would ever sow mustard seeds. Well, no one except God.

In parables, Jesus describes God's love. And like a sower who casts mustard seeds that are rejected by most, this parable reminds us that God's love encompasses all, reaching even those who are rejected ... those living on the fringes ... those who are broken. God's love reaches the divorced, the LGBTQIA+ person, the depressed, the homeless, the refugee, the jobless, the addicted.

Our personal weeds grow together with our wheat. But no matter how many mustard seeds we have, God's love reaches each of us and fills us with forgiveness. And the best news is, God loves us all, no strings attached. All we can do is open this incredible gift of God, and then reach out to others with this same love. :)

Please have any newsletter submissions to me no later than the 20th of the month. If you have any questions or ideas on how to make the newsletter better, feel free to call or email.

Peace, Cheryl Fleckenstein

cell 608-495-3147

email fleckensteincheryl@yahoo.com



Summer Staff Needed!

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry is excited to welcome campers back to Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion this summer...but we still need staff to make this a great summer! VLM is hiring for a variety of positions, from cabin counselor to leadership staff, from health care to kitchen

assistants, canoe guides to lifeguards. Weekly salaries start at \$330/week, plus room and board for the entire summer! We also have hourly, non-residential options for High School students ages 16 and over.

Get more details at <https://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-employment>.

Work Days

Camp Hiawatha - May 1, 2021

Camp Vermilion - May 15, 2021

Join other camp supporters for a day of fun and fellowship while we get camps ready for the summer. Registration begins at 8:00, and the day includes morning snacks and lunch, as well as the satisfaction of a job well done!

Visit www.VLMcamps.org/work-days for more information and for site specific projects.

Individuals, families, and youth groups are welcome to join us the Friday night before Work Day. We will gather for a light supper at 6:30 followed by campfire. Housing is limited, so be sure to contact us if you are interested in this option.

Mother's Day Brunch

May 9, 2021 - 10am-1pm

Camp Vermilion

Enjoy a wonderful northwoods brunch experience on Mother's Day! Our menu will include a variety of fresh baked goods, breakfast meats, egg dishes, fresh fruit, and beverages. (Special dietary options are available with advanced notice.)

Table reservations are required. **Cost:** \$15 per adult, \$7 for youth ages 4-11 (under 4 are free).

Reserve your table here: www.VLMcamps.org/mothers-day

VLM CONGREGATIONAL BASKET CHALLENGE!

We ask that the basket value be a minimum of \$50.00. Please complete the Basket Challenge form and sending with your 2-4 pictures by July 20 to VLM@VLMcamps.org.

Every congregation that participates will be entered for a chance to win one full week of camp for a camper of your choice for the summer of 2022.

There are endless possibilities for a theme, but here are a few suggestions to get you started: Eco Friendly Back to School, Made in Minnesota, Fishing, Spa, Get Hygge With It, Family Night, Books, Beer/Wine, Baking Fun, Camping/Picnic, Sport, Scrapbooking, Gardening, Pet, Date Night, Movie Night, Car Emergency, Pizza/Italian, and Back to School.

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 14th, 2021 via Zoom

Meeting was called to order by President Dan Sarala at 11:05 a.m.

Present: Dan Saarela, Paul Hauschild, Kris Thoreson, Gordy Westendorf, Alice Halvorson-Rohweder, Janice Anderson, Larry Sommer, Pastor Judy Anderson-Bauer

Devotions: Pastor Judy led devotions: Romans 12 "Let love be genuine".

Approval of Minutes: Following a motion by Alice and a second by Pastor Judi, meeting minutes of the February 14th, 2021 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: Audrey Berglund from the finance committee joined the call to go over the Jan. and Feb. reports. Paul asked if most people take advantage of online giving. Audrey verified that is true. Kris made a motion the accept both the Jan. and Feb reports, a second by Paul. All approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Judy is happy to report she is fully vaccinated. She also sent her final report. It is worded as if given to the Bishop. Pastor also mentioned 2 possible constitutional changes. She also wanted to make note that shifting positions within council is not in the constitution.

President's Report: Dan read the "Church Leadership Dictums" as suggested by Pastor Judi. He also highly recommends we read them.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music:

Christian Education: Gordy got an email from Pastor Liz on YLO camp (no cost) at Camp Hiawatha. Got names of some possible folks to go. He also got an email about summer camp at Voyagers. Possibly partner with Our Savior's. They are 99%

certain that there will be no day camps this summer.

Fellowship: There is an abundance of prayer shawls. If you know anyone in need let Alice know.

Evangelism and Service to Others: The food drive will through April 9th. There will be no contest this year due to the pandemic. There will also be a food giveaway at the on March 16th at the Sports Center on Kirkus Dr. It has been posted on the Church Facebook page to advertise as it is open to all.

Property: The fridge is fixed and cleaned.

Staff Reports: There were some phone problems- The computer had to be reset. Janis was able to help and get things fixed.

Unfinished Business:

- Cheryl Fleckenstein will be taking over the Newsletter starting in March!
- The Active Membership list was sent out. Please look and see if it is accurate.

New Business:

- Holy Week services – Times:
 - Maundy Thurs. April 1st 6:30 p.m.
 - Good Friday April 2nd 6:30 p.m.
- Committee job descriptions are completed. Alice made motion to accept both Property and Evangelism job descriptions. Paul seconded the motion. All agreed. The Finance Committee job description is also complete.
- A motion was made by Janis Contingent on Pastor Liz signing the contract, Pastor Judi's last day will be April 14th and Pastor Liz will start April 15th. There was a second by Paul. All agreed.
- The Smart Team is starting to meet again. Would like to get Pastor Liz involved. Would like to purchase an FM transmitter and pre-packaged communion. Larry made motion

to order the per-packed communion. Janis seconded. Alice made a motion to order the FM transmitter and Janis seconded. All approved both.

- There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, March 28th after the church service to do the vote on Pastor Liz's contract. Paul made a motion to accept. Janis seconded.
- Alice Sommer will need to be replaced on Worship & Music. Alice said she will Talk to Jim K. to see if he might possibly be interested.
- Previously the finance committed did negotiations for the Pastor, the final say is up to the Council.

Announcements:

- Next Council meeting: Sunday, April 11th via zoom
- Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kris Thoreson, secretary

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 11 a.m. zoom worship	3 7:30 p.m. zoom Finance Cmtee mtg	4 7 p.m. Proctor AA mtg	5 6:30- 8 p.m. confirmation @ church	6	7 10 a.m. quilting @ church	8 9:30 a.m. zoom Book Club
9 11 a.m. parking lot worship	10	11 7 p.m. Proctor AA mtg	12 6:30- 8 p.m. confirmation @ church	13	14 10 a.m. quilting @ church	15
16 11 a.m. parking lot worship; noon Council mtg,	17 7:30 p.m. zoom Finance Cmtee mtg	18 7 p.m. Proctor AA mtg	19 6:30- 8 p.m. confirmation @ church	20	21 10 a.m. quilting @ church	22
23 11 a.m. parking lot worship	24	25 7 p.m. Proctor AA mtg	26 no confirmation	27	28 10 a.m. quilting @ church	29
30 11 a.m. parking lot worship	31 7:30 p.m. zoom Finance Cmtee mtg	1	2	3	4	5

**The Church's Zoom Account Meeting ID and password are both the church phone number:
218-624-4255**

The direct link to Zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/218-6244255>

Zoom Small Group Meetings: Please call Mary at the church office, 218-624-4255, Monday-Thursday mornings, to schedule a Zoom meeting for your group. She needs to place you on the calendar to make sure no one else has scheduled that time. Please don't assume you can meet if you haven't checked with her!

We welcome EVERYONE!

United Lutheran Church of Proctor
701 Third Avenue
Proctor, MN 55810

Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work: Our hands.

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WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

On May 2, worship will be held by zoom at 11 a.m. Beginning May 9, and until the end of summer, worship services will be held at 11 a.m. in person in the church parking lot. Please wear masks covering both nose and mouth, when around other people, and maintain 6 feet physical distancing.

Within this newsletter are various events hosted by United during the month. You are invited to all. We look forward to seeing you.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PROCTOR

www.proctorlutheran.org

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