



United Lutheran Church of Proctor

Thoughts from Pastor Liz

August 2022

Grace and peace to you, siblings in Christ!

My spouse and I will celebrate our wedding anniversary at the end of this month. In that ceremony, we joined two very different families together as we created our own family. I'm sure these two groups of people would never have reason to come together if it weren't for us. We came together in a big way on our wedding day, and smaller groups of us have gathered at other times as well.

Weddings are fraught with expectations around the way things are "supposed to happen." It's one of those times when people assume that the way they envision gathering is a universal expectation. Those expectations caused a lot of stress! I remember my mother adding in hors d'oeuvres at the last minute because she thought we had to have them and some of our guests left after dinner because we hadn't explicitly stated on the invitations that there would be dancing. Our assumed expectations made the preparing to gather and the gathering itself stressful and not as smooth as it might have been.

Celebrating holidays with my in-laws those first few years were a bit of a cultural experience. Both of our families celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the way in which we gather, the expectations around who brings what, how we prepare to eat, what order people are served, where people sit, and how we interact while eating are all different. Knowing there were so many unspoken expectations made me really nervous.

One of the learnings through loss during the pandemic has been the importance of community and connection. We also may have learned how insular our social group is and discovered that we need relationships with people whose life experiences are different from our own. We've reached the point in our society when we can't imagine why someone would think or act or vote differently from us: our lack of imagination is a symptom of our lack of relationship. As we work to gather with others, we may need to gain some new skills as hosts and curators of gatherings.

This month, you're encouraged to read, listen, or watch Priya Parker explore the topic of gathering. She speaks about how we gather, and offers insights to help us become more gracious hosts. There are things we can do to welcome people in, orient them to our gathering, and put people at ease. We can be strategic in our methods in order to build more meaningful connections. You're invited to read her book *The Art of Gathering*, listen to an "On Being" podcast episode on which she was a guest, and even search out and watch a video of her speaking.

We are in a period in which more people are less familiar with church. One of the benefits of online worship is that people can safely check out our worship without the stress of entering something unknown. When newcomers do come to be physically present, it's important to be aware of how we are orienting people to the gathering. Why are we here? How will we interact? On what basis are we welcomed? Parker's insights can help us know how to be better hosts to a new generation of people seeking community and Christ.

Ultimately, it is Jesus who brings us together. Jesus gathers distinct and unique groups of people to form one community in him. Even though Jesus has already created community in diversity, the church has struggled from its very beginning to live as the community Jesus created. The disciples weren't sure about Jesus welcoming people who lived on the margins of society. The early church struggled to welcome those who weren't Jewish. Even today, we think that we're the hosts, making decisions about who is welcome and how people have to be in order to belong. The truth is, Jesus is our host. Jesus has set the welcoming table. Jesus has made sure every person has a seat, accepted just as they are today. Our job is simply to make sure everyone knows they are welcome, honored, and needed, and help them know how to join in as we share God's welcome with the world.

God is with you!

Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz drop in hours:

Monday 9-11 Wed 2:00- 4:00

Email:

pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org

Cell (Sun-Thurs workday, or emergencies): 218-461-0933

August birthdays



4. Ethel Fairbanks (92)
Shelby (Lonne) Rogentine
6. Betty Merling
7. Samantha Warneke
8. Greg Pasek
Joe Omundson
- 14 Reg Southerton
15. Audrey Johanson
16. Karen Frey
Mike Maeckelbergh
Bonnie Kurki
20. Jim Merling
22. Aaro Klicker
24. Karen Robinson

In Our Prayers

Betty and Dick Rowe,
Durrell Richard,
DJ Richard,
Natalie Sullivan;
Wayne Halverson;
Alice Halvorson-Rohweder
Bill Bergland
Jan Bakke
Joan McCall
Travis Madison
Shanna Saarala
Ashley
Myra Schultz
Wayne Fechner
Cheryl Erickson's friend Nicki
& her son
Reverend Alan Kitto
Family and friends of Bill Sweeney,
Shannon Jorgenson's dad
Military serving our country



Worship

11 am Sunday mornings
August 7th, 21st, & 28th

August 14th at Sampo Beach.

We're off to the lake for church.

Worship at 11am

Potluck lunch following.



United is inviting our friends at Our Savior's for this fun event. Bring a chair for worship on the lawn, a dish to share (punch and water provided), and lawn games or swimsuits if desired. There are no lifeguards, but swimming is an option.

Follow GoogleMaps to Sampo Beach Finnish American Club, Saginaw, MN 55779. Maps are available at church.

Bible Studies

There will not be Wednesday afternoon Bible study in August.

As we plan for the fall, please let Pr. Liz know your preference for our twice-monthly study. We can continue to look at the upcoming Sunday's texts, or try something different. There's an interesting series with different topics each week presented by an expert via DVD. The series is called "Living the Questions." We'd discuss such lessons as "Taking the Bible Seriously," "Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love," "Debunking the Rapture," and "Prayer: Intimacy with God." If there is interest from those working daytimes, "Living the Questions" could also be offered in the evening.

Sunday School

We're looking for volunteers who love Jesus and love kids to help with Sunday School. We have an excellent curriculum that makes teaching easy. The script and project ideas are all provided. We need awesome adults and older youth to raise up our children in the faith. Please let Gordy or Pr. Liz know if you're curious. The more people we have willing to help, the less often you'd need to commit to teaching!

Christ in Our Home



Daily Devotional

August & September

Pick up the latest copy just inside the back door of the church on little table. Stop by during

Mary's office hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:30 -11:30

The Art of Gathering

Ever wonder how to make get-togethers more meaningful? Are you feeling the lack of connection in our society? Priya Parker offers insights and practical advice for restoring community. We'll discuss the book *The Art of Gathering* and *On Being* podcast episode "Remaking Gathering: Entering the Mess, Crossing the Thresholds," hosted by Krista Tippett. <https://onbeing.org/programs/priya-parker-remaking-gathering-entering-the-mess-crossing-the-thresholds/> You're welcome to read/listen to both or just one (we know not everyone has time to read a book!). This is a great opportunity to invite folks who aren't connected to a church as the book itself is secular. We'll note a few connections to Christianity and opportunities for us as a congregation to learn from her insights.

Letter from the editor: Please send all submission to Marty no later than the 20th of the month to martjj@aol.com. You can also reach me at 218-213-1060 Cell & 218-624-4322 Landline.

United Church Choir Start Up



Great News for Singers, Music Lovers, Praisers/Worshippers, Men, Women and Children (and Noise-Makers).

The United Church Choir will be starting rehearsals in September, 2022. We will initially meet on Sunday, August 28, 2022 right after the worship service (about noon). I'll pass out a few pieces of music and a CD to coincide with the songs.

We'll discuss practice times and share visions/thoughts for the music ministry at United. Let me reassure those who may think your voice is not "good enough". God created your very voice, and He is well pleased with it! Together we will learn some things about music, about the liturgy, about what the Bible has to say about music and about hymn and song history.

Come and join us---it'll be Great!

Looking forward to getting the Choir back together,
Blessings, Peace and Joy to All....Denny Palm, Choir Director

Hoghead Aug 20th

Would you like to help make United known and walk in the parade? Please contact Pr. Liz asap if you're willing to help make a float or decorated car/ bikes a possibility! Would you like to raise some funds for United or for the youth group? There's a possibility to ask for donations for parking in the church lot and/or to have a bake sale! Let Pr. Liz know if you're interested in helping out!



Note from United Quilters :

As of this time we will not be accepting fabric. Our space is very limited & the shelves are quite full.

If someone does have Nice quilting Cotton to give away, please talk to the quilters before dropping it off.

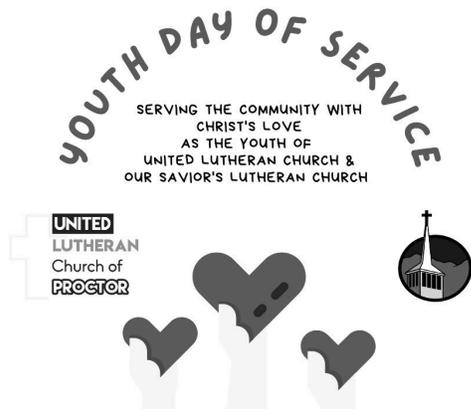
Thank You.

Karen Nolin has several , maybe a dozen, small 1 cup jam or jelly jars to give away, let her know if interested.

Angeline "Angie" Aleda Swenson (Audrey Berglund's mother) passed away June 22, 2022 at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Cloquet.

Angie was born July 12, 1923 in Holt, MN. A funeral service was held on June 30th at Sunrise Funeral Home in Duluth.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family



Monday, July 18th, our youth had a great day of service and fun! They learned about God's love and our call to share that love. "God first loved us, and so we love others" 1 John 4. They prepared to practice hospitality. They showed love today in our care for neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity by packing up carrots with Second Harvest! They had a bit of plan change but still enjoyed some fun rounds of Bingo! They ended the hot afternoon with cool treats and water relay. Thanks for the awesome work and great day!

Day Camp News

It was an awesome week for Day Camp/ VBS joining together with the Duluth area United Methodist Churches. We had a great time learning about God and making new friends. Pastor Liz joined the kids to teach the lesson one morning and join the fun throughout the week in the afternoon.



Laila, Lydia, Tristan, and Grace, thank United for sending them to day camp!



August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Youth	at	Camp	Vermillion	Week	
	6 pm Finance Committee Zoom	7 pm Proctor AA				
7	8	9	10	11	12	
11am Worship Church Council mtg after Worship	Pastor Liz	at	ELCA	Churchwide	Assembly	
		7 pm Proctor AA mtg				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11 am Worship at Sampo Beach		7 pm Proctor AA mtg	6pm Art of Gathering discussion at Duluth Cider			Hoghead parade
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11am Worship		7 pm Proctor AA mtg				
28	29	30	31			
11am Worship Choir Start Up after worship.	6 pm Finance Committee Zoom	7 pm Proctor AA mtg				

The Church's zoom meeting ID and Password are both the church phone number: 218-624-4255. The link to zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/218-624-4255>.

Please call Mary at the church office Monday-Thursday mornings 8:30-11:30am to schedule a zoom meeting for your group.

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
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AT
11 AM

COVID SAFETY:

Masks will be optional in all church
spaces.

If you feel sick, Please Stay Home
or wear a mask.

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**

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