



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PROCTOR

November 2021

Thoughts from Pastor Liz



Dear People of God,

We begin November with All Saints' Day. For Lutherans, saints are all of God's people. We are baptized into Christ and given his righteousness as a gift. There's nothing holier than thou about us saints, we're just ordinary people loved with the extraordinary love of God. While there might be some people who have lived into their faith in ways that encourage and inspire us, we don't believe that there are people who because of what they've done are somehow more special or more close to God than others. On all Saints'

Day, we celebrate that it's through God's work that we are made welcome in God's love.

In today's world, it's hard to be a hero. We're quick to call out people's mistakes and their sin. Maybe in the past, we overlooked the bad choices of our heroes, or we simply didn't know the complexity of the people we honored. As Lutherans, we are ok with complexity. We know things aren't so easy as to call one person good and another bad. We can honor some things about what a person has done while also naming the ways they have been harmful to others and need to change.

Lutherans say that all people are saints and sinners at the same time. We are justified (made right) in our relationship with God because Jesus in his love and mercy has made us so, and God has declared us so. We are stuck in sin because we continue to choose the ways of life that are selfish, hurtful, and draw us away from God and loving the world and all living beings as God loves.

Sometimes people talk to me about feeling like they can't pray or go to church or expect anything from God because they've done things they know are wrong. Or maybe they think they've crossed the line with something they've said. This comes from an image of God that is more like how we live than how God is. They're believing that God has a line we can't cross- or else. As if God has decided what is too bad for us to do, if we do that thing, forgiveness is off the table.

Remember that Jesus died on the cross, and even as people were killing him, he said, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34a). We have the ability to be horrible things, and yet God still has the power to forgive us. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God has made the choice to be faithful to us, no matter how faithful we are. "(Nothing)...can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39b). In love, God reaches out to us and claims us as God's own beloved ones even and especially when we are turned away from God.

On All Saints' Day we celebrate all the baptized, especially those who have been baptized in the past year, and we remember all who have died, especially those who have died in the past year. We think of all these people we love in order to remember how much God loves them and us. In God, we are all united and loved. God is not bound by time, so even those who have died are united with us through Jesus. We all wait for the day of resurrection, when all that is sinful about us will be washed away and we will be healed, whole, and forgiven in the love and life of Christ. Then we will be fully and completely God's saints, sinners no longer. Until then, we continually live by the grace of God, relying on God's mercy and faithfulness, rejoicing that God loves us, no matter what.

God is with you!
-Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's drop-in hours: Mondays 9-11; Wednesdays 2:45-4:45

Email: pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org

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



Book Club

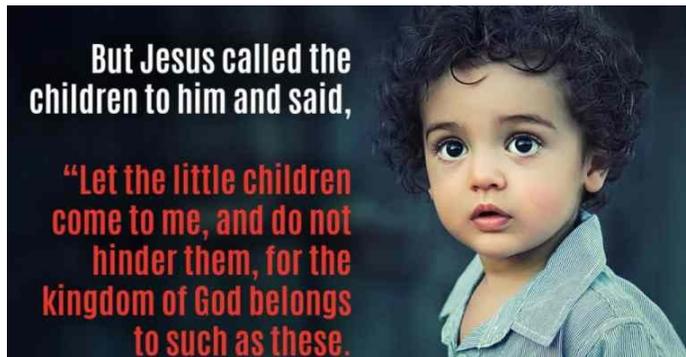
The book club meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. Books are chosen from the Duluth Library's "Book In A Bag" collection. Topics vary from historical, biography, mystery, etc. Members comment that some of these are books they wouldn't have selected to read except for the book club, but they do enjoy. Membership is limited to 10 (that's how many books are in the bag) but we could share and add more members. No pressure, just interesting conversation. Join us!!
Karen Nolin



Evangelism/Outreach RESULTS FROM MEATBALL SUB SALE

The curbside meatball sub lunch on September 19th was a great success. Nine volunteers made sure everyone was taken care of. Approximately 85 lunches were served with a profit of \$825. All food was purchased with a grant from Thrivent Financial. The profits were donated to United Lutheran youth ministry. Twelve extra lunches plus leftover makings were delivered to Duluth Harbor Mission. Thanks to all the volunteers and participants.

Linda Southerton, Evangelism/Outreach Chair



Christian Education

Bible Study Wednesdays 2:15pm
Now through Nov. 17th, we're using Lutheran Social Services' "And Who is My Neighbor: Talking about Race and Racial Equity." Packets are on the table in the narthex. Join in whenever you can.

Sunday School 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 10 am. Confirmation Wednesdays at 4 pm.

Closer to Home Advent series begins November 28. Devotional booklets will be available at church.

Gordy Westendorf, Education Chair



Stewardship

"A Future With Hope" series launches this month. We celebrate how God gathers us together and gives us hope for the future. Watch for a few mailings from the Stewardship Team. Save the date! November 21 during worship a Dedication of Pledges will take place. "I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:10-11



Worship

- Everyone (over age 2) must wear a mask covering nose and mouth at all times inside the building.
- Group conversations should be held outdoors.
- When you arrive, please go directly to an open pew, picking up communion elements and a bulletin as you enter.
- Sit with those in your household or pod/bubble. Some pews will be marked “closed” to facilitate physical distancing. Windows will be open for airflow, so dress accordingly.
- At the close of worship, remain seated and take turns departing to allow for distancing. You may place your offerings in the plate as you depart.

Polka and Pretzels was a great success! Thanks to Walter Story and Alice Halvorson-Rohweder for the excellent music. Thanks to all volunteers who helped with serving and selling pretzels. It was a lot of fun and a great benefit to the Duluth Harbor Mission.

Every year we decorate our altar area with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The flowers are purchased by members in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias will be displayed Christmas Eve at our 7 pm worship service. You may take them home after the service.

Help us beautify our church and your home this holiday season with a foil-wrapped potted red poinsettia plant with a bow from Hermantown’s Lilac Hill Greenhouse. These plants retail at the greenhouse for \$24. We are selling them for only \$15 per plant. (available in red only). **ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21st.**

“CHRIST IN OUR HOME” DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Pick up the latest copy (October, November, December) 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.



November Birthdays

3rd	Kathy Benson; Amelie Lindberg-Livingston
5th	Sharon Fechner
10th	Nancy Grote
16h	Jill Lockwood
17th	Cheryl Erickson
23rd	Steve Jonland
24th	Carolyn Johnson
26th	Andy Morin; Layla Peterson
28th	Dick Rowe



In Our Prayers

Military folks serving our country;
Amber Spillman;
Alice Sommer’s sister, Margaret;
Sue Schwarz’s mother, Clarice;
Jan Bakke; Durrell Richard; Betty Merling;
Jim Gannucci; Kaitlynn Jackson, daughter of Kathy Benson.
Families of Margie Thoreson and Mildred O’Connor.

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



Council

Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Aug 15th, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Dan Sarala at 11:57a.m.

Present: Dan Saarela, Kris Thoreson, Gordy Westendorf, Janice Anderson, Alice Halvorson-Rohweder, Larry Sommer, Alice Sommer, Pastor Liz Davis

Devotions: Pastor Liz led devotions. "Think before you speak"

Approval of Minutes: July meeting minutes were approved. A motion was made by Alice and a second by Janice, meeting minutes of the July 2021 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: Audrey emailed the reports but was here in person to go over them. We are over budget on Alter Guild (Communion). July expenses exceeded income which is common. Janice made a motion to approve the report, Alice R seconded it. It was approved by all.

Pastor's Report:

- Our Saviors is not liking the church time.
- Getting together with other churches to see how they are coping with covid.

President's Report:

- When Our Saviors has offering it will go to their church.
- There were two requests for donations \$200 will go to Abby Lonne (Urban Servant Corps) and \$100 will go to Disaster relief (Through ELCA).

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music:

- Alice made a list of people for council person of the month.
- Chris Pasik helped order Communion supplies, it was \$120.00 for 500 units.
- Alice will start trying to get readers in Sept.

Christian Education:

- An email to Janell Peterson- Jackson Peterson will be confirmed.
- Hopefully start Sunday school on Rally Sunday, Sept. 19th 10:00-10:45

Fellowship: N/A

Evangelism and Service to Others: There will be a Meatball sub sale on Sept. 19th. They will be \$10.00. It will be drive-thru style.

Property:

- The 2 plug by the fireplace was not working, Webwork Internet Services fixed it on July 29th.
- The Flush lever chain plug wasn't working on one of the toilets, that is now working.
- As of Aug. 10th the Audio system is now fixed.
- Mark from Northland Fire checked the fire extinguishers- they are all good.

Staff Reports: N/A

Unfinished Business:

- Smart team- Still no food- we will continue to mask and social distance and no interior eating at this time.

New Business:

- Congregation wide visioning: Sept-Early Oct- Talk about peoples hopes for the congregation, options for what it might look like.
- Scouts will start meeting as long as they social distance and mask.
- Start to think about Christmas services.

Announcements:

Next Council meeting: Sept. 12th

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. A motion was made by Janice and a 2nd by Larry. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted, Kris Thoreson, secretary

Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Sept.12th, 2021

Attendance: Pastor Liz, Janice, Gordy, Dan

- I. **Devotions** - *Tear Down Magical Walls*
 - II. **Approval of Minutes** - ** We do not have a quorum at this meeting. No motions or voting can take place.*
 - III. **Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee** - *Reports were sent via email. Pastor presented an opportunity for us to share costs with Our Saviors for a stewardship program. More information to come.*
 - IV. **Pastor's Report** - *Report was sent via email. There was a discussion on what we need as a congregation, who we can partner with, who are our neighbors, how we are connected already. Interview congregation and community to pin-point needs. This is a couple month process. Create a list of people/organizations we need to contact. Bible study is starting up again. Confirmation is scheduled to begin on September 22nd at 4:00PM.*
 - V. **President's Report** - *We need to start thinking about filling the positions for those members going off of council this year. The nominating committee should start to find replacements.*
 - VI. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Worship and Music** - *no report was presented*
 - B. **Christian Education** - *Sunday school is scheduled to begin next Sunday at 10:00. We still do not have a regular teacher. It will be suggested to the parents that we go every other week. Materials have been ordered and delivered.*
 - C. **Fellowship** - *no report was presented*
 - D. **Evangelism and Service to Others** - *meatball lunch is planned and ready to go. There is a sign up to help.*
 - E. **Property** - *no report to presented. The paraments cabinets project is completed. Mike Maeckelberg has volunteered to pay for the expense.*
 - VII. **Staff Reports** - *none to report*
 - VIII. **Unfinished Business** - *none to report*
 - IX. **New Business**
 - *Girl Scouts possibly meeting on Tuesday nights? It was general consensus that we allow the girls scouts to use the church space. Pastor Liz will contact Laura Birman to let her know.*
 - *A document on file for all organizations so they all the rules to adhere to. There was no discussion on this topic.*
 - X. **Announcements and Correspondence** - *No items here*
 - XI. **Calendar**
 - A. **Next meeting:** *October 10th*
 - XII. **Adjournment** - *meeting adjourned at 12:47*
- Submitted by Gordy Westendorf

Council received two thank-you letters that they wish you to know about. First, from Urban Servant Corps, for the \$200 gift. Second, from the ELCA for the \$100 designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Visioning for the Future

We're launching a time of conversation and listening with the congregation and with our community neighbors to discover our history, gifts, and mission. We'll be wondering together what God is calling us to do in joining God's work in our world. If you'd like to be a part of the study, interview team, and visioning, please contact Pastor Liz. The whole congregation will be involved in the process, and the Council will help lead the way forward.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath



Advent is the beginning of the church year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, (this year is November 28) and ends on Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath tells the Christmas story.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God's never ending love for all humankind.

The green of the wreath speaks of the hope we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of life unending.

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of God's son.

The four outer candles represent the time of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The colors of the candles vary with different traditions, but there are usually three purple or blue candles, mirroring the sanctuary parament colors of Advent, and one pink or rose candle. One purple or blue candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent. On subsequent Sundays previous candles are relit with an additional candle lit. The pink candle is usually lit on the third Sunday of Advent; however, some traditions light the pink candle on another Sunday depending on the symbolism used. Each candle symbolizes a different aspect of the season. The first represents Hope or Expectation. The three remaining candles are connected to different aspects of the Advent story: Bethlehem, Shepherds, and Angels. Or Peace, Love and Joy. Or John the Baptist, the Magi, and Mary.

The center candle, the Christ Candle is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve. This candle reminds us that the incarnation – God becoming human flesh – is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the Advent season. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that God calls us to be light to the world as we reflect the light of God's no-strings-attached love to others. (Isaiah 42:6) In some traditions, the Advent Wreath remains in worship, with all five candles lit, for the entire Christmas season, from Christmas Eve until Epiphany Sunday.

May the Holy One bless you and draw you closer into God's heart during this Advent season.

Peace, Cheryl Fleckenstein

Please have newsletter submissions to me no later than the 20th of the month. Questions or suggestions? Call 608-495-3147, or email (fleckensteincheryl@yahoo.com)

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 6 pm Finance zoom; 7 pm Boy Scouts	2 5 pm Girl Scouts; 7 pm Proctor AA	3 2:15 pm Bible study; 4 pm confirmation	4 10 am Quilting	5	6
7 10 am Sun. School; 11 am worship	8 7 pm Boy Scouts	9 5 pm Girl Scouts; 7 pm Proctor AA	10 2:15 pm Bible study; 4 pm confirmation	11 10 am Quilting	12	13 9:30 Book Club, conference room
14 11 am worship; noon Council mtg.	15 6 pm Finance zoom; 7 pm Boy Scouts	16 5 pm Girl Scouts; 7 pm Proctor AA	17 2:15 pm Bible study; 4 pm confirmation	18 10 am Quilting	19	20
21 10 am Sunday school; 11 am worship	22 7 pm Boy Scouts	23 5 pm Girl Scouts; 7 pm Proctor AA	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving!	26	27
28 11 am worship	29 6 pm Finance zoom mtg.	30 5 pm Girl Scouts; 7 pm Proctor AA	1	2	3	4

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>
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 without checking 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

Worship has resumed in the sanctuary at 11 a.m.! Please wear masks covering both nose and mouth in the church building, and maintain 6 feet physical distancing. See Worship Committee article for more details.

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

office phone: 218-624-4255
office@proctorlutheran.org
pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org
council@proctorlutheran.org

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