



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PROCTOR

September 2021



Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Psalm 34: 1 “I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.”

My parents never washed my mouth out with soap but that image of negativity (perhaps sass or swear words) held in one’s mouth and spewing forth, a negativity that needs to be washed away, is the striking opposite to this psalm’s promise. When the praise of God is held in our mouths, it is blessing that flows forth to be heard by others.

What’s on the tip of your tongue? Complaints? Criticism? Anger? Rejection? Bitterness? Or is there something sweeter? Praise? Hope? Welcome? Encouragement?

Think about where your impulse to speak is coming from. The psalmist’s image is one in which someone is so full of praise, it is overflowing and spilling out. I picture God’s love, love God is always pouring into us, and God’s grace, welcome, and compassion, overflowing because God is so generous with these gifts. As Christians, we pour out these good things into our conversation and our relationships. We’re more than full to the brim, we’re overflowing with God’s gifts, and that benefits those around us.

But sometimes, we have a bad day- or a bad year. The other week, I came home after what was supposed to be a special day with my daughter, but ended with a 45-minute wait at the Culver’s drive-through. That really insignificant thing set me off into grumbling. Already my patience is worn thin by frustration that life has been so changed by COVID, that I have so much to worry about and try to manage in my family life and attempt to manage in church because of this pandemic, and because of the hurt in relationships and families that is tearing people apart. I’ve lost my capacity to handle daily frustrations with the grace they need. I can’t control a whole lot right now, and that’s even more frustrating. Later that night, I found myself writing complaints to companies and bad reviews on Amazon for products that weren’t the quality I expected. The next day, I realized what I had been doing. I’m so full of frustration and anger that I was letting it spill out in ways that weren’t connected. Sure, my new camping pad that doesn’t stay inflated isn’t the best product and people might want to know that before they buy it, but I was really writing the review because I was frustrated that other things in life aren’t the way I want them to be. When I wrote “worst ever” on my review, maybe it was really more about my year than the product itself. I felt the need to express my overwhelming frustration, and that was the easiest place to do it. It made me feel good in the moment, but it really wasn’t going to solve the source of my frustration and might hurt the people who rely on the sales for their income.

When I brought the girls to school for pre-school testing, I walked around the gym and one sign caught my eye. It read: "THINK before you speak. Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it important (or inspiring)? Is it necessary? Is it kind?" I've often heard "think before you speak" but hadn't heard an encouragement to think that specifically about the content.

We're in a time in which we feel free to speak a whole lot that isn't true, helpful, important, inspiring, necessary, or kind. There are so many ways to get our thoughts out to others: through personal conversation, letters to the editor, online reviews, social media, etc. We celebrate that a broader diversity of voices have the opportunity to be heard than may have been possible in the past. Still, not everything that can be said ought to be said to everyone. We hold both the call to value every voice with our personal responsibility to think before we speak.

THINK before you speak. A good question to consider is what you hope to accomplish with your words, and who those words will benefit. Ask yourself: Which is more harmful to my neighbor: my silence or my speaking? Is what I'm going to say about me and my needs, or does it serve the community and my neighbor? How does this information build up my congregation and help us serve our mission? What might the result of my words be? Am I speaking to get people on my side or to solve something together? Sometimes we just want to talk something through, and it's in the talking itself that we can work a problem out. It's good to tell your listeners what you need from them. When I begin speaking, my husband is trained to ask, "what do you want from me: listening, comfort, or solutions?"

That which we hold in our mind and test out on our tongue is often what comes out into the world to be experienced by others. Our call is to help the world experience God's love, grace, and forgiveness. Hold in your mind God's great love for you, and you'll be more likely to share it with others. That is your call as a disciple of Christ. Make an effort to be in places and practices in which you are filled with God's love and cleansed of your frustrations, so that it is God's gifts that you overflow onto the world. Pray, read your Bible, immerse yourself in God's good creation, talk with people who will help you hear God's love and redirect you away from negativity.

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

-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**

Before you speak:

THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?



Meatball Sub Lunch

SEPTEMBER 19TH—12:00 TO 1:30

MENU: MEATBALL SUBS, COLESLAW,
CHIPS, COOKIES

COST: \$10

CURBSIDE PICK UP

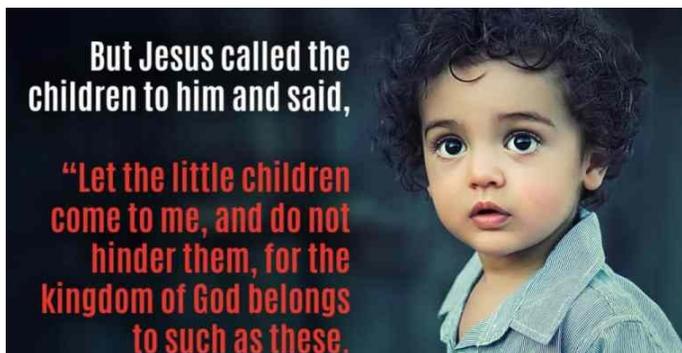
PLEASE ENTER BY THE FAR NORTH
ENTRANCE ON 3RD AVE. AND DRIVE
TO THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH NEAR
THE ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE. SOMEONE
WILL COME TO TAKE YOUR ORDER AND
PAYMENT. LEAVE ON 7TH ST. OR SOUTH
3RD AVE. EXIT.

SUPPORTED BY A THRIVENT ACTION
PROJECT. PROFITS GO TO SUPPORT
YOUTH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

Delivery available to home bound church
members. Please call the church office by Sept.
15th @ 218-624-4255 between the hours of 8:30
AM and 11:30 AM Monday through Thursday to
be put on a delivery list.

Announcements

Current COVID protocols: masks and
distancing required, no eating/drinking
inside the building.



Christian Education

Please contact the office to register students for
Sunday School and Confirmation.

RodendorfMN@g.com or 591-8587. Gordy
Westendorf, Education Chair.



Property

Questions? Ideas? Contact Larry
Sommer at 952-232-7919.

“CHRIST IN OUR HOME” DAILY DEVOTONAL

Pick up the latest copy (July, August,
September) 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.



Worship

What you need to know:

- Everyone (over age 2) is required to 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. We want to avoid bunching together at the entrance.
- 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 will be able to place your offerings in the plate as you depart.

At the beginning of August, we lifted the requirement to mask in the church building, a decision we had made as a council at our July meeting as COVID numbers in early summer seemed to be drastically trending downward and we had become accustomed to returning to indoor worship. We shared this decision with the understanding that changes in COVID risk in our community would cause us to re-evaluate this decision.

Unfortunately, we are experiencing a rise in COVID in our area. We hope that making changes now will help our community to avoid the worse situations we are seeing in other parts of our nation. In a press release from August 2, the St. Louis County Health Department recommended that all people over age 2 return to masking in all indoor spaces.

Council has decided that we will return to requiring masks be properly worn in the church building beginning August 15. Please help each other remember that we are doing this out of love for each other. Jesus teaches his disciples in [John 15:9-17](#) that we are primarily commanded to love one another. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends." Today we have an opportunity to give up some of our comfort in order to show love to each other. We can get through this time if we focus on the love we have from Christ and the love we have for each other.

September Birthdays



| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1st | Ardyth Graves |
| 3rd | Ken Sutton |
| 4th | Harold Mead |
| 5th | Adeline Teresa Burr |
| 6th | Nicole Olson |
| 11th | Jane Rohlf |
| 14th | Brittney (Morin) Grabko |
| 15th | Carol Saranpaa |
| 21st | Sandi Davis; Joan Thompson |
| 25th | Victor Murray |



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; Family of Emerson Stahl
 Durrell Richard; Betty Merling;
 Amanda Saarela; Jim Gannucci
 Kaitlynn Jackson, daughter of Kathy Benson
 family of Einer Lockwood, family of Emerson Stahl

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."
Galatians 5:22-23*



My favorite spiritual mentor, Fr. Richard Rohr, offers some advice on reading Scripture the way Jesus did, and use it for good purposes.

First, pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit before you make your interpretation of an important text. With an open heart and mind, seek the attitude of a beginner and learner. Pray as long as it takes to feel your assumptions or certitudes about the text loosen.

Second, once you have attained some degree of openness, try to detach from your own ego's will and its goals and desires – to be correct, to be secure, to stay with the familiar. This might take some time, but without such freedom from your own need to control, you will invariably make a text say what you want it to say.

Third, listen for a deeper voice than your own, which you will know because it will never shame or frighten you, but rather strengthen you, even when it is challenging you. If it is God's voice, it will take away your illusions and your violence so completely and naturally that you can barely identify with such previous feelings! God does not ask and expect you to do anything new until God has first made it desirable and possible for you to do it. Grace cannot easily operate under coercion, duress, shame or guilt.

If your understanding of Scripture leads you to experience any or several of the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – you can trust that this interpretation is from the Spirit.

As you read, if you sense any negative or punitive emotions like feelings of superiority, self-satisfaction, arrogant certitude, desire for revenge, need for victory, or a spirit of dismissal or exclusion, trust that this is not Jesus' interpretation at work, but your own ego still steering the ship.

Remember the temptation of Jesus in the desert (Matt. 4:3-10). Three temptations to the misuse of power are listed: economic, religious, and political. Even Jesus must face these subtle disguises before he begins his public ministry. Only when he has found freedom from his own ego's need for power can Jesus teach with true inner authority and speak truth to the oppressive powers of his time.

Blessings on your reading! 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)



Online Giving Alert

If you currently use the Give+ Mobile App to administer your automated giving, please watch for information in the next newsletter regarding a new and updated replacement app. Full instructions will be included in the October newsletter.

IMPORTANT: This does NOT affect anyone who has set up recurring giving through an automated bank withdrawal.



Council News

Sunday, July 18th, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Dan Sarala at 12:00 p.m.

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

Devotions: Pastor Liz led devotions. 2 Timothy 4-9-18

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

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: Audrey emailed the reports, all looks in order. Alice R. made a motion to approve the report, Gordy seconded it. It was approved by all.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Liz will be going to Camp Hiawatha this year.
- She will also be on vacation at the end of August.
- Pastor also plans to some reach out to confirmation families.
- Also is hoping to get some youth to go to camp.

President's Report: A member approached Dan about getting the Paraments cabinet finished. Larry will get an estimate.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music:

- Picnic is August 8th at 11:00 am. At Sampo beach
- Chris P will assist in ordering communion supplies when it is time.
- Worship sign up is going much better now that we are back to in person services.

Christian Education:

- Money from Erving Foundation for camp will go into the account for next year.
- An article for Sunday school teachers was put in the newsletter to plant the seed. Will put in another this month.
- Will also ask folks with school age kids to call the office
- Will also need Sunday school supplies

Fellowship: Alice has the prayer chain put together

Evangelism and Service to Others: Janice, Linda and Alice are going to meet on Aug 10th about the Sub Sandwich dinner.

Property: Larry is going to get an estimate from an audio/visual company about fixing the speakers in the basement.

Staff Reports:

Unfinished Business: SMART team has decided that Masks will not be required starting the first Sunday in August. All social distancing guidelines will still need to be followed. This can be changed at anytime depending on the Covid numbers and suggested guidelines.

New Business: There are currently two positions open on council.

Announcements:

Next Council meeting: August 15th

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm. A motion was made by Gordy and a 2nd by Alice. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Thoreson, secretary

SEPTEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------|--------|----------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 11 am worship | 6 | 7 7 pm Proctor AA mtg. | 8 2:15 pm Bible Study | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 11 am worship; noon council | 13 7 p.m. Boy Scouts; 7:30 pm Finance | 14 7 pm Proctor AA mtg. | 15 2:15 pm Bible Study | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10 am SS Rally; 11 am worship; 12 pm meatball to go lunch | 20 7 p.m. Boy Scouts | 21 7 pm Proctor AA mtg. | 22 2:15 pm Bible Study | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 11 am worship | 27 7 pm Boy Scouts; 7:30 pm Finance | 28 7 pm Proctor AA mtg. | 29 2:15 pm Bible Study | 30 | 1 | 2 |

**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!



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PROCTOR

August 2021



Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Grace and peace to you, People of God.

On my road trip to Colorado, I read and heard a number of excerpts of stories from people who travelled West in search of new opportunities.

Some came with hearts filled with dreams, others fled impossible situations, and a number were fed outright lies about the livability of their destinations.

Two groups caught my imagination: those who travelled to Nicodemus, Kansas, and those who travelled to Salt Lake City, Utah. The former were mostly former slaves who were inspired by the promise of their own land, developing a Black community, and the opportunity to work for their own prosperity after the Civil War. The latter were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who were inspired by the vision of building a community with their fellows that would be safe from the persecution they faced in other locations.

I wonder if some among those who travelled carried in their minds God's promised new creation, as described in Isaiah 65:21-23 "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well." That vision of enjoying the fruit of one's own labor and sharing a growing success with the next generation would have been, and still is, very compelling. Yet the journey and the reality upon arrival was difficult, even deadly.

One woman wrote in her journal that upon arriving at Nicodemus, she asked her husband why they had stopped. When he said they had arrived, she wondered at the empty landscape where they had been promised a thriving community, and she wept. The desolate destination was nothing like they had expected and hoped for.

An LDS group travelled from the East, departing later than intended. They got caught up in bad winter weather without adequate clothing and shelter, and many people died. Word got to the settlement, and people pitched in to donate supplies and volunteers hiked back along the trail to accompany these weary travelers. Can you imagine what it must have felt like, to be lost on the road, to have buried some of your loved ones, and to be at the very end of your hope, when you suddenly look up and see a caravan of supplies and helpers coming towards you?

These stories of hope, expectations, and help give me perspective on our experience as a congregation right now. I've been looking forward to fall as a time when we will gather again as a

congregation with renewed energy for worship, learning, and mission. My hope has been that COVID would be long behind us. My expectation was that we would be eager to re-engage in our faith and community life.

It's possible that we won't have arrived at my vision of the promised land by the fall. We might feel more like the settler who looked at the landscape and wondered where her dream town was or those who were delayed on the way. While some of those settlers turned back and gave up, many more pushed through the hard times and were able to attain their dream, making it more possible for their descendants to build upon their success. Their dream wasn't laid out before them; they had to work the land to bring it into reality. As a congregation, we need you to join the effort to build our dream of being a vital community of faith development, worship, and service to the wider community. We can be that miracle caravan for each other with the tools and supplies to shepherd each other into a new phase of life. Don't turn back if things don't match your dreams; pitch in so that we can create the community of our dreams together. In the end, it's not our dream anyway. We exist to serve God and further God's kingdom. God will direct us, sustain us, and finally bring us to God's promised new creation. As we work together towards that day, I'm glad to be traveling and working alongside you.

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

Worship

Worship in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. (Aug 8 will be at Sampo Beach)

What you need to know:

- Everyone is welcome for worship and communion.
- Beginning August 1, masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Council will be monitoring the case rates and adjust as necessary. Remember that children still do not have access to vaccines and that we are a congregation who wants children to fully participate in worship and congregational life.

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**



"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Pick up the latest copy (July, August, September) 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.

Stay tuned for opportunities for outdoor coffee hour! Call the church office to volunteer to provide food and serve.



WE WANT YOU!

TO BE A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Last month I planted the seed for the need for Sunday School teachers for the upcoming school year. Now it's time for that seed to poke its head out of the ground and show itself. We currently have no idea how many teachers we will need or what the structure of Sunday School will look like. We DO KNOW that we will need volunteers to step up and help out. That's where you come in. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please call or e-mail the church office and let us know. If you would like to talk to me directly, drop me an email or text me. Thanks for your consideration and hope to hear from you soon.

Gordy Westendorf, 591-8587 or
gwestend@proctor.k12.mn.us

Confirmation



Any families and students interested in participating in Confirmation Class or being Confirmed this year, please contact Pastor Liz to schedule a household visit. More information on class schedule to come.



Church Picnic

The annual church outdoor worship and picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 8, 11am at Sampo Beach on Little Grand Lake in Saginaw. Bring a lawn chair, lawn games, and swim suits. Bring food to share, or food for yourself if that feels safer during COVID. For COVID safety, some tables will also be available outside. No lifeguards; swim at your own risk and attend to children.

Directions to Sampo Beach:

- 1) Start out going south on 3rd Ave toward 7th St. Then 0.15 miles.
- 2) Take the 3rd right onto 5th St. Then 0.09 miles.
- 3) Turn slight right onto Highway 2/US-2 W. Then 11.91 miles.
- 4) Stay straight to go onto Saginaw Rd. Then 0.21 miles.
- 5) Turn left onto Seville Rd. Then 0.57 miles.
- 6) Turn slight right onto Saginaw Rd. Saginaw Rd is 0.1 miles past N. Crosby Rd. Then 0.05 miles. 7095 SAGINAW ROAD is on the right.

Sunday School



It's time to think about Sunday School! If you plan to have a child attend Sunday school, we are planning to have a pre-registration during the first two weeks of August. Unfortunately, we don't know what format we will be

using for Sunday school; it all depends on how many students we have, what ages they are, and how many teachers volunteer. We are tentatively planning on beginning on rally Sunday, September 12th.

Please call the church office to register. Let us know who will be coming (names) and what ages/class they plan to attend. P.S. You can volunteer to teach at the same time :)

To help us prepare with materials and man-power, we need to know who plans to attend.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and I hope to see your child at Sunday school. Register NOW!



August Birthdays

- 4: Ethel Fairbanks,
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
- 17: Sandy Wayt
- 19: Ryan Crilly
- 20: Jim Merling
- 21: Ace Bowen
- 22: Topher Davis, Aaro Klicker
- 24: Karren Robinson



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; Family of Emerson Stahl
Durrell Richard; Betty Merling; Amanda Saarela;
Jim Gannucci; Friends of Claudia Gannucci: Brian J,
Betty & Tony W, Carol B, and Linda H
All prayer requests can be called to Alice Halvorson-
Rohweder at 218-464-0201 or submitted online:
proctorlutheran.org/prayer If Alice H-R isn't available,
please call Alice Sommer.

The people of Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church especially invite you, the people of United Lutheran Church of Proctor, to worship with them in Duluth on Sunday mornings at 9am, if you're unable to make the 11am service at United. You're invited to bring your United offering envelope to Our Savior's, and it will be delivered to United to continue to support the ministry of your congregation. We celebrate our partnership for the well-being of both congregations! Our Savior's is located at 4831 Grand Ave, Duluth.

Minnesota mask mandate ends - United Lutheran Church follows

Minnesota ended its statewide mask-wearing order with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allowing people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to stop wearing masks.

Even as the Governor was ending the statewide order, he said that entities like hospitals and airlines would still be allowed to require masking if they choose. Local governments can also keep mandates in place.

United Lutheran Church also decided to require wearing masks during the following weeks after the announcement. However, at the July council meeting, the Council did decide to move forward and end the mask mandate for those vaccinated members attending church services. The wearing of masks will be completely voluntary based on the level of comfort for each member. This decision is subject to current conditions and case rates. United Lutheran Church will remain socially distanced, with every-other pew still being unoccupied.

Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said that fully vaccinated people were free to return to pre-pandemic activities, although she expressed reservations about the move to end the statewide masking order and its potential effect on residents. "When things are no longer a rule or a mandate, they think therefore that everything is safe," she said, noting that Minnesota still has a concerning level of COVID-19 spread. "People may translate this guidance meaning that the pandemic is over."

The CDC's new guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, but will help clear the way for reopening workplaces, schools and other venues — even removing the need for masks or social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated.

So bring your mask or leave it home, the choice is up to you. Either way, we hope to see you in church.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD, PART TWO

At 6 a.m. (or was it 7?), after checking out of the motel, I zipped up my Aerostitch suit and approached my motorcycle to continue our ride to the West Coast. I wiped the dew from the seat and climbed aboard, my breathing inside my helmet the only sound. Paul and I started up our bikes, Wyatt hopped on behind Paul, and we rode off with the sun warming our backs. The early morning quiet, the rumble of the bike, the gentle buffeting of the wind, and the changing landscape brought me into a tangible sense of the presence of God.

Since that summer trip of 1999, I have ridden through the prickly hot desert of Utah, the green lushness of the Northwoods, and the clamor of Central Chicago. God's presence in nature's beauty beckons us almost automatically. Chicago streets crowded with obstacles, shops, signs and bodies continually distract and disturb. There I am often too annoyed and overwhelmed to sense God's presence. I come to God more deliberately for refreshment and for help to see beyond the shout.

At home I have a prayer corner, where my Bible, a candle, and some rocks rest on top of a tiny table. I sit nearby on my zen cushion to read, meditate, pray. I come to God in this place in my own way and time. This year so far has been filled with death, Wyatt's pregnancy, political changes, and retirement. These events have taught me to come to God "just as I am" wherever, whenever, and however. I haven't always had the luxury of a quiet place and ample time, but I have learned that these things are not essential.

I still enjoy my isolated moments in my prayer corner, but my turning to God is becoming a habit. I find that God's presence is accessible and welcomes me in every situation and landscape. God's voice in scripture calls me to "come," just to come. I need not sit on my zen cushion in my prayer corner, or hop on my motorcycle, nor do I even need a clear sense of God's presence. It is in the simple act of moving toward God that I find God is already there, waiting for me.

God bless your coming to the One who waits for you. 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)

United Lutheran Church of Proctor Northeastern Minnesota Synod - ELCA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 13th, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Dan Sarala at 12:00 p.m.

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

Devotions: Pastor Liz led devotions. Luke chapter 6. Pastor Liz asked questions on the text. What did we get from the context and where is God speaking to us in our prayers?

Approval of Minutes: May meeting minutes were approved. A motion was made by Alice H. and a second by Janice, meeting minutes of the April 11th, 2021 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: Audrey sent the reports, Tammy was not present at the meeting to discuss. We were over by \$84.98. According to the budget we are under by about \$500.00. Janice made a motion to approve the report, Paul seconded it. It was approved by all.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Liz discussed bible study and alternating churches.
- She will also be on vacation in July, but there will be a pastor on call for her.

President's Report: Dan talked to Karen Nolin about reserving Sampo Beach sometime in August. Hopefully Our Saviors will join us and we will have a 10 am service.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Alice will be ordering communion supplies. Signing people up is going much better now that we are doing in person services. Alice also has a calendar for us to sign up for council person of the week.

Christian Education: Gordy is going to start recruiting Sunday school teachers (plant the seed). Also need to set a Rally Sunday date, will also mention something in the newsletter.

Fellowship: There is a new prayer chain. Alice will email it to us.

Evangelism and Service to Others: Janice would like to have some sort of dinner (possibly meatball subs), They could be to go, to make things more covid friendly. Talked to Linda S. would like to make some money for future camp.

Property:

- A lawn mowing service has been hired.
- No plots have been leased to date.
- The Pastor Liz's landline has been fixed.

Staff Reports:

- Mary is doing well after surgery.

Unfinished Business:

- Covid plan update. Will start singing the last hymn and pass out the hymnals. Will also open the kitchen for special events. Also will try outdoor fellowship. Gordy will do a trial run in July to see how it goes.

New Business:

- Alice H. proposed doing a polka service sometime in October. Alice will find out when the polka people are able to do the service.
- Rally Sunday-Make it a big deal- Party- Early Sept.

Announcements: Paul announced that he will be stepping down from his position on the council and will also be leaving the congregation. We are sad to see him go. He will be missed!

- **Next Council meeting:** Sunday, July 18th
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kris Thoreson, secretary

AUGUST 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 11 am worship | 2 Pastor serving at Camp Hiawatha this week 7:30 pm Finance | 3 7 pm Proctor AA meeting | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 11 am worship & potluck @ Sampo Beach | 9 9-11 am Pastor's Drop-In Hours | 10 7 pm Proctor AA meeting | 11 1:15 pm Bible Study 2:45-4:45 Pastor's Drop-In Hours | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 11 am worship 12 pm Council | 16 9-11 am Pastor's Drop-In 7:30 pm Finance | 17 7 pm Proctor AA meeting | 18 1:15 pm Bible Study 2:45-4:45 Pastor's Drop-In Hours | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 11 am worship | 23 9-11 am Pastor's Drop-In Hours | 24 7 pm Proctor AA meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 11 am worship | 30 9-11 am Pastor's Drop-In 7:30 pm Finance | 31 7 pm Proctor AA meeting | 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>

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

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**

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