



French River Lutheran Church
5310 Ryan Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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Duluth, MN
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Address Service Requested

ph:(218)525-5659 Mo,Th 10:00am-1:00pm
(please call before coming to the office)

E-mail: FRLC5310@gmail.com

www.frenchriverlutheran.org

Pr. Kim Sturtz: frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com

ph: (218)393-7444; available Mo-Th Pr. Kim
will be in the office or parsonage,
depending on children's school schedule.

FRLC Mission Statement: "To live and love
as God commands, accept His grace, and
share the Good News."

ALL ARE WELCOME!

 "Like us" on Facebook  Please recycle

See *The Parables* in color on-line at
www.frenchriverlutheran.org

Please contact the office to if you would like to
be removed from our mailing list.

See *The Parables* in color online at
www.frenchriverlutheran.org

10 AM WORSHIP



THE PARABLES † September 2023

2023 FRLC DIRECTORY

Church Photo Dates:

Thursday, September 14: 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Friday, September 15: 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Saturday, September 16: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

See page 5 of this edition of
The Parables or Sunday Bulletins on how
to register/participate.

Inside this edition of The Parables:

- Church Directory Photo Info
- Upcoming Events
- FRLC Youth Dates
- Photos from Pr. Kim's trip to Iceland

Sunday service will return to a start
time of 10 AM on September 3 and
will remain that way year round!



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTE: This calendar is based on typically scheduled activities. Please consult the activity coordinator for the most current meeting method, guidelines, and information		<i>Please be aware that Kindred Paths Nature School may be on the church grounds or inside the building Monday through Friday; be on the lookout for youngsters. 😊</i>			1	2
14th Sunday Pentecost 3 10a Worship in-person & online 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	4 Labor Day	5 9a Bulletin Deadline 5:45p Exec. Council 7p AA	6 7p Choir	7 5-6p Riversong Rising	8	9 9a God's Work. Our Hands.
15th Sunday Pentecost 10 10a Blended Worship in-person & online 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	11 6p Finance	12 9a Bulletin Deadline 5-6p Riversong Rising 7p Council 7p AA	13 7p Choir	14 10:30a W&M 2:00 – 8:30p Directory Photos	15	16 10:30a – 5:00p Directory Photos
16th Sunday Pentecost 17 10a Contemporary Worship in-person & online *Rally Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	18 6p Adult Bible Study	19 9a Bulletin Deadline 7p AA	20 7a D/NSSD 9a Parables Deadline 7p Choir	21 7:30p F.R. Readers	22	23
17th Sunday Pentecost 24 10a Worship in-person & online *First Day of Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	25 6p Adult Bible Study	26 9a Bulletin Deadline 7p AA	27 9a Parables Assembly 5:30-6:30p Fish Force 7p Choir 6:45-7:30p Confirmation	28 9a Outreach 11a Hospitality	29	30

Date	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistant* / Counter	Coffee Fellowship	Altar Guild
3	Phil & Babs Strom	S. Baker	Sue Baker/Adam Marks		Sue Baker
10	Dick & Marilyn Story	Elda Hein	Dave Edblom/Ken Peterson		Kathy Pierson
17	Jim & Sandy Dahlberg	Joanne Kronstedt	TBD		Lynne Compton
24	Doug & Lynne Compton	Skipper Sironen	TBD		Kathy Pierson

Prayer Chain: Babs Strom 525-6200 **Coffee Fellowship:** Samaria; Katie Edblom 218-355-0876



FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT:

“To live and love as God commands, accept His
Grace, and share the Good News.”

“Virtual worship” is available by visiting
www.frenchriverlutheran.org

A Message from Pastor Kim



*“Very early in
the morning,
while it was still
dark, he
departed and
went out to a
desolate place
and there he
prayed.”
([Mark 1:35](#))*

We are coming to the end of the summer, the season in which many take time to travel, to visit friends or relatives, or go on an adventure to new places and spaces. Many of you know that our family was given a vacation to Iceland, with my Husband’s family, to celebrate my Mother and Father-in-law’s 50th Wedding Anniversary. A gift of expense but also love for the creation that God has given us to be awe-inspired by and to respect and preserve. It was time together, as a family, both immediate and extended, that we often do not get to experience enough due to our busy schedules. As it is with all family dynamics, there were many highs and only a few lows with being together in a big group— a variety of views and ideas all trying to work together. Rest and connection, laughter and crying.

Our experience in Iceland was amazing. The land of fire and ice was something almost surreal. Landscapes of mountains or lands that looked like baked cakes with a crackled top of moss and lava

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rock. Dormant volcanoes popping up alongside glaciers. Basalt rock formations that look carved by the hand of God. Geothermal pools that provide warmth, or rest for aching muscles or spirit. Many beaches along its northern seas are of varying colors; black, rust red, and some “blonde” colored sands of the coastlines that have been worked down by the waves. AND waterfalls, sometimes one every few miles, a remembrance of streams of mercy, renewal, and washing of selves. Waterfalls where an unclosed view gives forth a splash or spray or downpour of a remembrance of baptism in the moment of visiting and not always by choice due to the winds of force from the falling waters.

[Dr. McKay Caston](#) originally posted in the blog -the Mustard Seed, stated that vacations are good for our spiritual selves and especially for our leaders in the faith who carry not only their burdens and joys but also those of their flock and people. “In order to work hard, we must learn to rest well.”

Europeans call their vacations, “holiday.” Holiday is a compressed version of “holy day.” Historically, the church has set aside “holy days” as times to stop and reflect, not upon our work but upon God’s work for us. A *holy* day is intended to be a *rest* day. It is special. Sacred in the sense that it becomes an intrusion of the eternal heaven into our time and space lives.

The concept of holiday gets to the heart of what a pastoral vacation can and maybe should be. This draws near to the principle of Sabbath, which is a pattern of work and rest that God established at creation and with the ceremonial Sabbath observance of the Israelites as they crossed from Egypt into the land of promise. The land where they would finally be at rest from their laborious journey through the wilderness. The principle is that, *in order to work hard, we must learn to rest well.* In this light, we can see that vacation is an integral part of or subheading under the umbrella of pastoral vocation. We see Jesus practice this labor, rest, renewal cycle with his disciples.

In our Gospels, we read about Jesus calling his disciples and traveling from town to town. Then he sends them out, two by two, to do front line missionary work ‘Come with me by yourselves to a

French River Lutheran Church

quiet place and rest for a while.’ —Jesus said to his disciples. We should note that the word “rest” is an imperative verb in the original Greek text (*anapausasthe*). Jesus is not *recommending* rest. He is *commanding* it.

Jesus recognizes the need for his disciples to experience a season of life away from the stress of ordinary life. For them, this required solitude. They had been engaging people, extending a tremendous amount of emotional and mental energy. Now they needed solitude to recover. Some alone time in places where they can feel renewal.

While the six-day/one day cycle is designed for the wear and tear of normal life, Jesus shows us that there are seasons in life and ministry that require a more extended period devoted to recovery. The purpose of this season of rest is not just to “take a break” or because we are lazy and don’t like hard work. In fact, seasons of deep rest and effective recovery are designed so that we can work hard. It is purposeful recovery of body, soul, mind, and emotion.

Martin Luther, who very well may have suffered from clinical depression, (along with a host of other well-known pastors/scholars), believed that the pen was the heaviest of all work implements. He knew that brainpower not only depleted the mind but the body. He knew what we all know, which is that the exertion of mental energy is analogous to physical labor. You know a vacation has fulfilled its purpose when you can’t wait to get back to work. This Iceland trip felt like that was for me when I committed to letting go for a bit. Towards the end, I thought about how I could share with you all, the joys and awe that this place gave us, the rest and recharge we experienced. (*But then the dreaded Covid decided to join us at the last moment to be a little bit of a temporary detour.*)

Since I love my job, it can be easy to slip into working “on” ministry, even when I’m not “in” it. Not only do I need time for renewal, but the church also needs me to take time for renewal. We should be reminded that we grow better in our

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connection and spiritual faith when we have a little time apart.

Jesus modeled mental rest. He was unafraid to pull away and leave the crowds, even when they desperately wanted Him. He would get into a boat with the disciples and go to the other side, away from the multitudes. It was often in the midst of chaos, when people were clamoring for Him.

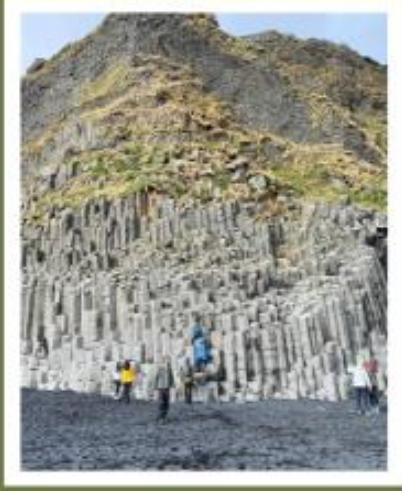
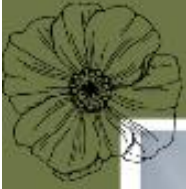
But Jesus was clear on what God was calling Him to do, so other people’s pressing needs and their desire for His presence didn’t drive His activity. Honestly, even as a pastor, I constantly struggle with this type of rest. The urgency often drives my activity and demands determine what I do. Because in my mind, if I don’t do it, it won’t get done. It’s all up to me. But in actuality, nothing is ultimately up to me. It’s all up to God. And God doesn’t need my/our exhausted, frenzied help to accomplish God’s purposes. God is inviting us to slow our pace, savor God’s gifts and enjoy the present moment without worrying about what’s not done. And as I do that, I make space for the things that are energized and creative. I see the value of an unhurried heart and body. And how that impacts all aspects of my life.

God is calling all of us to fully rest in Him. To enjoy spiritual, physical and mental rest. When we do, we will recover and refresh our lives. And then we will learn the unforced rhythms of grace. Rest, renew, and restart in Jesus today. Thank you for allowing me time to rest and renew in my faith, to be a better leader for you all.

Blessings, 😊 Pastor Kimberly Sturtz



ICELAND



Upcoming Events

God's Work. Our Hands.



God's Work ~ Our Hands

"God's work. Our hands." work day will be held on Saturday, September 9, beginning at 9 a.m. We have a variety of projects lined up with some work at the parsonage, some

dirt work at the Outdoor Worship Center, and various other jobs. Please consider joining this endeavor! Lunch will be served, with coffee and treats available all day.

Red Cross Blood Drive at FRLC

Sign Up to Help Others by Donating Blood at Our October American Red Cross Blood Drive!



Our next FRLC Blood Drive is now ready for scheduling!

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from Noon - 6 p.m.

Place: FRLC Fellowship Hall

You can schedule your appointment by:

1. Going to RedCrossBlood.org and searching in our zip code for the French River Lutheran Church blood drive. You will need to create a profile with a username and password to schedule your time (if you don't already have one from donating previously).
2. Downloading the Blood Donor App by searching "Red Cross Blood" on the App StoreSM or Google PlayTM store.
3. Contacting Beth Luikart (218-525-1596, or e-mail her at bluikart@outlook.com).

This blood drive is for FRLC members AND members of our North Shore community, so if you know of anyone who would like to donate, please invite them to join us on October 17 to help ensure that blood is available for patients in need.

Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed during the blood drive. All donors, volunteers, and staff members will again be required to wear a mask or face covering. You are encouraged to bring your own mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided.

Interested in volunteering for a two-hour shift at the blood drive?

Contact Beth Luikart (218-525-1596; e-mail: bluikart@outlook.com). The Outreach Committee needs several people each shift to help with registration and working in the canteen area. We appreciate your help!

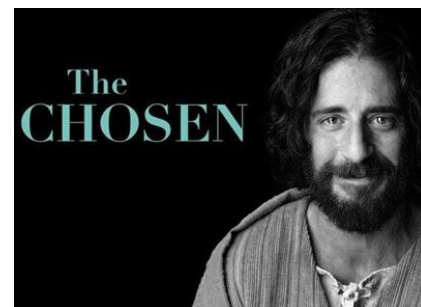
FRLC Choir

FRLC Choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 6 at 7 PM. Practice is usually no more than one hour. We need and welcome new singers! No need to know how to read music, but it doesn't hurt!



Adult Bible Study

If you haven't seen season one of "The Chosen" yet, you have time to binge watch and be ready for the next Adult Bible Study session. Our tentative plan is to start season two and meet Monday evenings at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room; we'll start up again September 18th.



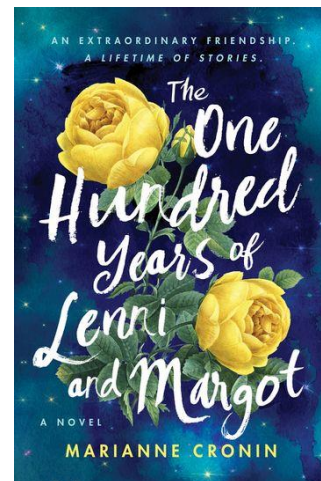
"The Chosen" is available on several platforms: Angel Studios website, The Chosen YouTube page, The Chosen TV app (available on iTunes and Google Play), Netflix, or do a Google search and select your favorite site.

We are open to other ideas for a bible study, too; come with your suggestions! You do not need to commit to weekly attendance. This is an opportunity to study together, and we have a lot of laughs, too!

French River Readers

For September we are reading The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin.

Our next meeting will be on September 21st at 7:30 PM in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please let me know, Carol Surine at 218-525-4426 or carolsurine@gmail.com.



2023 FRLC Directory

****It is time for the
2023 FRLC Photo Directory!****

Our last photo directory was published in 2014. It is time to create a new one.

Save the dates:

We will have someone at the church on

- Thursday September 14 (2:00pm – 8:30pm)
- Friday September 15 (2:00pm – 8:30pm)
- Saturday September 16 (10:30am – 5:00pm)

to take family photos.

Each family will receive a free directory and a free 8x10 family photo. Additional photos are available for purchase.

For scheduling, please see the directions below. There is a QR code that you can scan to schedule your photo appointment.

Schedule Your Photo Appointment Online!

Photo Dates:

Thursday - Saturday, September 14 - 16

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply scan the QR code below. Or go to www.ucdir.com & click the “Photography Appointment Scheduling Login” button.

Enter **mn375** in the “Church Code” field and enter **photos** in the “Church Password” field.

Note: The Church Code & Password are case sensitive. Follow the prompts to schedule your family’s appointment time. If you have 5 or more in your family, please use 2 time slots. The online scheduling option may not be available Saturday or Sunday because we will be doing paper sign-ups at church on selected weekends.

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.



If you are unable to attend the September 14-16 dates for photos, there are options for getting your photo taken:

1. You can give ArMand Nelson a photo that can be added to the book. There is a \$15.00 charge to you for that.
2. St. Michael Catholic Church at 4901 E Superior St. Duluth MN is doing photos November 24-25, you can call the customer service department at 419-522-5011 to schedule a time at St. Michael’s or online using the instructions below. Use Church Code **mn294**, password: **photos** for online registration.
3. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 2316 E 4th St, Superior WI is doing photos November 14-18, you can call the customer service department at 419-522-5011 to schedule a time at St. Michael’s or online using the instructions below. Use Church Code **wi286**, password: **photos** for online registration.
4. Last option is to call the company Customer Service Department at 419-522-5011 and have them look other at other places outside of Duluth where you might be and see if there is a church near where you might be to have your photos taken.
 - a. There is a church in Minneapolis doing photos September 5-9
 - b. There are some other churches in Minneapolis doing photos in October but call Customer Service.

Online Registration for photos at other churches:

- A. You can register online once those online registrations have been opened (generally about 2 months prior to the photo sessions.)
- B. Use the appropriate church code for the site; password is **photos** for all sites.
- C. On the online registration form, we need to add in parentheses “**(walk-in mn375)**” either before or after your FIRST NAME **and** before or after our LAST NAME in the online form (two separate boxes on the form).

When we get our pictures taken, we need to inform the photographer that we are “walk-ins to mn375” so that the photographer sends it to our church.

Take Note

From "Harvest Highlights," a publication from Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank:

What's a Food Bank Anyway?

We're often confused with a food shelf, but did you know we're the only "food bank" supporting agency and community partners (food shelves, on-site meal programs and tribal organizations) throughout NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin?

Our role in hunger-relief is to supply regional partners with donated and purchased food allowing them to feed families, children and seniors in your local community. Much of the food we rescue is donated by our nation's food industry (manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and growers) who have surplus to share. Without us, it's estimated that as much as 40% of the food produced in the U.S. would enter our nation's waste stream.

If you'd like to learn more about our unique organization and impact throughout the Northland, you can join us for our upcoming "Behind the Scenes" Tours on Thursday, September 14 at 12 p.m. or Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at our Duluth facility. **"I loved it," shares volunteer Cindy who attended our tour. "It was fascinating to see where all the food comes from and where it goes. And that you save food from local restaurants."**

To RSVP, contact Katie@northernlakesfoodbank.org

To become familiar with the songs by Riversong Rising on blended and contemporary worship Sundays, try searching them on YouTube before coming to church, and then you will be prepared to sing along!



Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26 & August 23 — Campfire Worship - 6 PM

September 9 God's Work/Our Hands : 9 AM wear coveralls and bring work gloves! 

September 17 - Rally Sunday - 10 AM - Blessing of the Backpacks! Sunday School begins! Start the school year off right!

October 17 — American Red Cross Blood Drive - 1-7 PM
Donate blood and save lives! 

October 31 - Trunk or Treat — 4:30-6:30 PM
Halloween goodies in the parking lot! 

November 12 - Turkey Bingo 5:30-7:30 PM
You all know what great fun this is! Prizes! Food!

November 21—Thanksgiving Service followed by pie and coffee in the Fellowship Hall. 

December 9 - Scandinavian Christmas on the Shore
Cardamom bread, Swedish rye bread, fancy baked goods, candy, vendors, light refreshments, and much more. You won't want to miss it! 

2024—Celebrate 100 years of French River Lutheran Church

 **100th ANNIVERSARY**

For more information about these and other events, visit www.frenchriverlutheran.org or like us on Facebook, or call 218-525-5659.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

September 10, 2023



Lutheran Social Service
of Minnesota

2023 Lutheran Social Service Projects

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) will be offering a range of projects for "God's Work. Our Hands." On September 10, 2023 and throughout the fall season of service!

Service projects can be completed at your congregation and delivered to LSS sites or by volunteering at LSS sites.

See a full list of opportunities on our website: lssmn.org/GWOH or see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex at FRLC.

**IMPORTANT DATES
FOR YOUTH**

September 17: Rally Sunday
~Blessing of the Backpacks

September 24: First Day of Sunday School
~children leave Sunday service after
communion (around 10:45 AM)

September 27: Fish Force Starts
~Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

September 27: Confirmation Class Starts
~Wednesdays from 6:45 – 7:30 PM

October 29: Confirmation Sunday
Reformation Sunday



FRLC Financial Facts

June offering \$16,315
June budget \$13,984

July offering \$17,548
July budget \$19,565



Service Teams

Everyone at FRLC is encouraged to participate on a Service Team. If you are not sure which team you are on, please contact the office. Teams serve a different month each year. The schedule for the next three months is:

Team	Captain	Month
Samaria	Katie Edblom 218-355-0876	Sept `23
Damascus	Carol Surine 525-4426	Oct `23
Jericho	Sue Baker 218-341-4181	Nov `23

A 2023 calendar is available for coffee fellowship sign-up. Look for it on the Welcome Center in the narthex.

September Celebrations

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Ebba Makesroom | 20 Libby Johnson |
| 4 LuRae Hill | 20 Ray Johnson |
| 4 Amanda Smitke | 20 Addison Vatne |
| 6 Bridger Marks | 21 Kenneth Olsen |
| 7 Tim Andrews, Jr. | 22 Larry Smith |
| 7 Kaylea Atkinson | 27 Amanda Ruberg |
| 8 Mandy Andrews | 28 Joan Kuettel |
| 9 Derek Grumdahl | 29 Amy Bergerson |
| 9 Aria Lucarelli | 29 Linda Lindquist |
| 9 Christine Strom | 29 Angel Poe-Johnson |
| 11 Dustin Andrews | 29 Eli Adams |
| 12 Alec Fuentes | 30 George Sundstrom |
| 12 Peter Hendrickson | |
| 12 Leslie Peterson | |
| 13 Kayla Plasch | |
| 13 Karen Wright | |
| 15 David Chura | |
| 16 Jimmy Rolfe | |
| 16 Emma Smitke | |
| 17 Easton Grumdahl | |
| 19 Lydia Darsow | |
| 19 Adam Marks | |



Happy Anniversary

- Dustin & Tammy Wilman
- Marlow & Carolyn Bakken
- Paul & Laura Herzog
- Jon & Beth Luikart
- Tim & Julie Strom
- Don & Merry Mattson
- Wade & Connie Felde
- Greg & Mary Garmer
- Marty & Jennie Emeott
- David & Michelle Libby
- Curtis & Jennifer Schneider
- Alan & Barb McNickol
- Roger & Renee Reeves



See something wrong? Need a birthday or anniversary changed? Do you receive multiple mailings of *The Parables* at your address and your family only needs one? Help update our records by contacting the office with changes. If you know of someone who needs to be added or deleted from *The Parables* mailing list, please contact us. Switching to receive by email is also an option!
Thank you!

Lessons This Month

September 3 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Jeremiah 15:15-21](#); [Psalm 26:1-8](#); [Romans 12:9-21](#); [Matthew 16:21-28](#).

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

September 10 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Ezekiel 33:7-11](#); [Psalm 119:33-40](#); [Romans 13:8-14](#); [Matthew 18:15-20](#).

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

September 17 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Genesis 50:15-21](#); [Psalm 103:\[1-7\] 8-13](#); [Romans 14:1-12](#); [Matthew 18:21-35](#).

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

September 24 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Jonah 3:10--4:11](#); [Psalm 145:1-8](#); [Philippians 1:21-30](#); [Matthew 20:1-16](#).

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

CHUM News

We have never seen the demand we are seeing now: It used to take us up to 2 hours to get rid of 72 boxes of food at the Downtown Food Shelf—now we are doing it in as little as 45 minutes! And it is even busier and quicker out west, and at our pop-up locations!

We usually see an increase in need during the summer months due to kids being out of school, and while in years past we have tried to build a stockpile of food to keep us moving forward, it has proven most difficult to do that this year.

We are hoping that donations of food keep coming so we are able to keep up with the demand we are seeing. Any food will help us, but right now we are in most need of:

Rice (1lbs)
Dry Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Canned Soups (non-cream)
Canned Pasta
Peanut butter
Macaroni and Cheese

Please take donations to 120 N 1st Ave W Monday - Friday 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Come down the alley and ring the bell, we will be happy to take any and all donations!



Chum's
Golden Gala

Honoring 50 years of service in the Northern Region. Join us for a fun night of pleasant company, good food, and regional impact.
More Info to Come.

OCTOBER
TUESDAY | 17 | AT 7 PM
2023



French River Lutheran Church

MEETING MINUTES – August 8, 2023

"To live and love as God Commands, accept His Grace, and share the Good News."

2021-2024		2022-2025		2023-2026	
Sheila Leppala	P	Sue Baker	P	ArMand Nelson	P
Ken Peterson	P	Rolf Carlson	P	Dave Edblom	P
Haeli Pettis	P			Adam Marks	P
Loren Slette	P			Others:	
				Pastor Kim Strutz	XX
				Barb Jackson	P

P-Present XX-Excused MSC-motion made, seconded, carried □-Action Item

1. **Call to order @ 7:00 PM by Rolf Carlson**
2. **Devotion: Loren Slette**
3. **Adjustment to the agenda**—a few additions were made to new business.
4. **Devotions for council 2023**
 - A. Sep – Adam Marks
 - B. Oct – Sheila Leppala
 - C. Nov – Rolf Carlson
 - D. Dec – Ken Peterson
 - E. Jan '24 – Pastor Kim
5. **Offering Counters: *helps with communion**
 - A. August 20 – ArMand / Loren*
 - B. August 27 – Sheila* / Sue
 - C. September 3 – Sue* / Adam
 - D. September 10 – Ken / Dave*
6. **Financial Report - Loren**
 - A. Expenses \$2K under budget. Income under budget and expenses.
 - B. Shelley will have one of her employees do our bookkeeping.
 - C. Barb working with accountant cancelling 2 checks that have been reissued twice after calling the party and still not cashed. 1 other check will be reissued.
 - D. Resolving the issue with benevolence accidentally double paid last month.
 - E. Discussion next year about possibly forming 1-2 other paid positions.
 - F. Audit committee has received all information requested. Will need an auditor report in a couple of months.
7. **Secretary's Report:**
 - A. Approved June's secretary's report via email on June 13th. (*majority approved plus the president*)
8. **Pastor's Report – Highlights for past month**
 - A. Pastor is in Iceland now for a trip.
 - B. Pulpit supply provided by the Synod this week. Purchasing a gift card instead, since payment is not charged.
 - ✓ Timber Frame project coming along
 - ✓ Fall planning in full swing
 - ✓ Should hear about Sabbatical Grant by the end of the Month of August
 - ✓ Presided over Two Funerals
 - John Sorenson Funeral 6/20/23 @FRLC (daughter is LuAnne Miltakis)
 - Linda Galeski Funeral 7/19/23 @Park Hill Cemetery Chapel
 - ✓ Officiate Wedding for Holly & Sarah - Larsmont Aug 5th (possible new members)
 - ✓ Two Baptisms Planned for this Summer at the French River/Lake Superior
 - Baptism of Sierra Ruth Schrank at Baptism River - July 29th
 - Parents Patricia and Jayson Schrank (possible new members)
 - Baptism for Henning Schraufnagel Mouth of the French River -to occur on August 26th 11 am - Parents Karlie and Mason Schraufnagel

9. Standing Reports: **reports submitted*

- A. Notations from reports submitted
 - i. Worship and Music recommending 10:00 church service year-round.
 - ii. Planning to hold God's Work Our Hands on September 9th at 9:00.
- B. Approved standing committee reports. MSC (Loren/ArMand)
- C. Christian Life (*liaison: ArMand Nelson, Adam Marks, Haeli Pettis*)
 - i. Faith Formation (Youth/Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Education/Bible Study)
 - ii. Hospitality (Compassion/Care*: Prayer Shawls, Wellness/BP Screening, Sunshine Ministry, Scrap Happy Quilters)
 - iii. Long Range Planning
 - iv. Memorial
 - v. Worship/Music (Altar Guild)
- D. Mission Life Committees (*liaison: Sue Baker*)
 - i. Outreach* (Seafarers; Scholarship; Compassion/Care: CHUM, MN Foodshare, Days for Girls)
 - ii. Stewardship (Eco Faith)
- E. Operations (*liaisons: Dave Edblom, Loren Slette*)
 - i. Audit (*Carol Surine, Carolyn Marino, Kim Marks*)
 - ii. Finance*
 - iii. Property
- F. Women of French River (WOFR / WELCA) Auxiliary
- G. Executive Committee (Pastor, President, VP, Secretary)
 - i. Mutual Ministry (Pastor, President, Steve Berntson, Carol Surine, Kim Burke, Ken Peterson)
 - ii. Staff Relations

10. Correspondence

- A. Our former Pastor Bloomquist's wife Elaine recently passed away. They served our congregation in the early 1960's though early 1970's, before Paster Solberg started. The family sent a thoughtful note from Sharon, the youngest daughter and a memorial gift.
 - i. Approved to use the gift for parsonage improvements including pavers around the parsonage. MSC (ArMand/Adam). A thank you note will be sent.

11. Old Business

- A. Fellowship Hall floor
 - i. Floor tiles. Date TBD – After pavilion is done.
 - ii. The memorial committee requested to disperse funds for the fellowship hall project, a project which already has our congregation's approval.
 - a. Approved dispersing \$9,925 from designated memorial funds for fellowship hall and remaining \$3,262.20 from the capital improvement fund designated for fellowship hall. MSC (Ken/Loren)
- B. Property - Adam
 - i. In May approved spending up to \$2,000 to acquire small corner property. Due to U.S. Supreme Court case, there's a moratorium on purchasing tax forfeited land. County believe our land was not gifted, but instead tax forfeited. So, any movement on this is on hold.
 - ii. Gutters project: majority of gutters completed 2 left including 1 additional that needs to be added due to poor slope in the gutter. Some day when Ken has time. Thanks to LOREN for the assistance.
- C. Outdoor Worship Space
 - i. Approved dispersing \$4,650 from designated memorial fund for the Outdoor Gathering Space. MSC (Ken/ArMand)
 - ii. Discussed ideas for naming the structure.
 - iii. Jon L wants to update the council on the project at the September meeting please add it to next month's agenda. – Reminder
 - iv. ½ of roof decking installed on pace for an August/September completion of the roof
 - v. Electrical line laid but Greg recommended to get licensed electrician involved to complete install he is no longer licensed cannot pull permits- part of phase 2 but will start getting numbers together for cost. -Ken

- D. Photo directory update - ArMand
 - i. Taking appointments for September 14-16 photo shoot.
 - ii. ArMand reported the many, many ways we are attempting to contact people to sign up. Emails, phone call, Facebook, table at church entry, etc.
- E. Website Update
 - i. Eric Sturtz building an updated church website. Working with Rich Hoeg to transition.
- F. Member definitions – Ken explained the related Constitution and By-Laws language around this for discussion on revising – committed to doing this at Jan 2023 Congregational meeting.
 - i. Approved suggest to the congregation that we removed bylaw #6 in regard to active and inactive members. MSC (Adam/Haeli)

12. New Business

- A. Meeting with insurance company risk management consultant - overview and suggestions
 - i. Sue provided a report of the meeting with the insurance company that included some small considerations. Sue Baker, Wayne Dahlberg, and Rolf Carlson attended the meeting.
- B. Rolf mentioned the Reconciling in Christ article in the Duluth News Tribune. If anyone in the congregation was interested in pursuing this, he would be willing to lead this.

13. Upcoming:

- A. Council Meeting minutes email approval by Sunday, August 13th
- B. Parables Deadline — Wednesday, August 16th, 9:00 A.M.
- C. Executive: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- D. Finance: Monday, September 11, 2023 6:00 P.M.
- E. Council: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

14. Meeting adjourned at 8/8/2023 at 8:07 P.M. MSC (Loren/ArMand)

15. Closing with The Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by Sheila Leppala, Secretary

Are you skilled in providing
blood pressure checks?

We would like to occasionally offer this service on Sundays after church. Please contact Jacquie Eubanks, Sue Baker, or the church office with your interest.



If you are not aware, French River Lutheran Church has an anniversary coming up. In 2024 we will celebrate 100 years as a church – that's quite a feat! Imagine what it was like to start up a church. Our forebears certainly had vision and no doubt a tremendous amount of trust, faith, and hope in God. They certainly put their spiritual gifts to the test and to use.



From the July newsletter: "...it is important to unveil, or perhaps rediscover, what spiritual gifts we possess. "Gifts for You – Opening your spiritual gifts" is a resource from the Women of the ELCA designed to help discern who we are and what are the spiritual gifts within us. The *Spiritual Gifts Assessment* is a series of 60 questions designed to expose our gifts and reveal which ones we have been given in the greatest measure or "core gifts."

The self-assessment tool is found at

<file:///E:/FRLC%202023/2023%20Committees/Stewardship%202023/SpiritualGifts.pdf>

and printed copies are also available from the standing shepherd in the narthex." If you happen to take the last copy from the narthex, please use the copier to make more, ask someone who knows how to use the copier for assistance, or leave a note for the secretary to print additional copies. You are encouraged to look at this assessment. It may help lead to answering, "What will I bring to the table as we grow into the next century, the next generation of French River Lutheran Church?" Don't let what Jesus did for you end with you.

John 15:5 (NRSV) – I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Ways to Worship

FRLC offers in-person worship, as well as the option to continue to worship virtually.

- Worship **VIRTUALLY** with us! Visit www.frenchriverlutheran.org or send your email address to our office, frc5310@gmail.com, and receive a weekly email to the direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>

- Visit www.frenchriverlutheran.org

HOME PAGE for a link to archived services.

Please contact the office with any inquires.

If you call and reach voicemail and need quicker assistance, please email the FRLC office.

In case of an emergency please contact Pr. Kim Sturtz at 218.393.7444 or frcpastorsturtz@gmail.com

FRLC office: frc5310@gmail.com 218.525.5659

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