

VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

October 2019

We are going to lose a couple of the beautiful old trees in our cemetery. Our wonderfully vigilant cemetery board called in an arborist who has determined these particular trees are at the end of their lifespan, and it is time to take them down before they fall on their own and do damage. The board is handling the tree removal well, all the details are taken care of, but the conversation around taking the trees down has been somber—it's a sad thing to think of flossing these trees.

As I look out my office window every day watching the leaves slowly turn for what I know will be the last time on these majestic old trees, it strikes me that every year this tree has prepared for its death. Every year the sap pulls back, every year the leaves turn color and fall to the ground, every year the empty branches stretch into a cold winter sky. Every year this tree practices death.

The two trees that we will lose are some of the trees planted by the confirmation class of 1887. As these youth prepared for their confirmation they planted these trees as a way to beautify the grounds of their church. Year after year they watched as these trees grew, changed their colors, and shed their leaves. Year after year they watched as the trees died their fall deaths. Now many of these confirmands, I'm sure, lay at rest in the shade of the trees they planted as they affirmed their faith so many years ago.

But, the trees don't stay dead. Each year as the weather warms new buds spring forth. New leaves unfurl, and new life touches each of these trees. The trees in our cemetery are not simply a reminder of mortality and death—they are a reminder of the resurrection promised to each of us in Christ. Just as the trees receive new leaves each spring, each of the individuals laid to rest in our cemetery is given new life in Christ.

Yes, the trees are a very fitting symbol to have in our cemetery, and it is sad to lose two of them. As I look out my window, though, I can also see two smaller trees in the lineup. Though they are not necessarily small trees, they are dwarfed by those around them. But that's just because they are newer. They were planted when we lost some of the other, older trees in the line. As they grow they will fill in the spaces left by the trees they replaced—and we will plant new trees to fill in for those we will lose this season too. Just like the forest, the church goes on. And in Christ we trust that life will always go on.

So this year as you watch the leaves turn and fall, thank God for the gift of life given to each of us—life on earth and eternal life with God. And give thanks too for those gnarly old giants in the faith that helped you grow when your faith was smaller.

Wednesday, October 2nd

WELCA 9:00am
Staff Meeting 11:00am
Kids Night 5:00-7:30pm
(See calendar for more details)

Thursday, October 3rd

Council Meeting 6:30pm

Sunday, October 6th

Choir Rehearsal 9:00am
Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Monday, October 7th

Audit Committee 6:00pm

Tuesday, October 8th

Social Ministry Meeting 6:00pm
Noel and Sharon Petit's house

Wednesday, October 9th

Kids Night 5:00-7:30pm

Thursday, October 10th

WELCA Extra Sewing Day 12:00-
4:00pm

Sunday, October 13th

Choir Rehearsal 9:00am
Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday, October 16th

Staff Meeting 11:00am
No Activities—MEA Weekend

Saturday, October 19th

Block of the Month 8:30-10:30am

Sunday, October 20nd

Choir Rehearsal 9:00am
Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Tuesday, October 22th

Prime Time 11:00am

Wednesday, October 23th

Kids Night 5:00pm

Saturday, October 26th

My Bible Retreat (third graders)
10:00am-12:00pm

Sunday, October 27th

Reformation Sunday
Adult Confirmation and Bible
Presentation

Choir Rehearsal 9:00am
Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday, October 30th

No classes
Confirmation service project

(See full calendar in center fold)

Voices of Fish Lake—Michelle Young

Complete emptiness. Nothing. Helpless. Never had I felt so alone and so adrift as I did right then. Just a mere few hours before, I had taken my son to his pediatrician--sure she would give us some magic medicine to end his sudden onset of headaches, dizziness, vomiting. Instead, my husband and I found ourselves at Children's Hospital with our four year old, immediately admitted after an MRI showed a brain tumor--a tumor that they were unsure what it exactly was and what it all meant. All we knew for sure was it had to come out as soon as possible, after steroids helped decrease the inflammation and the medical team could all meet and devise a plan and secure a room for the many hour surgery. And all that brought me to where I was...alone with my sleeping son in the middle of the night in his hospital room. I had sent my husband home to care for our other two toddlers--he would return in the morning. In the meantime, I sat, unable to sleep or do much of anything. And that's where the desperation began to set in. In the past, I had never had much trouble praying to God, though looking back now, I realize life had been pretty easy for my first 31 years. My "prayers" were pretty embarrassing in retrospect--"God, let us win this game," "God, please let me do well on this test," "If there's one thing I need, God, it's nice weather on my wedding day!" Now, when I felt that I needed God more than ever before, I was too overwhelmed, emotional, exhausted. Nothing came to me. I couldn't pray. This made everything so much worse, and sleep evaded me that entire night. The sun eventually rose, and the despair I felt was enormous. I was burdened beyond anything I had ever experienced before. My son awoke, and his little four year old self was oblivious to anything being wrong with me. I pasted on a smile and turned on cartoons for him to watch on tv. Just then, thankfully, my pastor arrived at the hospital. After greeting us, he simply sat down and asked me, "What can I do for you?" It all came out...the almost desperate feelings I was having...I couldn't find words. Prayer wouldn't come. When I needed God the most, when He was the only one who could truly make a difference, I was incapable of talking to Him. The conversation that followed was one I will never forget. We talked about Romans 8:26--in part, "the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words." Words are not required when we pray to God--he understands what your heart feels and your soul needs. The thoughts and feelings we cannot express in human words are conveyed. The Spirit creates the connection from us to God and the content of our

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communication. Though still exhausted and overwhelmed and stressed, just repeating this bible verse over and over to myself seemed to lift a ton of bricks off my shoulders. In the end, Will's surgery--all 12 plus hours of it with two pediatric neurosurgeons trading off operating--was a success. Though there were lingering effects of it for many years, he became a competitive gymnast, a pianist and a tuba player in the school band, a varsity football player, a college graduate, a Peace Corps volunteer. However, situations in the almost 30 years that followed haven't always worked out so well for me--my mom and brother being diagnosed with cancer and dying six months apart, friends who encountered serious physical and mental health conditions, broken relationships, and so on. And there have been many times where I desperately needed to pray to God and words wouldn't come. However, those feelings of pure despair from being unable to articulate my thoughts have not occurred again. "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.



Those fighting cancer – Mary, Nancy, Michael, Connie, Carol, Beth, Barb, Jim, Rebecca, Julie, Andrew and Corey.

For those in need of healing - Carol Nieman, Ronnie Hunt, Lois Colliander, Renee, Jaelin, Al Blesener, Evie Yates, Buzzy, Lee Tinneland, Tina and Clara, Kate and Ember, and Samantha

Our service men and women including Sami and Tim

Partner congregation – Wasa congregation in Tanzania

All those who are grieving the loss of loved ones

All who battle depression and anxiety or any form of mental illness.



**Quilt Drawing for Amborella House
Tickets available from Corn Feed to Pork Dinner
One ticket for \$5 or 3 tickets for \$10**

Renewing Hope - Restoring Lives Amborella House was founded in 2017 with the goal of providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for women who have been rescued from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, women who need a place to escape “the life” and redeem their future in a safe, nurturing and faith-based environment.

Sex Trafficking Realities

It is said the average lifespan of a female, once engaged in prostitution, is seven years.

The average age of entry for minors is 12-14 years old.

The average of Adult women entering into prostitution is 17-19 years of age. 60-90% of survivors are without safe housing. Without safe housing they often return to “the life”.

83% of sex trafficking are victims of assault with a deadly weapon.

The Minnesota Attorney General reported “a six-month study by local prosecutors found over 34,000 advertisements posted online for sex in the Twin Cities but sex trafficking is not just a Twin Cities problem. Trafficking affects people from all parts of Minnesota.

Amborella House Services

When the doors of Amborella House open, in September 2019, they will provide transitional housing for rescued women from 30 days to three years (with an 18-month average stay). The house will provide a safe and supportive environment for women to begin to heal, achieve a sense of safety and stability, develop independent living skills, and provide renewed hope for their lives, all in preparation for life outside of Amborella House. Services will include:

24/7 Onsite and Trained Staff Safe and Secure Living Environment, Case Management by Qualified Staff Members, Professional Individual and Group Therapy, Basic Life Skills Education GED Tutoring and Test Preparation Career Readiness Coaching Links, to Healthcare and Legal Services, Sensitive, Compassionate Faith-Based Care, Other Services as Needs Arise.

Youth and Family Announcements

TIM Team— Twilight Corn Maze Oct. 5 (meet at Caribou in Cambridge at 6:00pm)
Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 27 after worship
Feed My Starving Children Nov. 9 (get signed up early!)

Confirmation— First Family Night Weds, Oct. 2
No Class (MEA Weekend) Weds, Oct. 16
No Class Weds, Oct. 30
Don't forget to do your family service project this month!

Faith Weavers— Faith Weavers I (5:00) Weds, Oct. 2, 9, 23
Faith Weavers II (6:15) Weds, Oct. 2, 9, 23
Dinner is served on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:15

*****Bible Sunday will be on October 27, 2019—Bibles for 3 year olds, those in 3rd grade, and our incoming Confirmation students.*****

Trunk or Treat!

Let's do Halloween a little early! Come to Fish Lake for worship on Sunday, October 27th, then stay afterward for our Trunk or Treat event. Children are invited to get into their costumes and go around to different decorated trunks to get candy. Teens and adults can join in the fun by decorating their trunks and wearing costumes to hand out candy to the good little ghouls and boys. There will be prizes for the top three decorated trunks! Pre-registration is requested for those handing out candy—please call the church office or Deb.



Everyone who participates is asked to bring two cans of soup for our local food pantries. Come join us for this Spook-tacular event!

Trip to our sister church Wasa – July 2019 *Noel Petit*

For the first time, Bega Kwa Bega gathered a group of singers for a choir to travel to Tanzania. Most of the choir came from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, but there were a few of us from other churches to make up the 21 singers. Mark Ertl, Shepherd's Music Director, led us in 3 practices over the spring. We spent two weeks in Iringa in mid-July – singing at 6 different churches with a native choir of about 25. The trip included a safari to Ruhaha National Park. I continue to encourage folks to travel to Africa and visit Iringa. The people are wonderful and the scenery incredible

I spent a day visiting our sister church in Wasa, Tanzania. Wasa is a small town of a few hundred folks surrounded by many small villages. The drive to Wasa is a comfortable 2 hour drive from Iringa along significantly improved roads. Wasa's Pastor Amidu Msungu knew of the choir and even had visited one of our concerts. The congregation welcomed me along with Nixon Mwitula (one of the synod's outreach pastors) and the regional pastor. After tea, we worshiped in the new church (in the past 4 years), had a congregational meeting and lunch. The Wasa church includes 6 preaching points in nearby communities. Lacking easy transportation, the preaching points provide worship services across the region. Most of the preaching point congregations are 20 or so members and Pastor Msungu supervises the evangelists at each point.

Next to the church, construction continues on the Pastor's house. With local and synod support, the house rises to accommodate a pastor and his family in this very rural area. So far, the house is foundation, walls and a roof. Still needed to complete the home are floors, windows, doors, plumbing (though the outhouse is under construction) and electricity. I have pictures of the church and pastor's house on Facebook. I encourage you to see how much progress has been made in Wasa in the past dozen or so years. My visit included donations to each of the evangelists and to Pastor Msungu. The synod also brought books for the evangelists and pastor on sermons, worship services and teaching young people.

Thanks to members of Fish Lake Lutheran for your dedication to our BKB partnership. Our Pastors Mwitula and Msungu read the greeting card to the congregation. Wasa church thanks all of you for your prayers, thoughts and donations to this growing congregation.



Fish Lake Lutheran Annual

*Pork Dinner, Craft and Bake Sale,
and Silent Auction*

Let us prepare your dinner so you have time to go do your civic duty and vote!
The proceeds of this dinner go toward a variety of mission projects.

Tuesday, November 5th, 2019
Serving from 4:00-6:30pm

Roast Pork
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Corn, Coleslaw, Pickled Beets,
Roll & Butter and Dessert
Milk, Apple Cider, and Coffee

Fish Lake Lutheran Church
43353 Cedarcrest Trail
Harris, MN 55032
(651)674-4252
www.fishlakelutheran.org

Adults \$10, Children 6-12 \$5
Children 5 and under eat free

Food Shelf Garden News:

The harvest from the food shelf garden is winding down. We will continue harvesting for the next few weeks—call Steve Mettling if you're interested in helping. Or, give the church office a call if you want to be involved with next year's garden.

God's Work, our hands!

**To Date around 1500 pounds of
produce for 2019!**



A message from Sr. LaDonna...

I recently celebrated my birthday. I was telling everyone that I was turning 66 and that I had to sign up for Medicare! 66 didn't seem so bad but being on Medicare really made me feel old. To top that off, my oldest brother sent me a text in the morning congratulating me on joining the "old" club. Except that he wrote, "happy 65th birthday!" I was perplexed and wondered why he was saying it was my 65th. Shouldn't he know how old I was?

Later in the day I got a call from my other brother wishing me a happy 65th. I questioned his math, but he rightly explained that he had just turned 67 and he was two years older than I. I did the math and realized I had been wrong most of the past year. I was only 65! It was the best birthday present ever - I had a whole extra year to live!

Psalm 90:12 is one of my favorite verses, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." I guess what I want more than anything in my aging is to gain that heart of wisdom. But I'm not just wishing for the wisdom from 65 years of life experience. I want the wisdom that the Psalmist is referring to. The wisdom of understanding God's desires and God's heart. I'm not sure how to go about that. Perhaps it is God that gives the wisdom and I simply need to be open to receiving it. Times spent in contemplative prayer, in God's word, in praying the news can all help me to become wise in that way. And every once in a while, while I'm doing spiritual direction, or having a conversation with a young person I sense that I might have a glimmer of what that wisdom looks like.

What about you? What do you long for as you age? What do you think God desires for you? How does that inform your life choices now? I would love to hear your stories. You can reach me at ladolson@msn.com.

Now to enjoy my extra year of life!

GROUNDS CREW

The FLL Council is working on getting a group together to work on some of the property issues with our building, and maybe share a pot of coffee as well. We are looking for interested hands so we can find a time that might work. Contact Steve Mettling at 763-444-5170 for information.



Offering Counters Needed

Are you good with numbers? Or maybe you just have some time to kill while someone you love socializes in the basement? The council is looking for volunteers to count the offering after worship. The commitment is one Sunday per month for 30-45 minutes after worship. You will train with our dedicated counters who have done this task for years, so you will know exactly what you need to do. If you have any interest in serving Fish Lake in this capacity, please contact the office. Thanks!

Cemetery Board Announcement

The Cemetery Board does periodic assessments of conditions around the church and cemetery grounds. We recently consulted with Xtreme Tree Service regarding the condition of storm damaged trees near the back of the cemetery and also a few mature trees around the cemetery and church. Based on this assessment, the Cemetery Board procured a bid from Xtreme Tree Service to remove some established trees that are at risk of falling and causing damage, along with some maintenance/pruning of a few others. Upon reviewing the bid and the risks involved, the board has opted to accept this bid and proceed. This decision was not taken lightly. As hard as it is to see a few of our larger maple trees go, the expense of acting now (while still significant) would potentially be much greater should these trees fall on their own and damage either the cemetery or the church. The Cemetery Board will bear the cost of the effort, including trees on the church grounds. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin around mid-October.

Year of Renewal 1-to-1 Conversations Recap

This summer Fish Lake has been participating in the first stage of the St. Paul Area Synod's Year of Renewal Program. The Year of Renewal is an intentional program focusing on three Great Listenings – Listening to God, Listening to One Another, and Listening to our Community. We have been working on Listening to God with the leaves we place weekly on the vine in the sanctuary space. Feel free to check out the vine and read some of the ways that God has been active in the lives of the people in our congregation. And don't forget to add your leaf every week during worship (or whenever you find yourself at the church).

The second of the Great Listenings we have been working on this summer is Listening to One Another. The Year of Renewal Committee, along with several volunteers recruited from the congregation, have been sitting down to have 1 to 1 Conversations with members of our congregation. The goal of the conversations is to listen to the person's story, to hear what's truly important to them, and to gather all the reports together (in confidence) to see if we can find any themes in what we have heard. A big thanks to our Year of Renewal Committee, as well as to Michelle Young, LaDonna Olson, Jerome Huselid, Lisa Nephew, Sue Kane, Candy McCauley, and Patty Ricke for contacting members and having these conversations!

All those who had conversations gathered on August 28th to share what they had heard. The major thing that was shared was that people loved having a space opened to be listened to. It is not often in our busy world that someone takes an hour of their time just to listen to someone else – and that time was much appreciated. Other things we learned –

- The culture of Fish Lake is appreciated – people feel like family
- There is a feeling that maybe Fish Lake is doing too much, and that the same volunteers are doing so much they get burned out
- There is a hunger for service opportunities
- Many in times of transition are hungry for support from their Fish Lake family
- The youth opportunities are quality – and much appreciated
- There is a call for a specifically men's ministry type of gathering

We have gathered much data from these conversations! If you are interested in talking we do still have people willing to do 1 to 1 Conversations, just call the office and we will get you set up! The next step in the Year of Renewal process is to being the Listening to the Community piece (while still continuing the Listening to God). The Year of Renewal Committee will gather with the other congregations in this process on Saturday, October 12. Please keep this committee, and the Fish Lake family, in your prayers as we work through this Year of Renewal.

The Year of Renewal Team
Kelli Klein, Jami Wilking, Rick Cedergren, Mike Linder, Barb Sauer
and Pastor Amanda

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		1	2 WELCA 9:00 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Faithweavers 5:00 to 6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 to 6:15 pm Faithweavers 2 6:15 to 7:15 pm Confirmation 6:00to 7:30 pm <i>Family Night!</i>	3 M
6 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am Worship 10:00 am	7 Audit Committee 6:00 pm	8 Social Ministry and Potluck at the Petit's 6:00pm	9 Faithweavers 5:00 to 6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Faithweavers 2 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm	10 D 4p
13 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Church Pew Raffle and 2020 Youth Mission Trip Announcement during worship	14	15 Vine and Branches Deadline	16 Staff Meeting 11:00 am MEA Weekend—No youth classes	17
20 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Adult Confirmation Prep 9:00am Worship 10:00 am	21	22 Prime Time 11:00 am	23 Faithweavers 5:00 to 6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Faithweavers 2 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm	24
27 Reformation Sunday Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship with Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (for adults!) 10:00 am	28	29	30 No Classes	31

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship
Refreshments and Fellowship



Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Council Meeting 6:30 pm	4	5
10 Extra Sewing Day WELCA 12 - 1 pm	11	12 Year of Renewal Cohort Meeting 9:00 am-2:30 pm (at St. Michael's Lutheran, Roseville)
17	18	19 Block of the Month 8:30-10:30 am
24	25	26 My Bible Retreat (for 3rd graders) 10:00am-12:00pm
31		

Offering Counters

- 6 Rick & Deb Lofboom, Cindy Blesener
- 13 Joel & Katie Santjer, Nancy Hoffman
- 20 Julie Osborne, Laurie Knutson
- 27 Mary Street & Arnie Ricke

Coffee Hosts

- 6 Cookie Jar
- 13 Youth - Mellen and Wilson families
- 20
- 27 WELCA Ladies: Cindy Blesener and Julie Osborne

Ushers

- 6 Tom Nieman and Tony Wicklund
- 13 Meagher Family
- 20 Jack and Julie Osborne
- 27 Jeff and Shelley Lustig

Fish Lake Lutheran Church Announcements

Did You Know???

Fish Lake now has a Google calendar! You can subscribe to it on your Google account, or you can find it on fishlakelutheran.org on the “calendar” tab. The Google calendar is the “official” church calendar—if there is a discrepancy, assume the Google calendar is correct.

Prime Time

Join us for our senior worship service, Prime Time on Tuesday, October 22nd at 11:00 am for worship followed by a meal with your Fish Lake Friends. This will be our final Prime Time worship for the year—join us again in April!

Deadline for Vine and Branches Articles are due by the **15th of every month**. Please submit by or before the 15th of each to ensure a **highlighted spot in the Newsletter**. You can email your messages (articles preferably in **Word doc**) to: office@fishlakelutheran.org or by calling the church office at 651-674-4252.

The Communications Team Where are YOU? The weekly emails are a great avenue to know what is happening at Fish Lake in the coming week! If you or someone you know would like to be included on this weekly email then -- please call the office 651-674-4252 and leave your email address, and we will add you to our list of contacts. *Pass this information along to anyone else you know who maybe interested!*

Winter is Coming...

Some of our older members have trouble shoveling out after the large snow storms we get here through the winter. If you would be willing to help shoveling for some of our members through the winter months, please call the office and we will share your name with those who might be in need of help. Or, if you would like help with snow removal this season, you can call the office as well.

Shalom Thrift Shop

Are you or a family in need of some financial assistance, or do know of a family that is? Members of Fish Lake Lutheran volunteer their time at the *Shalom Thrift Store* in Cambridge. Because of the generosity of their time, Fish Lake Lutheran receives funds each month to help families with financial struggles. *Contact Pastor Amanda Applehans or the church office if you, or someone you know, could benefit this service. So far this year we have received \$10,800. We have filled 12 requests totaling \$7,805.30 . Thank you to all who work at Shalom and who have made this giving possible!*

Social Ministry Committee Minutes

Social Ministry Committee met on September 3. After a delicious potluck supper we got down to business looking at social ministry projects for fall and winter. Besides projects that S.M. is in charge of we looked at dates that other committees/groups are planning. By the time you read your October Vine and Branches WELCA will have completed Quilt Bingo raising funds for Family Pathways, Lil' Farm and The Refuge. The Amborella House Quilt Drawing is ongoing until the Fall Pork Dinner on Election Day.

On the first Sunday in November the S.M. committee will start a "Mitten Drive". In addition to mittens/gloves of all sizes we will collect scarves, hats, warm socks and slippers. We will regularly bring them to Family Pathways Food Shelves and they will be distributed to needy people. So bring in these warm clothes, new or gently used and help keep the cold away. The drive will go on through the winter months.

Until the Fall Pork Dinner on Election day, LaDonna, Cindy and Noel will be busy collecting items from merchants for the silent Auction. Proceeds from this auction will go to the fund for our partner congregation, Wasa in Tanzania Africa.

In Advent we will again have the opportunity to help families in need with Christmas gifts. The Giving Tree will be set up with color coded "ornaments" indicating a gift that a member of the families have wished for. More details in the November Vine and Branches.

If you have ideas for social ministry projects or would like to join our committee please call Sharon Petit at 612-968-1319 or email sharonpetit46@gmail.com .



September 5th, 2019

Present: Steve Mettling, Justin Ricke, Bev Zachrison, Barb Sauer, Clay Wilking, Kelli Klein, Candy McColley

Devotions: Clay Wilking. Next month Kelly Klein will lead us in devotions.

Financial Report: LaDonna (in print) Reviewed and approved the Financial Report. Discussion about our current deficit. Will review again next month for possible ways to address our financial needs.

Pastor's Report: VBS was a highlight of August. Pastor Amanda worked with the Youth and Family Team in writing the curriculum, planning, decorating, and teaching the Bible Adventures station. 42 Youth and 40 Volunteers. Outdoor Service with two Baptisms on Aug. 11. A sermon Series on Psalms was started in August and well received. Confirmation planning as well as preparing for the year to come in worship and getting a calendar set for events of the year. Hospital Visit, 1; Home Visits 3, communion 4; Worship 5; Baptism, 2.

Youth & Family: Received written report from Deb Robinson. Corn Feed Carnival went well. Made approximately \$200. Valley Fair/ Soaking in the Son. 8 participants, 2 first time and 2 adults. Upcoming planned activities. Rally Sunday Sept. 8. Youth Start Dates: Sept. 8, Confirmation Sept. 11, Faithweavers, Sept. 11; Tim Team Sept. 15, Caribou/Overcomer Movie

Evangelical/Stewardship: Looking for new members and ways to breathe new life into these committees.

Property:

- 1) Alarm system update: Justin will finalize Contract.
- 2) Retaining wall update: Eric Gustafson will work on this 1st week of October.
- 3) Lighting update: Working on replacement of lights. Including the Sanctuary
- 4) Plumber update: Steve will contact him and set another date/time.
- 5) Exterminator update: Approved expenditure last month. Steve
- 6) Falling trees in forest-y area out back: Steve will discuss with Cemetery Board.
- 7) Clean gutter: Need to schedule
- 8) Start having property committee meetings outside of Council Meeting (men's

ministry?)

Social Ministry: Back to School Supplies have been delivered. A “Warm” theme is being developed with Worship and Music Committee for Advent to coincide with collection scarves and mittens and other warm clothes for those in need.

WELCA: Quilt Bingo coming up on the 21st. Working on finalizing the Brochure, the Volunteer Sign-up Sheet, and Meal Planning. Mission Quilts are being made, would like our youth to have them next summer. Made a donation of \$1000 to the Hospice Program serving, Isanti, Chisago, and Kanebec Counties.

Kelli let us know that retired nurses are being sought to volunteer working with people in their homes to address a variety of needs. See <https://www.fcnnct.org/about-us/> for more information.

Worship and Music – Candy – Meeting scheduled in the coming week. Could the committee look at holding a Sunday Worship in our Fellowship Hall; maybe 5th Sundays, or 2-3 times a year.

Communication: Continuing to review ideas to improve our Annual Report. Good Examples from other non-profits were available to us. Google Calendar being implemented help will be available on Rally Sunday for our members to add the app to their phone. Welcome and FAQ addressed on a laminated sheet that is in each pew.

Year of Renewal team: To all the Renewal Team members for their work on Phase I in building relationships in our church. Getting to know the Church’s needs from our members perspective.

Old Business: Pastor Amanda evaluation: Last of our staff evals for the year. Members will look for a good eval tool and develop questions in preparation of this eval.

3rd week of the month coffee hour needs to be addressed. Table for next meeting.

New Business:

- 1) Nominating committee: Are starting their work early for the Annual Meeting.
- 2) Offering Counter Changes: Julie Osborne will be done in a couple of months. Rick & Debbie Lofboom will be leaving for the winter and will need replacements for them. We agreed we need to develop a way for volunteers to make changes in their commitments. Our Elected leaders have a natural timeline.

3) Received Council Resignation from Clarke Street. His work with our Council is very much appreciated and will be missed. We will wait for the Annual Meeting to elect a replacement.

4) Received a resignation letter from Christen Caza. Decided to start advertising for this position and to cover the office with volunteers until a hire can be made.

5) Corn Feed outcome: \$1400 was made and put into our Building Fund. Summary of changes for next year were identified. It was noted that the move from Friday to Saturday did not adversely affect the attendance. Comments of having something for the kids was very much appreciated.

6) Request from the Full Moon to use our parking lot for the upcoming benefit on Sept. 28. This request was approved.

Affirmations: Jane Chapman for the Communion Stoles for our adult Confirmands. All the volunteers under the leadership of Elizabeth Huslid for a very successful VBS Program. All the VBS kitchen volunteers lead by Michelle Young. To Michelle Hammersma for ordering all the VBS food for our meals. Rick Lofboom for trimming all the brush around the perimeter of the church property. Jack Osborne for making the fence for the VBS decoration in the Sanctuary.

Next Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Close w/ Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Sauer



Youth Mission Trip!

Votes are being tallied to help determine where we will go on our mission trip next summer, 2020. Right now we are selecting between 4 weeks (June 12-20, June 19-27, July 10-19, and July 24-August 1) and 5 places (Beckly, WV; Birmingham, AL; Denver, CO; Eastern Shore, VA; and Savannah, GA). If you would like to vote, rank the selections in the order of choice and text or email them to Deb.

Interested in supporting our youth in their trip? We are auctioning off a table made from one of the Fish Lake Lutheran pews made by Jack Osborne. Tickets will be sold until Youth Sunday on October 15th, when we will raffle the table during worship and announce our 2020 mission trip dates and destination!

Quilt Bingo 2019



Color pictures are available on our website.

2019 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN				
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/ Below Budget
August 25th	3645.00	3395.00	107%	250.00
September 1st	2492.00	3395.00	73%	(903.00)
September 8th	9786.20	3395.00	288%	6,391.20
September 15th	2344.00	3395.00	69%	(1,051.00)
September 22nd	2,272.05	3395.00	67%	(1,123.62)
2019 YEAR TO DATE	111,261.59	129,010.00	86%	(17,748.41)

THANK YOU

Our general fund is looking better this month. A big thank you to all those who give to Fish Lake so that we can spread the Good News of Jesus to our community, and help to care for those in need in our midst.

All who contributed to these funds:

- **Cemetery Fund—\$3548.00** was given so far this year in support of maintaining our Cemetery.
- **Building Fund—\$8107.32** was given so far this year in support of maintaining our building and grounds.
- **General Fund through Simply Giving—\$11,300.00** was given so far this year through electronic giving.



Our monthly WELCA meeting was held on September 4, 2019.

1. The Secretary's minutes were approved and accepted, as written. A thank you note was received from VBS for our donation.
2. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The opening balance was \$4,921.37; income was \$740.25, expenses were \$1,353.14, leaving a balance of \$4,845.73.
3. Social Secretary: Kathy continues to send out cards to our shut ins.
4. Old Business:
 - a. WELCA Sunday is September 22nd. Servers for that day will be Candy McColley, Bev Zachrison, and Marcie Whitman. Servers for October are Cindy Blessner and friends.
 - b. Quilt Needs:
 - (1) Baptism Quilts: We have four on hand; 2 more to be finished. No baptisms are scheduled.
 - (2) Wedding Quilts: There are two available. One wedding is scheduled for October.
 - (3) Graduation Quilts: We are working on quilts for our 2020 grads.
 - (4) Habitat for Humanity: There is one fleece quilt on hand. We will call in January to find out any needs.
 - (5) Veteran Quilts: We continue to work on quilts for the veterans.
 - (6) Quilt Bingo: All quilts for this year's event are displayed and the final details are being completed. The brochure is done, the bingo cards have been delivered, advertisements have gone out, a sign up sheet for volunteers is posted, door prizes identified, and lunch was discussed.
 - (7) Mission Quilts: We continue making these quilts. We have completed two; 6 in various stages of completion. Kits have been put together for anyone who would like to add to our mission quilt collection. Kits are available in the sewing room.
 - (8) American Heart Association quilt donation: The quilt that is being donated was appraised.
 - (9) Quilt Raffle: A quilt was chosen for this raffle. Receipts from this raffle will be donated to Amborella House which is a home for survivors of sexual assault and exploitation. For more information about this project, see their website www.amborellahouse.org. The drawing for this quilt will be held during our pork dinner in November.
 - (10) Baptismal Napkins: Shelly has completed nine napkins.

c. Service and Mission Update:

- Kitchen updates: Julie Osborne goes to Costco once a month and will make a list of church kitchen needs each WELCA work day. We can all help by adding to the list on the bulletin board when we see something is running low. When serving food in the church kitchen, hats or hair nets must be worn. We will look into purchasing some hats as well as having hair nets available in the kitchen. A sign will be posted in the kitchen indicating this requirement.

- Bundles of Love: There is a small bag of baby hats available for delivery.

- Wedding Quilt Policy - Tabled.

- Volunteers to maintain: Sewing Cart - Judy Nelson

Donation Bin - Nancy and Mary Kay

Quilt Bingo Door Prizes: Marcie and Jane

Stash Sale Items: Kathy and Shelley

Pet Beds: Sharon and Judy

5. Updates from previous agenda:

a. We briefly discussed where the income from Quilt Bingo will go. Tabled until December.

b. Christmas Centerpiece/Adopt a Table: Continuing with making and receiving these table toppers. Two have been completed; 5 more in process. Members of the congregation are being asked to participate in making these toppers as well as making centerpieces to compliment the table toppers.

c. BOM: Approx 70 people are registered again this year. There is a shop hop scheduled for September 28.

6. New Business:

a. A request for a donation was made to Allina Health Hospice. A donation of \$1,000 was approved.

b. We discussed making some home visits to some of our shut ins.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Any woman, friend, or member of Fish Lake Lutheran is welcome to all or any part of our day.

Our meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer followed by a pot luck lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Kay Linder

Monday—Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Other times by Appointment.



WELCA ADOPT A TABLE for ADVENT /CHRISTMAS 2019

WHO: Quilters of Fish Lake Lutheran

WHAT: Make a Table Topper in Christmas fabrics in a pattern of your choice. (I have a bunch of patterns if you would like to look at them or borrow one.) Suggested size 18"-24", square looks good on our round tables.

WHERE: Each donated table topper will set the tone for a centerpiece on a table in our FLL Fellowship Hall.

WHEN: The Table Topper should be turned in to me by the last Sunday in October or before. I would like to know if you plan on doing one or two so that I can make sure there are enough for all our tables.

WHY: Festive, Fun, an excuse to use some of your Christmas fabric stash... We will then open up the "ADOPT A TABLE" to the congregation (individuals or families) to create a centerpiece to go on a specific Table Topper. The centerpieces will be placed on the tables the first Sunday in Advent. We will have a popular vote for the best centerpiece in a number of categories.

Join the fun!
Sharon Petit

GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

43353 Cedarcrest Trail
Harris, MN 55032
Phone: 651-674-4252
Fax: 651-237-1190
Online: www.fishlakelutheran.org
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday By Appointment

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor Rev. Amanda Applehans
Office Administrator Volunteers (Thank You!)
Parish Deaconess Sister LaDonna Olson
Pianist Cindy Blesener
Custodians Robin Graham & Tom Anderson
Youth Leader Deb Robinson

Church Council Members

Kelli Klein
Candy McColley
Clay Wilking
Bev Zachrisson
Barb Sauer
Steve Mettling
Justin Ricke
Gaylen Yates