

# GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

43353 Cedarcrest Trail  
Harris, MN 55032  
Phone: 651-674-4252  
Fax: 651-237-1190  
Online: [www.fishlakelutheran.org](http://www.fishlakelutheran.org)  
Office Hours  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
and Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Tuesday By Appointment

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Permit 3

## Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Interim Pastor: John Keller  
Office Administrator: Denise Steinberg  
Parish Deaconess: Sister LaDonna Olson  
Pianist: Cindy Blesener  
Custodians: Robin Graham & Tom Anderson

## Church Council Members

Steve Mettling, President  
Barb Sauer, Vice President  
Kathy Lodin, Treasurer  
Kelli Klein, Secretary  
Candy McColley  
Justin Ricke  
Gaylen Yates  
Clay Wilking

*Holy Week Schedule*  
*Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm*  
*Good Friday - 7:00 pm*  
*Easter Sunrise Worship - 7:00 am*  
*Easter Breakfast - 8:00 am*  
*Easter Worship - 10:00 am*

# APRIL

## **Note: Worship/Activities may be Cancelled!**

*Choir Rehearsal each Sunday 9:00 am*

*Worship Service each Sunday 10:00 am*

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | WELCA Meeting/Sewing 10:00 am<br>Staff meeting 11:00 am                               |
| 2nd  | Fish Lake Council Meeting 6:30 pm   |
| 5th  | TIM Team Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am   |
| 8th  | NO CLASSES—HOLY WEEK  |
| 9th  | Maundy Thursday Services 7:00 pm  |
| 10th | Good Friday Services 7:00 pm  |
| 12th | Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am<br>Easter Breakfast 8:00 am<br>Easter Worship 10:00 am |
| 15th | Staff Meeting 11:00 am<br><b>Wednesday Evening Classes Resume</b>                     |
| 18th | Block of the Month 8:30 am  |
| 26th | TIM Team Tacos 6:00 pm  |
| 28th | Prime Time 11:00 am   |

## **Wednesdays Evening Activities** (Beginning April 15th)

- 5:45 - 6:15 Supper  
6:00 - 7:30 Confirmation  
6:15 - 7:15 - Faith Weavers



## Vine & Branches

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

Beloved of God,

In this season of COVID-19 pandemic, one can easily forget that we remain the beloved of God and our neighbor is also created in the image of God and loved by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. From this foundation of love and after consulting with the church council I am announcing **the suspension of all public activities at Fish Lake Lutheran Church until April 1<sup>st</sup> and possibly longer.** This includes Sunday worship, Wednesday Lenten worship, children and youth activities, WELCA and committee meetings.

We do this for several reasons. **First and foremost, we do this out of love of our neighbor.** The virus is evident in our community and is contagious even before one has recognizable symptoms. Anyone of us might be carrying the virus and not know it. We each need to do whatever we can to slow down the epidemic and suspending all activity is one way. Also the most

vulnerable population is the elderly, which are many of our members.

We also do this out of respect to our governing authorities. Churches across the country are taking these steps at the recommendation of the Center of Disease Control (CDC). Our president, governor and other civic leaders have taken these drastic measures to ensure the safety of all our citizens.

Here is a [link to the CDC's recommendations](#).

But we do not act out of fear. I recognize that fear is very real in this situation. Our world has entered uncharted territory and we do not know all the outcomes from the pandemic. The fear has caused panic in the supermarket and the stock market. I have felt those moments of fear as I play with my grandkids and as I celebrated my daughter's wedding this past week-end.

Yet God remains the constant force for love and compassion.

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. . . There is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out fear. (1 John 4:16,18).* All of us will have feelings of fear, but we can choose how we respond to our fears. I invite you to act from our core love of God and neighbor and not fear. Here is a [link](#) to a video message from ELCA's national bishop, Elizabeth Eaton regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and our church's response.

I will be sending our further emails with devotional material for prayer and reflection as well as ways to participate in online worship this Sunday. I continue to pray daily that you all are filled with compassion, peace, strength and power of the Holy Spirit. If you have specific questions, please contact me at [pastor@fishlakelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@fishlakelutheran.org) or call me on my cell phone 612-201-6625.

Interim Pastor John Keller

## **Fish Lake Lutheran Church Congregation and Friends,**

*Thank you so much for supporting me in the JDRF Walk to End T1D 2020. My family and I have participated in the walk for eight years and it is always a lot of fun. I was diagnosed at twenty two months old and got my first insulin pump at three years old. JDRF funds research that makes my life easier and I hope will someday find a cure for me and all the people living with T1D. Grammy Sharon raised \$465.00 for the JDRF by making the quilt and selling tickets for the quilt drawing. My twin sister Brooke and I were baptized at FLL and will always consider it our church home.*

*Thank you again for your generosity.  
Hannah*





### What is so GOOD about Good Friday?

Two of the most holy days of the church year are Good Friday and Easter Sunday, remembering Jesus' death and resurrection.

Growing up I struggled to understand what was GOOD about Good Friday. After all, Jesus' crucifixion was a horrible way to die. The mocking, whipping and nailing were intense forms of suffering that never seemed GOOD from my perspective. Why would God put his beloved son through such pain? My pastor described his death as a transaction, a payment, in which Jesus paid the price for my sin. Someone had to pay the cost. But my mind wasn't satisfied and I would ask another question: who is Jesus paying off? Who needs this ransom, the blood money? Does God NEED the death of his only son in order to forgive us? If God is so loving, why would God demand the crucifixion of his only Son to forgive us?

That question haunted me until later in life, when it slowly dawned on me through my reading and prayerful reflection that it was not God who demanded Jesus' death, but human beings. We placed Jesus on the cross, because humanity could not control or direct God's love as demonstrated to us in Jesus. The religious leaders and government officials decided on Good Friday to crucified Jesus; the crowd shouted "Crucify him." We are the guilty party, not God.

Someone might say, "But I wasn't there 2,000 years ago. I didn't do that." Yet we are guilty in other ways. Jesus, in one of last parables, says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." When we refuse to love our neighbor as ourselves, we add to Jesus suffering on the cross.

Still does my guilt make Good Friday GOOD? Not by itself. What makes Good Friday GOOD is how God responds to our atrocious act. Though we killed God's son, God shows us the depth of God's love by forgiving us, raising Jesus from the dead and promising to raise us up as well. Good Friday becomes the path we follow into the joy and love of God, shown to us in Easter's Resurrection. God shows God's love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Furthermore, Jesus demonstrates that suffering and death can lead to life. We can look at the suffering we experience in this life not as a danger to be avoided at all costs, but rather as a path that can transform us into the image of God. As St Paul writes in Romans 5:3-5, *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

God Bless,  
Pastor John



The global fight against coronavirus presents a significant challenge to us all. Family Pathways is committed to finding ways to mitigate risks to the health of our clients, volunteers, and staff while striving to meet the critical needs of our neighbors.

**We need your help!** There is an immediate impact to providing basic resources for those in need. Healthy food not only fills bellies but feeds hope and a feeling of security. Knowing there is somewhere to turn to if you are unsafe in your home brings empowerment and options.

**Family Pathways is here to help those who need food, safety or support caring for an older adult. Your support makes it possible to do this work! Donate money, food, volunteer or reach out or help!**



MARCH 4, 2020

The Secretary's minutes were approved and accepted, as written. Thank you notes were received and read.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The opening balance was \$2,980.12; income was \$79.00; expenses were \$1,228.49, leaving a balance of \$1,830.63. Our savings account totals \$2,803.23.

Social Secretary: Kathy will continue sending out cards to our shut ins. We discussed any additional Fish Lake folks who have recently moved to assisted living.

#### Old Business:

a. WELCA Sunday is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Servers for that day are Shelly and Jeff Lustig and friends.

b. Quilt Needs: All required and necessary quilts were reviewed and status of completion brought up to date. Sharon has brought up a new quilt reporting sheet that will make it easier to keep up on the status of the various quilts we make. We will continue making mission quilts that attendees to this summer's mission trip can take with them.

Service and Mission Update:

Kitchen Updates: Discussed any kitchen supply needs. A kitchen cleaning day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – noon. Please bring any cleaning supplies with you. Candy will put together a listing of those areas that need to be cleaned. Discussed finding a different place for storage of paper products so that the carts under the island can be used for other purposes.

Bundles of Love: Received several baby hats that Barb will deliver.

Pot Luck Dinners: We will no longer be using designated items to bring for the dinners; everyone should just bring what they wish.

#### New Business:

a. The update of the WELCA service unit listing will be tabled until the church finishes the membership list.

b. We have been notified that Cub has raised their prices on the deli sandwiches; \$50 for 60 sandwiches.

c. Graduation Sunday is June 14<sup>th</sup>. Most all of the grad quilts have been completed. Letters will go out to each graduate notifying them of this day.

Block of the Month: Next meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a fabric sale that day. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the previous owner of the McGregor Quilt Shop will be on hand to sell her fabric and notions.

**Our next meeting will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>.** Our new schedule is as follows: an hour long meeting beginning at 10:00 am, sewing until 12:30 followed by a pot luck lunch, resuming sewing until 3:00 pm. Any woman, friend, or member of Fish Lake Lutheran is welcome to all or any part of our day.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Kay Linder

### Helping homeless families with shelter and a path forward

Volunteer Drivers—to transport families, by agency van, to and from the Day Center and night shelters (churches in the area). Drive times 7:00—8:00 am or 4:30-5:30 pm daily. It takes about an hour per volunteer shift.



*New Pathways*

Volunteer Committee Member— plan and help put on seasonal events for New Pathways.

Volunteer meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 pm, planning and pending spring events.

Volunteer Board Members— Board members serve a 2 year term by application. They help develop strategic plans for the non-profit organization, serve on working a working committee and over see financial growth.

To Volunteer please contact Mary Westlund at 763-691-0121 ext. 7  
Or email [director@newpathwaysmn.com](mailto:director@newpathwaysmn.com)

The logo for Amborella House, featuring a stylized blue and green plant to the left of the text "amborella house" in blue, with the tagline "renewing hope • restoring lives" in smaller green text below.

Dear, Barb and Fish Lake Lutheran Church,

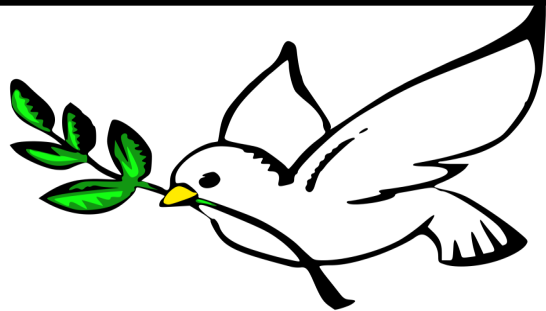
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your prayer time and then share about Amborella House with those attending.

We are grateful for your partnership in this mission.

P.S. Mark your calendars for the spring celebration banquet at Vadnais Heights Commons on April 28, 2020.  
Go to our Facebook page to like and share!  
Visit our website  
[renewhopemn.org](http://renewhopemn.org)

Annual Cancer Relay for Life Pancake Egg Breakfast will be Saturday, April 25th.  
7:30 am– 10:30 am  
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch  
Free Will Donation  
The Full Relay event will be Saturday, August 11th, North Branch Mall (former Tanger Mall from 4-10 pm)

**Wild Game Feed**  
Siloa Lutheran Church is having a Wild Game Feed on March 29th from 11:00 am 12:30 pm  
Served by the men of Siloa.  
Free Will Donation—For all you can eat!  
2607 405th Ave NW, Braham, MN 55006  
320-396-3927  
Come See Our New Addition



*Perhaps you sent a lovely care,  
Or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,  
If so we say it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,  
As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
Just thought of us that day,  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so much whatever the part*

*The family of  
Stephanie (Brandenburg) Stamp*

Dear Fish Lake Lutheran,  
Thank you for all the love and support shown when my mom died. The cards and memorials, and flowers at the funeral were a nice reminder of all the people who care about us, which is so important at this difficult time.

Pastor Amanda and the whole family of Stephanie Stamp

See card on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall

#### Let us Pray for...

**Those in our midst fighting cancer:** Mary, Beth, Barb, Jim, and Jordan.

**Our service men and women including:** Sami, Tim and Joe

**Injured and ill:** Ronnie, Carol, Jean, Ruby, Dan and Ray

**Partner congregation** – Wasa Congregation in Tanzania

**Those preparing for or recovering from surgery:** Bev.

**Those who are grieving the death of** Paul Reese



## COUNCIL MINUTES

**March 5, 2020**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: STEVE METTLING / KATHY LODIN / JUSTIN RICKE / CANDY McCOLLEY / BARB SAUER**

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Interim Pastor John Keller, LaDonna Olson presented Financial Report

**DEVOTIONS:** KATHY, Steve Mettling will lead devotions in April.

**AFFIRMATIONS:** To the Fish Lake Lutheran Staff serving Coffee Hour. Tony & Marilyn Wicklund, Vivian and Arnie Ricke for their work on the New Member Dinner. Denise for her work on many projects enhancing the Fish Lake Lutheran Church programs.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** LaDonna presented the current financial report. Accepted with some changes on the Health Care line item. Soup Supper Free Will Offerings will be placed in the Building Fund.

**PASTOR REPORT:** Update council on next steps for interim process and MSP team update. We established the order of our work as follows: Year of Renewal, Behavior Covenant, Ministry Site Profile and Call Committee. These projects may overlap as we progress through this Interim Process. We will also explore Shared Ministries with surrounding churches during the upcoming weeks. Pastoral Acts: 1 Hospital Visit; 1 Senior Living Worship Service, 5 Shut-In Visits.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**YOUTH AND FAMILY:** Mission Trip will be July 12-17 to Duluth. Pastor John and Jamie Wilking will be leading the group. Work on VBS has started.

**EVANGELICAL / STEWARDSHIP-** New Member Dinner went well.

**PROPERTY SAFETY:** STEVE METTLING, GALEN YATES, JUSTIN RICKE; Continue replacing lights. Will remove the Kitchen Serving Window frame will be removed and cleaned -Lunstrom Pest Control Steve will contact to ask him to return for pest control including bugs (\$315.00 yearly) Serving window and security light in basement entrance will be replaced. Clean-up Day set for April 25, 9:00 – Noon. A Task list will be developed and posted for our members to review and join us to help with indoor and outdoor projects. Ask WELCA to provide a lunch. Steve will coordinate.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY: PASTOR JOHN:** Working on an Authentic African Dinner Served on May 16. And Birthday Party Items for Families receiving services from Lutheran Social Services.

**WELCA:** BARB SAUER: March 11, Kitchen Cleaned/organized. Mission Quilts & Grad Quilts almost done for this year. BOM Survey for next year has been completed, Quiet Quilts for New Family Pathways continues.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC:** CANDY: Will meet on Sunday, March 8, 2020

**COMMUNICATION TEAM:** Work for this team has been completed. Will meet as needed.

**YEAR OF RENEWAL:** BARB: March 4, on Aging went very well, very Informative. This team will put together a summary of our findings in April.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Stark Stroll Update: June 27, Justin spoke with Diane Larkin letting her know we will be offering a Pancake Breakfast and Craft Sale. Candy McColley and Shelly Lustig will coordinate the meal. Steve will contact Erik Gustafson for an update on the basement entrance replacement of timbers and shrubs. Playground swing repair and adding a storage container for Playground Equipment to the area. Secretarial review for Denise. Third Sunday Coffee Serving Schedule is completed. Barb will contact leaders of each of the assigned groups and Denise to include in Announcements/Vine and Branches.

**NEW BUSINESS:** MRJ Security for fire alarm problems Steve will contact - Join Chamber of Commerce proposed in past meetings – We will wait for our new Pastor. AED kids pads for \$100.00 Steve will contact to procure these pads. Terry's Disposal: Barb will contact North Branch City Administrator for updates on the License status.

**CLOSE WITH THE LORDS PRAYER**  
Next Meeting: April 2, 2020  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Sauer



### Authentic East African Dinner

Please join us on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Authentic East African Dinner at Fish Lake Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$20.00 each or you may purchase a table for 6 for \$100.00. Tickets will be available for sale Sunday's after church during coffee hour, or you may contact the church office at 651-674-4252 for tickets. All funds raised will be used to support our sister church in Wasa, Tanzania.

The meal will be prepared by members of the Minnesota Swahili Christian Congregation church in Minneapolis. Our menu will include ugali, beans in coconut milk, sambusas, chicken mchuzi, chapati, as well as other authentic Tanzanian foods. We will also have photo books from our members who have traveled to Tanzania, a slide show and hopefully a choir to perform some Tanzanian songs for us.

New this year we will be raffling off a quilt at the dinner made by Cindy Blesener using fabrics that were purchased in Iringa, Tanzania. Tickets for the quilt are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00. Tickets may be purchased Sun-

days in April after church during coffee hour and at the dinner. All funds raised from the raffle will be used for scholarships to secondary school for students from Wasa.

Come and experience the aroma and the taste of Tanzanian food, see pictures from our travels, try your luck at winning a quilt, and celebrate with us the unique partnership we share with the people of Wasa, Tanzania.



### A message from Sr. LaDonna

I don't want to write about the strange times that we are living in but I guess it is in the front of everyone's mind.

So I'll share some thoughts. There are those who will not handle social distancing very well. If you are one of them, let others know that you want/need them. Also, we can all be more intentional about reaching out to one another - phone calls, emails, even cards in the mail will help. With today's technology, we are able to stay in touch with family and friends so easily.

Also, know that you can request financial help through the Shalom Fund at church. This is money we receive from the Shalom Shop in Cambridge because we have had volunteers work there every Monday. If you are in a bind, please contact the office or you can even reach out to me personally and I will consult with the pastor and/or treasurer. Your request is confidential.

Jesus instructs us to set our hearts on God's kingdom. But how does one do this when there are so many things to worry about? Here are words from Henri Nouwen in his book *Here and Now*. One way is to move from the mind to the heart by slowly saying a prayer with as much attentiveness as possible. A prayer, prayed from the heart, heals. Start with the Our

Father, the Creed, a favorite verse from a Psalm. As you go through the day let the words of one of these prayers go through your mind simply trying to listen with your whole being. You will be distracted by your worries, but keep going back to the words of the prayer and you will gradually discover your worries become less obsessive and that you are enjoying prayer.

I use the phrase called The Jesus Prayer, to repeat throughout the day, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." It has become a phrase that comes from my heart and calms my mind. It is an easy practice and one that can have benefits now and in the future.

I would love to hear about your experiences. Reach me at [ladolson@msn.com](mailto:ladolson@msn.com) or 651-238-6778

2020 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN				
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget
February 23	2,693.00	3,317.31	81%	(624.31)
March 1	5,053	3,317.31	105%	1,735.69
March 8	2,210.71	3,317.31	67%	(1,106.60)
March 15	5,106.00	3,317.32	154%	1,788.68
2020 YEAR TO DATE	32,415.78	36,490.41	89%	(4,074.63)

MEMORIALS

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for the gift received in memory of:  
Lois Colliander to the Cemetery Fund from Deloris and Terry Olson  
Paul Reese to the Cemetery Fund from Harley and Candy Twingstrom

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship (SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

Refreshments and Fellowship

Offering Counters

- 5 Amy Johnson & Cindy Blesener
- 12 Joel & Katie Santjer & Nancy Hoffman
- 19 Laurie Knutson & Shelly Lustig
- 26 Mary Street & Arnie Ricke

Lenten Mid Week: April 1 – Noel & Sharon Petit

Ushers - Sundays

- 5 Kelli Klein & Amy Johnson
- 12 Easter
- 19 Jack & Julie Osborne
- 26 Jeff and Shelly Lustig

Coffee Hosts

- 5 Cookie Jar
- 12 Easter Breakfast
- 19
- 26 WELCA: Kathy Lodin

Holy Week Ushers

- 9 Maundy Thursday – Cindy Blesener
- 10 Good Friday –
- 12 Easter Sunrise (7:00 am) –
- Easter Worship (10:00 am) - Cory and Lisa Nephew



April 2020 ACTIVITIES MAY CHANGE AND/OR BE CANCELLED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship 10:00—Online	30	31	1 WELCA - 10:00 am Staff Meeting - 11:00 am 5:30 - 6:30 Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Faith Weavers	2 6:30 pm Fish Lake Council Meeting	3	4
5 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am TIM Team Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm	10 Good Friday Worship 7:00	11
12 Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00 am Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Easter Worship 10:00 am	13	14	15 Staff Meeting 11:00 am EVENING CLASSES RESUME 5:45- 6:15 Supper 6:00-7:30 Confirmation 6:15-7:15 Faith Weavers	16	17	18 Block of the Month 8:30 am
19 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	20	21	22 5:45- 6:15 Supper 6:00-7:30 Confirmation 6:15-7:15 Faith Weavers	23	24	25
26 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am TIM Team Tacos 6:00	27	28	29 Staff Meeting 11:00 am 5:45- 6:15 Supper 6:00-7:30 Confirmation 6:15-7:15 Faith Weavers	1 (May) 6:30 pm Fish Lake Council Meeting	2	3