

THE RECORDER

First Lutheran Church ~ Phone: 937-323-9703

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear First Lutheran,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Will you pray with me?

Holy Creator,

Now may the words of my mouth and the meditations our hearts be ever pleasing to you O God.

Amen.

These are the words that I begin every sermon with, in fact these are the words that help me begin almost every biblical study, hospital visit, and home visit. They are a combination of two pieces of scripture. The first, is a greeting that the apostle Paul used in many of his letters as he prepared to address the first churches. The second, is a section from Psalm 19. It is a combination of the final verse of the Psalm, verse 14, and the essence of the whole of Psalm 19. Psalm 19 is a beautiful Psalm praising God for creation, that all of creation is a means for us to use in ways to give glory to God. Even the words that come from our mouths first were created by God. As I say these words, I am reminding myself and us that as we hear and preach these are inspired words given from the Holy Spirit. It is not my doing but God's. Reciting these pieces of scripture ground me, settles any anxiety, and reminds me of our ever-present connection to God

This spiritual practice of starting my sermon with these words goes back to my time in seminary and even as far back as sitting in the pew as a little girl. I first experienced these words while going to church growing up. One of the pastors of my home congregation always used to start his sermon with these words and I always pondered these words when he said them. These words came to me again early on in seminary. Traditionally after the first year of classes the summer is spent in a class called Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE for short. I chose to go home to Cincinnati for my CPE class and spent the summer learning at Cincinnati Children's hospital. During that time, I met a chaplain who is a Catholic Nun who explained to our class that before she enters any hospital room, she says a prayer to remind her that she is going into the room with the Holy Spirit, she does not do this work on her own. She listens to God and responds to the call to be God's presence in the room with those hurt and grieving.

During this time of isolation, I cling to the comfort of these words in a new way. They remind me that when I am preaching to an empty sanctuary staring at a camera that you all are with me. That my words are guided by the long tradition of sharing the gospel back to the letters of Paul, to the pastors who I was raised listening to, on to the tradition of the church who called me to be pastor. We are all guided by the Holy Spirit and our words were first given to us by the one who is the Word. Some of us may have anxiety when it come to calling and checking in on members of the church or writing letters. Remember that it is not just your words, but that you are guided by the Holy Spirit and you are taking the presence of God with you as you comfort those who are alone.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be ever pleasing to you O God,

Amen.

Blessing to you all, Pastor Aly Mazzei

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS: President, Jim Ingling, Vice-President, Robby Pollock Secretary, Gretchen Krafft, Treasurer, Roger Sherrock MEMBERS:

Term Expires 2020

Gretchen Krafft*
Heath Queen
Brad Sims
Jane Switzer
Tom Wilson

Term Expires 2021

Dick Metzger*
Kathy Siegel
Lisa Watson

Term Expires 2022

Pat Bowen
Evan Erickson
Jim Ingling
Robby Pollock

*Second 3-year term

A NOTE FROM DEBBIE BAKER

Dear friends in Christ,

I would like to thank all who purchased Malleys candy from me as a fundraiser for the National Federation of the Blind of Springfield and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio. Each year we sponsor several fundraisers. Each helps to send blind people to lobby both the Ohio and federal legislatures on issues of specific concern to the blind.

Money also funds our efforts to teach Braille to blind children and adults. Funds offset the cost to send blind people to our annual national and statewide conventions to network with other blind people and to learn how to function successfully as people without sight. If you'd like to learn more about our work and our publications, you can check www.nfb.org or www.nfbohio.org, or simply ask me.

Again, thank you for supporting the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Debbie Baker

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

5/3	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
5/10	Acts 7:55-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
5/17	Acts 17:22-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
5/24	Acts 1:6-14	1 Peter 4:12-14, 6:6-11	John 17:1-11
5/31	Acts 2:1-21	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23



Council minutes from April

Minutes of the First Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 14, 2020

Note: Due to COVID-19, council met via a conference call.

Present: Council President Jim Ingling, Secretary Gretchen Krafft, Pat Bowen, Heath Queen, Kathy Siegel, Jane Switzer, Lisa Watson, Tom Wilson, and Pastor Aly Mazzei.

Absent: Vice President Robert Pollock, Treasurer Roger Sherrock, Parish Administrator Adele Siegel, Evan Erickson, Dick Metzger, and Brad Sims.

Call to order: Ingling called to order at 5:05 pm.

Devotions: Pastor Mazzei.

Secretary's Report: Krafft has been sending minutes to the council via email. Council members suggested minutes should be included in the next *Recorder* for the congregation to read.

Treasurer's Report: Ingling reported he recently asked Sherrock about FLC's finances. Sherrock said the congregation was consistently sending offerings via mail and direct deposit.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Switzer sent thank you cards to substitute organists. No new requests.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mazzei reported difficulties holding Bible studies since some participants don't use the internet. She's had requests to send written versions of her sermons, which isn't as simple as it sounds since she preaches from notes. Confirmation class should resume soon likely via Google classroom. She and Pastor Grunden from Good Shepherd have been discussing additional collaborations. He will preach this Sunday while she is off, and she will substitute for him the following Sunday.

Committee Reports: No reports from *Fellowship, Finance, Service, Special Gifts, Stewardship, Worship, and Youth*. *Christian Education:* Pastor Mazzei will focus on this and Youth in general now that the Easter season has ended. *Outreach:* Pastor Mazzei reported that FLC sent their remaining lunch supplies to Second Harvest Food Bank. Switzer will contact the newspaper to correct their recent listing on where to pick up. *Personnel:* Ingling reported that the committee is setting up an interview with a possible new music director. *Property:* Bowen reported that spouting repair/replacement cost \$450. Mitchell Painting quoted \$300 to paint the broken stained glass window frame. The landscaping is progressing well. She has information about cleaning concrete when we are ready to work on the portico. Ingling will contact our insurance because shingles are missing in at least two spots on the roof. He plans to check inside for leaks and cautions that roof repair could be a significant expense. *Technology:* Queen reported that 162 people watched at least part of the Easter service online. Pastor Mazzei wants to explore ways to improve our sound quality.

Old Business: 1. Council Election: KSiegel/Switzer moved that the current council members extend their terms through the August meeting if we continue to meet via conference call. Council will meet for a check-up in two weeks then return to monthly meetings. Motion carried.

2. Cares Act Loan: Pastor Mazzei will ask Sherrock to apply. Loan money used for payroll may be forgiven.

New Business: Council Contact the Congregation Again: Switzer suggested we contact people on our lists again.

Adjournment: Switzer/KSiegel moved to adjourn at 5:50 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Motion carried.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm via conference call. On that morning Pastor Mazzei will email council members the phone number and code.

Respectfully Submitted, Gretchen Krafft

Minutes of the First Lutheran Church Special Council Meeting April 28, 2020

Present: Council President Jim Ingling, Vice President Robert Pollock, Treasurer Roger Sherrock, Secretary Gretchen Krafft, Dick Metzger, Kathy Siegel, Jane Switzer, Lisa Watson, Tom Wilson, and Pastor Aly Mazzei.
Absent: Pat Bowen, Evan Erickson, Heath Queen, and Brad Sims.

Call to order: Pastor Mazzei called to order at 5:10 pm.

Devotions: Pastor Mazzei.

Treasurer's Report: Sherrock reported that FLC remains in pretty good shape. All the bills have been paid. We will be getting repair bills but we don't have estimates yet. The church has filed for a small business loan.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mazzei led a discussion on reopening the building for services. She said our synod will issue guidelines soon. She sent council members an email listing questions to consider (such as *How to Distribute Communion* and *Maintaining Social Distancing During Worship*).

She asked council members to consider how God is working through this pandemic. What good things have resulted? Our on-line services have likely reached new people. She suggests we find a way to improve our audio and video since some people are likely to continue worshipping remotely.

Ingling reported that stained glass window repairs should proceed in May. He hopes to check the church attic for leaks soon and will try to get roof repair estimates. Krafft suggested that a drone might be able to see roof problems. Does anyone have a drone with a camera to try this?

Ingling asked if council members know of anyone who might need help during the pandemic. We realize that some members aren't watching services on-line. The council asked Pastor Mazzei to identify these mostly older members so we can send them a bulletin and sermon transcript regularly. Meanwhile, anyone who can, please try to stay in touch with members of our FLC family.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. Switzer will offer devotions. Pastor Mazzei will email council members the phone number and code.

Respectfully Submitted, Gretchen Krafft

STAFF

PASTOR ALY MAZZEI

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CLEVE DUNCAN

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 search First Lutheran Church
 Springfield Ohio

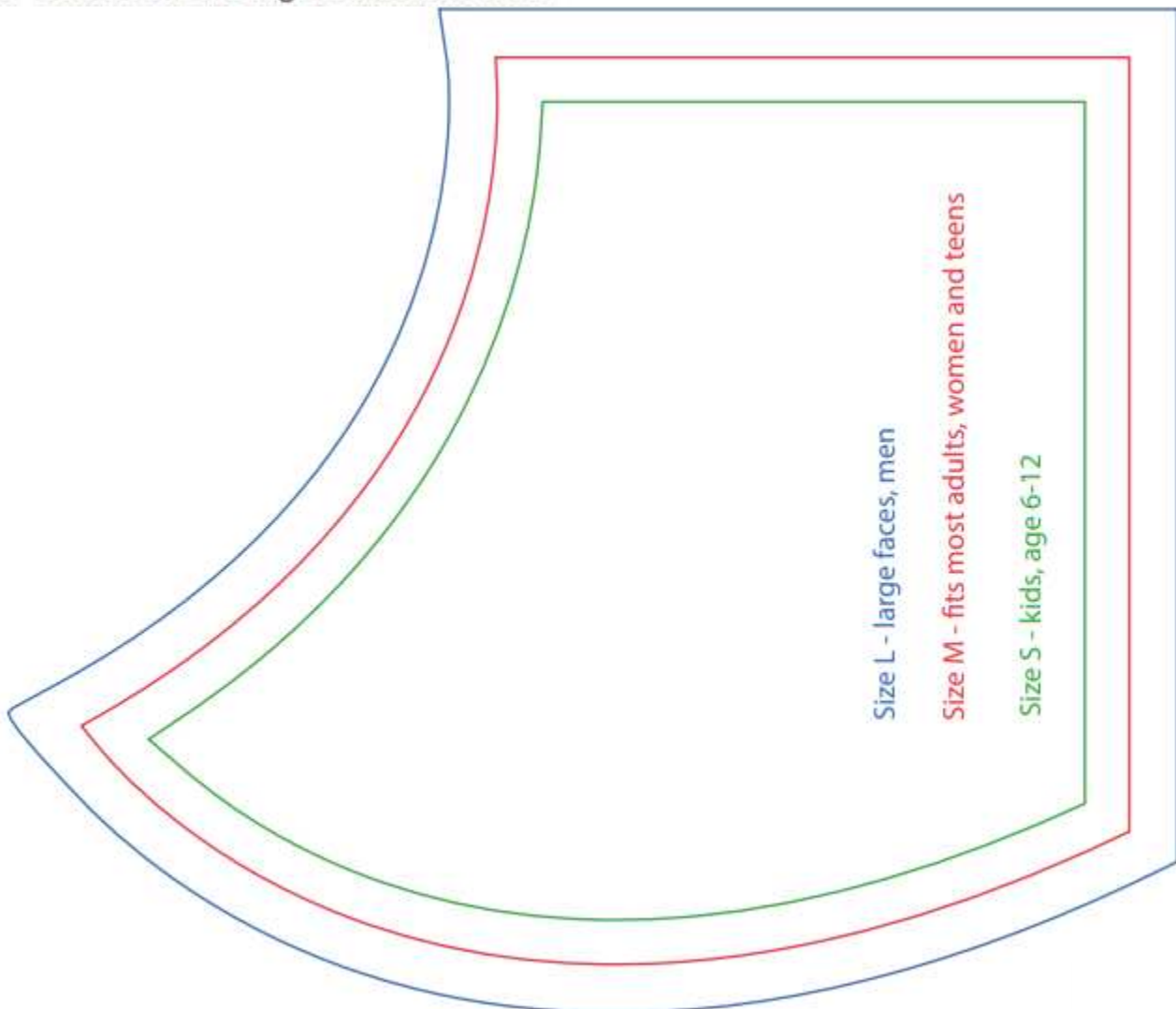
FACE MASK PATTERN AND INSTRUCTIONS

What you will need

- Cotton fabric, a pretty print is best.
- Rope Elastic, beading cord elastic will work (you may also use 1/8" flat elastic)
- Cut the elastic 7" long and tie a knot at each end (DO NOT knot the ends of the flat)

You can make two sizes: Adult or Child

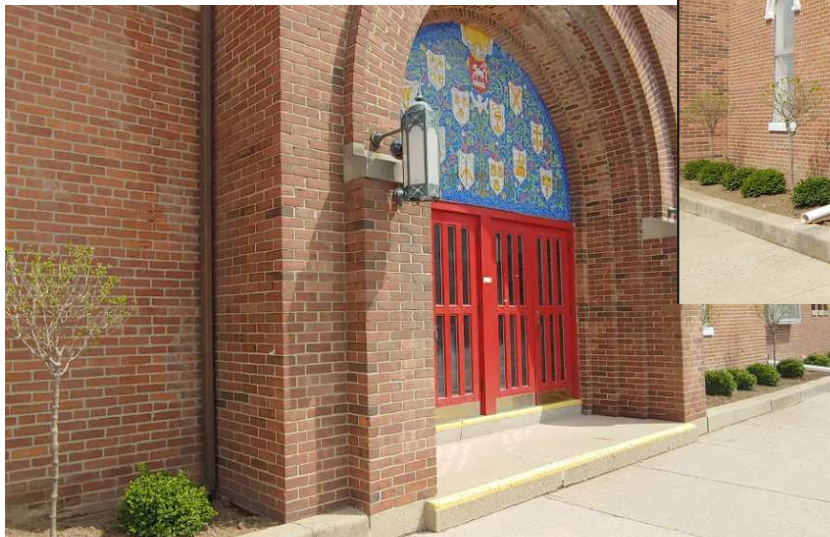
1. Put right sides of cotton fabric together
 - o Cut 9x6 (Adult) or 7.5 x 5 (Child)
2. Starting at the center of the bottom edge, sew to the first corner, stop. Sew the elastic with the edge out into the corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of the same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across that top of the mask to the next corner. Again put an elastic with the edge out.
5. Sew to the next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out.
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask. Make sure the tucks are the same direction
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.



While you've been away.....



George of George's Landscaping, has been busy sprucing up and replacing some needed bushes. You may not be able to tell from pictures but the trees are pink Dog Wood trees.



We thank all of our volunteer gardeners from the past and all of their hard work!

Again, Thanks!



SUMMER DAY CAMP

We are very sad to announce that Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio has decided to cancel all in person residential and day camps for the Summer of 2020. This means that we will not be hosting Amazing Grace Day Camp in late June. Thank you to all the volunteers who were willing to give their time to this wonderful ministry. We look forward to hosting next summer.

Pastor Aly Mazzei

MAY DEVOTIONAL

Luke 22:14-19 ¹⁴When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵And he said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.’

¹⁷After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’”

Acts 2:42 “They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our time apart has moved into the spring, and we look forward to seeing each other in our church soon, I am reminded of the first church services that our Savior and his apostles spent together in that upper room.

While we are apart physically, we can still worship in a similar way that the Lord worshiped, around a dinner table.

As a chef I have built my life around the dinner table. I know of its importance, its sacredness, and the conversations that take place there.

During this time, my hope is to encourage each of you, in your own way, to reconnect with the dinner table and ultimately with our early church. Take some time to make that meal, to say our thanks to our creator, and to reconnect with the food we have before us.

The first meals the early church experienced were simple, and ours during this time can also be simple. But, as we learn about the gospel we find each and every day that God’s presents is found greatest in the simplest of things.

Blessings,

Bobbie Baker

WILLIAM A. AND GLADYS W. WALSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Materials to apply for this scholarship are available from the church office. Completed applications must be received by the scholarship committee by June 1, 2020 and notification of recipient's will be no later than August 1, 2020. *Thanks!*

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Hello All,

As Thursday Morning bible study and Wednesday night Dinner Church have been postponed until we are able to all meet back up, Pr. Larry and I have been trying to think of a good solution in the meantime. We will begin to lead what we are calling Theology on Tap. This will be a Zoom call every Thursday evening at 6pm. We will be discussing the coming Sunday's texts and offering questions for all who join to ponder along with us. We will be sending out the Zoom link to this call in both of our church's mass emails each week. You can join the meeting by clicking on the blue highlighted tab in the email on your computer at 6pm on Thursdays. If you prefer to be on your cell phone there will also be a phone number you can call in on. As per the name, we encourage you to grab a drink of your choice for this time whether that is a diet coke, tea, coffee, or a cocktail.

A PRAYER FROM BISHOP DILLAHUNT

God of Grace and Mercy, we thank you for those who continue to serve during this time of COVID-19. Not just for those who we see on the news each night, but for those who go seemingly unnoticed, even though their service is vital today and every day.

We pray for those who have been cleaning up after us in essential workplaces: janitors, nursing aids, those who do the laundry & provide food service in our hospitals, nursing and rehab centers. We pray for truck drivers, bus drivers, and warehouse workers. We pray for all the drive thru workers, cooks, gas station attendants and food deliverers. We pray for farmers and growers, meat packing facility workers and grocery store workers.

We also pray for those who are unemployed, underemployed, furloughed, in low-wage jobs, hungry, homeless, suffering from isolation-related anxieties, those who worry, those who are afraid, all health care workers in all facilities: prisons, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation and group home facilities and for nurses, doctors, police, fire fighters, and EMTs. We pray for caregivers.

We pray for those who have died, those who grieve, those who are sick and recovering in hospitals and at home.

We are grateful for everyone who has and is sacrificing to help Ohio flatten the curve so there is equipment for those who need it most. We pray for those who stay home, self isolate and quarantine, despite the difficulties in doing so.

We pray for pastors, deacons, and leaders in the church as we all navigate new waters, mountains and valleys. We pray for those who have no faith or lost their faith. May we be beacons of care, hope and safety for those who seek to believe that Christ is Risen.

Thank you Lord that in you we find our shelter and rest, our firm foundation where we will not be shaken. Grant all of this and receive our prayers, silent and in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



MAY 2020

First Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship service on-line	4	5 10:00 Staff meeting	6	7 6:00 Theology on Tap via Zoom	8	9
10 10:30 Worship Service on-line	11	12 10:00 Staff meeting	13	14 6:00 Theology on Tap via Zoom	15	16
17 10:30 Worship Service on-line	18	19 10:00 Staff meeting 5:00 Council via Zoom	20	21 6:00 Theology on Tap via Zoom	22	23
24 10:30 Worship Service on-line	25	26 10:00 Staff meeting	27	28 6:00 Theology on Tap via Zoom	29	30
31 10:30 Worship Service on-line						

May 2020

Happy Birthday!

*Keeping you in prayer,
May the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit, brothers
and sisters. Amen (Gal. 6:18)*



- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Terri Carter | 16 Erin Sims
Courtney Queen |
| 3 Susan DeShelter | 19 Dreu Might |
| 4 Sue Pearson
James H. Walsh
Erol Yalaz | 20 Jeff Neuharth |
| 5 Tommy Blevins
Elden Paden | 21 Kurt Berschet |
| 7 Kate Bennett | 24 Jacob Bennett
Leslie Morris |
| 8 Charlotte Juergens | 26 Virginia Bennett |
| 9 Richard T. Might | 27 Robbie Caudill |
| 15 Erika Litteral | 28 Bob Christel |
| | 29 JoAnn Bennett |
| | 31 Ruth (Billie) Tuttle |



Happy Anniversary



3 Todd & Kourtney Rix

15 Bob & Leslie Morris

16 Amy & Beda High

