

# First Lutheran Church

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## June/July 2020

### *Pastor*

Rev. Todd Wright

### *Church Council*

**President** - Doug Allie  
**Vice Pres** - Greg Forrester  
**Secretary** - Nanci Schoenfelder  
**Education/Youth** - Lacey Flaten  
**Finance** - Greg Forrester  
**Property** - Jon Mattfeldt  
**Discipleship** - Lynn Lipszyc  
**Stewardship** - Chris Helland  
**Worship** - Barb Gallagher

### *Our Staff*

#### **Youth/Family Coordinator**

Michelle Fuhrman

#### **Secretary**

Bonnie Bell

#### **Financial Secretary**

Kim Enkerud

#### **Church Treasurer**

Leanne Fontaine

#### **Church Maintenance**

Ward Grewe

#### **Choir Director**

Colleen Thompson

Kathy Smith, accompanist

#### **Organist**

Dona Enebo

#### **Pianists**

Audra Breigenzer

Jennifer Fewer

### Loving Your Neighbor

Every day in our journey of life, we are likely to meet people who are not like us, who are “other” than us. In Matthew 22:35-39 (NRSV) Jesus summarized the all of the Hebrew law of his day into two commands, first and foremost to love God, but then said the second is like it - to love your neighbor. So regardless of the outward differences of language or dialect, clothing, skin color or other physical attributes, or the inward differences related to their cultural, political, or religious beliefs and understandings, our Christian calling is to love our neighbor, to love each “other.”

Jesus taught us to live together face-to-face with our neighbor in love...not just with our family and friends, but also our enemies, and with those we have not yet met on our journeys. Jesus said in Matthew 5:44 (NRSV), “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Soren Kierkegaard’s theology and ethics of love defined Christian love of neighbor not to be the “preferential” love of family, best friend, or significant other, but rather to be the love of everyone else – all people of humanity, including our enemies. In his book *Christian Behavior*, C.S. Lewis wrote that Christian love “for our neighbors is quite a different thing from liking or affection.” Loving our neighbor is not always easy, but Lewis suggests “Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did...when you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them.” I think there is a point here: if we can’t even act like we love the other, how can we ever truly love the other?

A big question for us all in today’s world is “how do we love each other when we have differences of opinion and ideas? This is especially important in a national climate where discussing our differences in cultural, political, or religious beliefs and understandings has become increasingly more difficult to do. People quickly take sides on their understandings and beliefs and then raise barriers to conversation, or dismiss the chance for relationship.

If we are to love one another, it helps to have a relationship. In order to be in a relationship with someone, we need to know where the other person is coming from, which requires us to engage the other in dialogue. In order to do best understand the other person, we should try to understand things as they understand. Having a conversation does not require one to water down or minimize your beliefs. However, when we listen openly to someone, we make ourselves vulnerable to be changed in some way by the understandings of that person.

Engaging in real dialogue with “the other” requires us to be a good neighbor, which perhaps is the first step to the love that Christ commands us.

*Pastor Todd*

## Welcoming the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During this crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many people who are extremely vulnerable. This is a health crisis - people are sick and people are dying. This is a financial crisis - people have lost their jobs and people have lost value in their retirement investments. People no longer have the power and privilege that they had, and Covid doesn't care what power or privilege they had. These are the people who you are hearing on television sharing their stories, giving their testimony, their witness, to the loving hands of God working through the people around them.

People have asked me, when can we go back to the way things used to be? When can we go back to the way worship used to be? What many don't seem to understand or want to accept is that things are not the same as they were a year ago, and it will be a long time before we ever get back to that. Things may never be the same as they were a year ago. We are in a new reality today, and we are vulnerable. There is no immunization for this, and there is no cure. It is a virus that has to run its course. People just don't seem to want to accept these facts. People don't want to admit they are vulnerable, because being vulnerable can be a scary thing.

We take the precautions that we take here at this church because we know we are all vulnerable to the invisible threat of the COVID-19 virus, some more vulnerable than others. We follow the guidance of medical experts to mitigate risks of community spread to the degree that we can. We take these precautions, in order to welcome the most vulnerable, knowing we have done the best we can to show them love and respect and hospitality, and making them feel more comfortable in taking the risk to be here. In making this worship service the safest it can be, we are welcoming not just the most vulnerable, but we are also welcoming ourselves.

When this Covid pandemic goes away, I wonder if we will look at welcoming others in a different way. Because we have all been vulnerable during COVID, and we have found ways to welcome all who are vulnerable during COVID (and to make all feel safer, including ourselves), perhaps we will become more creative in finding ways to welcome all who are strangers and refugees, and all who are sick and dying.

In Christ's love and service,

Pastor Todd

## Radio Broadcasts

Our Radio Broadcast is an important extension of our Worship ministry and the mission of First Lutheran Church, allowing us to expand our reach beyond the walls of the sanctuary. It allows us to touch many more lives than those physically present in worship, reaching people in the region who may not be able to attend worship on a particular week, as well as people outside our broadcast region by internet streaming. If you find value in our worship broadcast, please prayerfully consider sponsoring the broadcast at least one Sunday this year. The cost is \$65 dollars, payable through the church office.



**deadline**

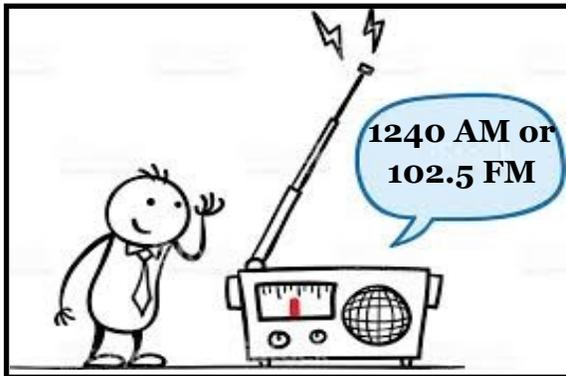
### **If you have news....**

*If you* have news that you would like to put in the newsletter, **please** email it to the church office by June 22nd.

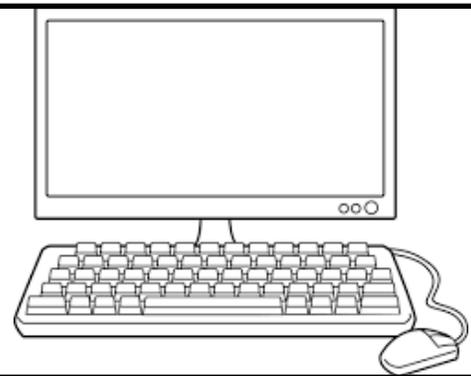
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Permit #6  
**PAID**  
Glasgow, MT  
59230

Change Service Requested

First Lutheran Church  
641 2nd Ave. N.  
Glasgow, MT 59230



If you would like to listen to our worship service you can do so by tuning your radio to 1240 AM or 102.5 FM at 11:00 am Sunday mornings. You can also listen on the internet at [kltz.com](http://kltz.com).



### Amazon Donates to First Lutheran Church

Did you know you can support First Lutheran Church by earning donations each time you shop on Amazon?

If you want Amazon Smile to donate to First Lutheran Church of Glasgow, **you need to start each shopping session at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**. They will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.

The first time you go to the above website you will be able to choose which charity to donate to, just type in "First Lutheran Church of Glasgow" and "select". Your Amazon account will now be linked to earn \$ for FLC!

If you use a desktop computer: save the above link to your favorites bar it will be convenient to click on next time you want to order something from Amazon. Click on the star in the upper right corner and save in Favorites Bar.

If you use an Android device: download the Amazon app, view settings and select AmazonSmile. Follow the in-app instructions to complete the process.

If you use an Apple iPhone: use Safari to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) then use the share button at the bottom of the screen, and scroll down to find "add to home screen". You will now have an [smile.amazon](http://smile.amazon.com) app on your home screen which you can use in exactly the same way you used the Amazon app. If you previously saved the Amazon app you'll need to delete it.



Do you have a serger sewing machine gathering dust?? The quilters would love to put it to good use. Contact the church office or Ruth Ann Ebert at 406-230-0486 if you have one you would like to donate.

### **Food Bank Suggestions**

July 5th- 2 cans low sugar/sugar free fruit

July 12th—2 cans soup

July 19th—1 box cereal

July 26th—2 bars soap

August 2nd—2 cans vegetables

August 9th—4 rolls toilet paper

August 16th—2 boxes Kleenex

August 23rd—1 tube toothpaste

August 30th—1 box breakfast cereal

### **On-Line Giving**

Good News... FLC is now set up for on-line giving!

It is very simple, use this link :

<https://www.flcglasgow.org>

- ◆ go to the Welcome tab,
- ◆ On-Line ELCA Links
- ◆ Click on the link: On-Line Giving (Tithe.ly)

- Make sure it says "First Lutheran Church - Glasgow"
- You can set up automated giving or one-time gifts
- Choose general fund, tithe & offering, pledges or radio broadcasts
- There are options for donors to "cover the fees" when giving
- You can give with an account or without an account
- This works on a desktop, laptop, tablet or smart-phone
- Give by ACH (bank), debit or credit cards
- There is support for Apple Pay and Google Pay

July calendar will not be printed as we are still limiting events at this time.



