

# FLC & OSL Light

Newsletter of First Lutheran and Our Savior's Ministries

Volume 6, Number 2 May 2022

Turn! Turn! Turn!"

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)*

*There is a season (turn, turn, turn)*

*And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

Songwriter: Pete Seeger

*Turn! Turn! Turn!* Lyrics © T.R.O. Inc.

My recent daily devotion was the most well-known passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. So many people know the words based on Pete Seeger's song, "*Turn! Turn! Turn!*" Throughout the eight verses, the Teacher (Writer) develops the idea that there is a right time for everything.

As the children of God, we know "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Eccles. 3:1) which includes being church. In a few short weeks, I will no longer be your pastor. Steve and I will have moved out of the parsonage to our home in Bigfork. In some ways, "it is a time to be born and a time to die." (Eccles. 3:2a)

For the past six (6) years, we have laughed and cried, mourned and danced together. The two (2) congregations have come together to be church. There have been joint committees and council meetings. Other activities have been Thirsty Theology, Midweek Summer Worship, and the Friendly Challenges. Even today, people in both towns accuse the "Lutherans" of buying all the toilet paper in the area.

Because of you, I have been able to grow and stretch my wings as your pastor. It has not always been easy, but you allowed me to experiment with you on what it means to be church. As the body of Christ, we responded to all the challenges of COVID, from masking to maintaining physical distancing and more. My heartfelt thanks go to the worship team, L.P.A.s, musicians, altar guilds, treasurers, office help, and everyone else for your willingness to be church in a new way.

I wish to thank the church leadership for being willing to apply for the technology grants from the M.T. synod, which enabled us to purchase the needed equipment to record worship, devotions, and more. The Visioning and Faithful Innovation Teams are two other groups I wish to thank for their work. Neither process was easy, but we have grown in our faith and have listened to where God is calling us.

Now is the right time for me to leave you, as I have sensed for a while that God is calling me somewhere else. So it is with sadness I leave but know that you are always in my heart. May you find peace in the words of my favorite blessing/song.

*As you go on your way, may God go with you. May God go before you to show you the way. May God go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over, within you to give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. Amen*

Songwriter: by John Ylvisaker

*Pastor Carol*

## *We Have a Mission*

**First Lutheran Church is called by God to be a welcoming church witnessing to Christ in loving service to the world.**

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

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## WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR CHURCHES

In the wake of Pastor Carol and Steve leaving our churches, many members wonder what happens next. It begins with saying farewell. While this is happening, Michael Murray and Annie Wooden, the respective church council presidents, talk and contact the Bishop's Office. In the June council meetings, the church councils will discuss the continuation of our shared parish ministry.

In addition, Michael and Annie will have preliminary conversations with Pastor Jason Asselstine, Assistant to the Bishop, on the next steps of the transition. Pastor Jason will tentatively be with us in worship on June 26 and meeting with the church councils on these steps.

In the meantime, pray and listen for God's call into our lives. Pray for the church councils, Pastor Jason, Pastor Carol and Steve, and our next pastor. God is already up to something in our churches and communities. Hear the words of Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."



## COVID UPDATE

For the love of each other and our community, the church council continues to review the COVID protocols every month. For now, we will continue as we have been doing. If anything changes, it will be announced in church and in the weekly announcements.

## SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

There will be three (3) sermon series as in the past two (2) summers. It consists of a series from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a catechetical series. The topics are to assist us in continuing our Christian journey of faith.

The Ten Commandments is the first of the series from June 12 through July 3. We will examine the theological and narrative context for the law and then consider how the laws that govern our relationship with God today. Other areas of exploration include the laws that govern our relationships with each other before a close review of the coveting commandment(s).

The next series is five (5) weeks is "Hope" based on readings from 1 Peter, July 10 through August 7. This letter is one of the most hope-filled books in the New Testament. Its primary purpose is to encourage Christian converts to live amid a hostile society. The letter emphasizes new life and salvation in the risen Christ, who is their "living hope." These themes continue to play out in our world today as we wrestle in faith in a secular world.

The final series, August 14 through September 3, is on the book of Ruth. It is a story of human love reflecting and enacting divine love. The series will delve into themes of emptiness and fullness: famine turning to abundant food, loss turning to love, bitterness turning to joy, and barrenness giving way to birth.



## SANDERS COUNTY RUMMAGE SALE

Once again, we are participating in the Sanders County Wide Rummage Sale event with Cancer Network of Sanders County on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. There is space in the new shed for any items in good shape that you would like to donate! The planning team has decided not to include clothing in the sale. Questions? Please talk to Bill Haines or Carl Benson.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Education Team is excited to team with FLBC to provide an awesome Day Camp experience for our community. *Boundless: God Beyond Measure* Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be July 18-21. Volunteer opportunities are available. Complete details will be available in the coming weeks.



## WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

On August 7, the worship time returns to 9 am. Mark it on your calendar!

## SUMMER HYMN SING

The Joint Worship Team will host a potluck and hymn sing on August 17 at FLC. Watch the announcements in late July for full details about the event.

**God's work. Our hands.**

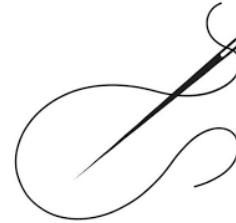
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## GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The official date for God's Work, Our Hands is Sunday, September 11, 2022. It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. If you have a service idea, please talk to a council member or leave a note in the president's mailbox.

## LWSO NEWS

Ladies, we've done it again! We just sent off 35 quilts and 36 school kits to LWR. That's pretty good for a small group of women who only quilt a few weeks in the winter. Thanks, everyone, for donating to the school kits last fall. The Wed. Bible School kids had fun putting the kits together. Keep your eyes out for cotton fabrics and crochet thread to use next winter.



Earlier this year, there was some talk of having a fall bazaar. If there is still interest, we need to begin to plan. We ask the women to gather at a table or two during fellowship and discuss the how's and when's of the event. It will take effort on everyone's part to get us back in the swing of things. It is always nice to have some extra money in our account to help out others in need.

Fall Bazaars

## LAWN MOWING 2022

The lawn mowing schedule is posted on the servant board. If you can help, please sign up for a week or two.



## **SUMMER DAILY DEVOTIONS**

**June 13** Monday, Exodus 12:33-42, *The Exodus: From Rameses to Succoth*  
Tuesday, Exodus 13:17-22, *The Pillars of Cloud & Fire*  
Wednesday, Exodus 14:1-25, *Crossing the Red Sea*  
Thursday, Exodus 16:1-21, *Bread from Heaven*  
Friday, Exodus 17:1-7, *Water from the Rock*  
Saturday, Exodus 17:8-16, *Amalek Attacks Israel and is Defeated*

**June 20** Monday, Exodus 18:1-12, *Moses Reunites with His Wife*  
Tuesday, Exodus 18:13-27, *Jethro's Advice*  
Wednesday, Exodus 19:7-25, *The People Consecrated*  
Thursday, Exodus 20:18-21, *The People Feared God*  
Friday, Exodus 20:22-26, *The Law Concerning the Altar*  
Saturday, Exodus 23:10-13, *Sabbatical Year & Sabbath*

**June 27** Monday, Exodus 21:1-11, *The Law Re Slaves*  
Tuesday, Exodus 21:12-27, *The Law Re Violence*  
Wednesday, Exodus 21:28-36, *Laws Re Property*  
Thursday, Exodus 22:1-15, *Laws of Restitution*  
Friday, Exodus 22:16-31, *Social and Religious Laws*  
Saturday, Exodus 23:1-9, *Justice for All*

**July 4** Monday, Exodus 23:14-19, *The Annual Festivals*  
Tuesday, Exodus 23:20-33, *The Conquest of Canaan Promised*  
Wednesday, Exodus 24:1-8, *The Blood of the Covenant*  
Thursday, Exodus 24:9-18, *On the Mountain with God*  
Friday, Exodus 25:1-22, *The Ark of the Covenant*  
Saturday, Exodus 25:23-40, *The Table & the Lampstand*

**July 11** Monday, 1 Peter 1:1-5, *New Birth into Living Hope*  
Tuesday, 1 Peter 1:6-9, *Rejoice Despite Trials*  
Wednesday, 1 Peter 1:10-12, *Bringing Good News*  
Thursday, 1 Peter 1:13-17, *You Shall Be Holy as I Am*  
Friday, 1 Peter 1:18-23, *Born of Imperishable Seed*  
Sat., 1 Peter 1:24-25, *The Word of the Lord Endures*

**July 18** Monday, 1 Peter 2:1-3, *Pure, Spiritual Milk*  
Tuesday, 1 Peter 2:4-8, *Living Stones*  
Wednesday, 1 Peter 2:9-12, *A Royal Priesthood and a Holy Nation*  
Thursday, 1 Peter 2:13-17, *The Authority of Human Institutions*  
Friday, 1 Peter 2:18-19, *Slaves Obey Your Masters*  
Saturday, 1 Peter 2:20-25, *Suffering for What Is Right*

**July 25** Monday, 1 Peter 3:1-6, *Wives, Convince By Your Own Example*  
Tuesday, 1 Peter 3:7, *Husbands, Honor Your Wives*  
Wednesday, 1 Peter 3:8-12, *Unity of Spirit*  
Thursday, 1 Peter 3:13-17, *Sanctify Christ in Your Heart*  
Friday, 1 Peter 3:18-20, *Noah Saved through Water*  
Saturday, 1 Peter 3:21-22, *Baptism as an Appeal to God*

**Aug 1** Monday, 1 Peter 4:1-3, *Turn Away From Sin*  
Tuesday, 1 Peter 4:4-6, *Live in the Spirit*  
Wednesday, 1 Peter 4:7-11, *Maintain Constant Love for One Another*  
Thursday, 1 Peter 4:12-14, *Rejoice in Suffering*  
Friday, 1 Peter 4:15-16, *Suffering as a Christian*  
Saturday, 1 Peter 4:17-19, *Entrust Yourself to a Faithful Creator*

**Aug 8** Monday, 1 Peter 5:1-4, *Elders, Tend God's Flock*  
Tuesday, 1 Peter 5:5-6, *Youth, Accept the Authority of the Elders*  
Wednesday, 1 Peter 5:7, *Cast Your Anxiety on God*  
Thursday, 1 Peter 5:8-9, *Be Steadfast in Your Faith*  
Friday, 1 Peter 5:10, *God Will Restore You*  
Saturday, 1 Peter 5:11-14, *Stand Fast in God's Grace*

**Aug 15** Monday, Ruth 1:1-5, *Elimelech's Family & Moab*  
Tuesday, Ruth 1:6-7, *Naomi and Her Daughters-in-Law*  
Wednesday, Ruth 1:8-14, *Naomi and Ruth*  
Thursday, Ruth 1:15-18, *Naomi and Ruth*  
Friday, Ruth 1:19-21, *Naomi and Ruth*  
Saturday, Ruth 1:22, *Naomi and Ruth*

**Aug 22** Monday, Ruth 2:1-3, *Ruth Meets Boaz*  
Tuesday, Ruth 2:4-13, *Ruth Meets Boaz*  
Wednesday, Ruth 2:14, *Ruth Meets Boaz*  
Thursday, Ruth 2:15-16, *Ruth Meets Boaz*  
Friday, Ruth 2:17-20, *Ruth Meets Boaz*  
Saturday, Ruth 2:21-23, *Ruth Meets Boaz*

**Aug 29** Monday, Ruth 3:1-5, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*  
Tuesday, Ruth 3:6-7, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*  
Wed., Ruth 3:8-9, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*  
Thurs., Ruth 3:10-13, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*  
Friday, Ruth 3:14-15, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*  
Sat., Ruth 3:16-18, *Ruth & Boaz, the Threshing Floor*

**Sept 5** Mon., Ruth 4:1-4, *The Marriage of Ruth & Boaz*  
Tuesday, Ruth 4:5-6, *The Marriage of Ruth & Boaz*  
Wednesday, Ruth 4:7-10, *The Marriage of Ruth & Boaz*  
Thursday, Ruth 4:11-12, *The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz*  
Friday, Ruth 4:13-17, *The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz*  
Saturday, Ruth 4:18-22, *The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz*