



**FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

526 South Olive Avenue  
Sandpoint, ID 83864  
208-263-2048

*Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org*

June 2024

# Messenger

NEWSLETTER

**Praising God | Nurturing Faith | Serving All**

## PASTOR

Duane Fister

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM in the Sanctuary

Next day online via YouTube

## COMMUNION

Served every Sunday

## COFFEE HOUR

Following Sunday worship

## YOUTUBE

First Lutheran Church,  
Sandpoint, ID

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Lynne Campbell

## NEWSLETTER

Lynne Campbell

*Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org*

- Submit articles, ads, photos, etc., via email by the 5th of the month
- Use "Messenger" for the subject

## PASTOR DUANE'S MESSAGE

### MOVING FORWARD

The era of Covid hit us hard, as it did all people and organizations. We are still recovering. When a runner on a track team loses ground, there are no short cuts to catch up to the front line. They must do whatever it takes to recover lost ground.

In the pandemic's aftermath, two concurrent remedial recovery strategies are at play at First Lutheran. The one is doing our best to pick up where we left off and simply move on—dealing as best we can whatever the present situation. The other is to begin to regain lost ground of things we once loved and used to do.

Therefore, at the last church council meeting I asked, "What do you remember of FLC's life at its best? What events and activities do you miss?" Here are their answers in random order:

- Praise Team • Praise Music
- Adult Sunday School • Two Worship Services • Sunday School for Children • Longer Time for Passing the Peace • Having a Choir Director • Selkirk Brass • Dinners for Eight • Annual Birthday Dinner

- Lent/Advent Soup Supper
- Holden Worship (Now the Feast & Celebration) • Trips to Holden Village • Christmas Service—Carol Singing • Blessing of the Animals
- Small Groups at the Hub • First Thirstday • VBS

It's not a complete list, of course. What have we missed naming? I would appreciate knowing your thoughts. You can email me at [djfister@gmail.com](mailto:djfister@gmail.com).



Relying on the Holy Spirit—if we prioritize, set our intentions, make definite plans, implement those plans, adjust as we go, and persevere to the end, I guarantee this: we can and will make any or all these things happen, and according to the Bible promise, "the end will surpass the beginning."

That is good news!

Pastor Duane

## STAFF & CONTACT US

### Pastor

Duane Fister  
509-998-6716

### Church Office

Lynne Campbell  
Administrative Assistant  
208-263-2048

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Executive Committee

Ray Yaw *President*  
208-290-3880

Walter Ebel *Vice President*  
509-951-4182

Sharon Roget *Treasurer*  
208-263-2610

Trish Thurston *Secretary*  
208-255-6885

### Members at Large

Marianne Foster  
208-946-6369

KarenMarie Moran  
503-522-1599

Lila Petersen  
208-263-2058

Linda Lacy  
208-290-8884

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## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, 6-12-24

**Luther Park Tax Relief:** Diana Carlsen reported the progress being made on tax relief for Luther Park.

**Query About Covid Effects on FLC:** Pastor Duane asked the Council for input on "What was the best of FLC and what do we miss?"

**Church Parking During the Sandpoint Festival:** Festival parking was discussed and all approve of supplying donation envelopes for participants to use as a thank you for the church.

**Church Yard Sale:** Set-up for the yard sale on June 29 was discussed. Helpers are to report at 7AM. Sales hours 8-am-2pm. Donations will be accepted at the church on Thursday and Friday, June 27 and 28.

**Faith Formation Living Lutheran Event:** This event was discussed as well as a possible timeline for FLC to begin work on this project.

**Next Council Meeting:** The next council meeting will be on 7/10/24.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trish Thurston



## GLOBAL MISSION TEAM FLOOD RESPONSE

[Letter Excerpts] Dear Siblings in Christ,

Our companion synod, the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, has been greatly impacted by severe rains and flooding. Many of you have seen the pictures and video via Facebook posts of the flooding at Lugala Hospital, Tumanini Seminary, the city of Ifakara, and surrounding areas.

Our synod Global Mission team asked directly - "How can we help?" Bishop Renard Mtenji and the leaders in the UKD, many of whom have visited with us, responded with a detailed list. Medicines needed for the hospital and region, food for the schools, resources for restoring the infrastructure - all immediate needs as the flood recedes and their hard work begins. The total of this request is about \$34,000 USD. Your Synod Council authorized this fundraiser to address these needs.

We are asking each congregation to continue to pray for the people of the UKD region, the hospital and schools there. Our DEM, Pastor Liv Larson Andrews, has been teaching us all this song from the new worship resources, All Creations Sings: "Could it be, that we are called, for such a time as this." Yes! I believe that this is our opportunity to respond.

May God continue to watch over the UKD, eastern Africa, and all peoples affected by the rains and floods. May we find ways to respond, to pray, and support our siblings in the UKD.

Pastor Wayne Shipman

On behalf of your NWIM Global Mission Team

Donate at <https://elca.org/our-work/global-church/global-mission>

## NEW MUSIC AT WORSHIP? NO PROBLEM!

Occasionally, there may be unfamiliar music sung in worship. Would you like to learn it ahead of time? Or, perhaps you just want to warm up your voice before worship. If so, feel free to join me in the Music Room anytime between 8:15 and 8:45 AM on most Sundays. I would be happy to help you review the worship music of your choice or just do some simple vocal warm-ups.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Psalm 96.1.

Lynn Youngren, 805-990-3006 (text anytime)

## SUNDAY READINGS FOR JUNE/JULY

June 23...Lectionary 12

Job 38:1-11

Ps 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Cor 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 30...Lectionary 13

Lam 3:22-33 or

Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24

Ps 30

2 Cor 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

July 7...Lectionary 14

Ezek 2:1-5

Ps 123

2 Cor 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 14...Lectionary 15

Amos 7:7-15

Ps 85:8-13

Eph 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

*Year B 2024*

*Church Year Calendar*





# PASTOR DUANE FISTER'S INSTALLATION AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2, 2024, Pastor Duane Fister was formally installed as Pastor of First Lutheran Church. It was a traditional Biblical ceremony of laying on of hands with Bishop Meggan Manlove presiding and included members of the Congregation, visiting Friends, and several fellow Pastors.

During the service, President Ray Yaw stated that we had sent out a call to Pastor Duane, which he received, and, after prayerful consideration, he subsequently agreed to serve First Lutheran as our full-time pastor.

The service included a formal request from Ray to Pastor Duane as they proceeded to the Baptismal Font, the Pulpit, and the place where Holy Communion is served, who asked Pastor Duane if he was willing to Baptize, Preach, and offer Bread and Wine for our congregation. He agreed. Music was provided by the choir, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

It was a joyous welcome, celebrated by all in attendance to support him in his ministry to our church.

Trish Thurston



Photos of the installation taken by Diana Carlson

# PROPERTY TAX ISSUE EXPLAINED (SEE INSERT)

Are you worried about Bonner County property taxes? For the last ten years, FLC/Luther Park at Sandpoint Assisted Living has paid over \$1.44 million in Bonner County property taxes.

*The four-page insert found in this edition of the Messenger* contains the graphics that Bruce Johnson and Diana Carlson wrote for the April 23, 2024, presentation before the Bonner County Commissioners at their public meeting. Our dedicated LP tax team tirelessly pursues avenues to lower our taxes or secure nonprofit status. We have a collective commitment to see if we can convince our Bonner County Commissioners.

- Page one is a quick review of Luther Park, why we are a charity, and Financials/Market.
- Page two is the graph of our nearly \$1.5 million in taxes paid for Luther Park from 2014 to 2023.
- Page three compares market value tax and building size.
- Page four has a Comparison of Market Value, Taxes, and the Number of Apartments between the Bridge, Luther Park, and Hearthstone.

The Bonner County Board of Commissioners, also known as the Board of Equalization, urgently needs to equalize Luther Park's taxes. We are sharing our information with members to help them understand the urgency and importance of this issue.

The Luther Park Tax Team: Bruce Johnson, Tiffany Kurwicki-Marosi, and Diana Carlson.



## FULFILLING OUR MISSION THROUGH HELPING HANDS HEALING HEARTS

Dear FLC Family,

It is our turn to fill Helping Hands Healing Hearts' pantry. Each month a church is asked to help with this mission, and June is our month to serve in this way.

How to help? You'll find brown paper grocery bags in the narthex. Please take one and fill it with whatever foods you choose. Examples of what is needed are offered, but the sky is the limit.

We now have the ability to store perishable items in a refrigerator—bread, milk, eggs, butter, hot dogs, to name a few. We also have clients who have allergies and are gluten-free. In addition to food, paper products (paper towels and toilet paper), cleaning supplies (dish and laundry soap), and personal care products are also needed.

When your bag is full, drop it by the church or leave it directly at Helping Hands Healing Hearts, located at 530 Pine. Enter through the back alley during their business hours, Tuesday through Thursday, until 4:30 PM.

If you have perishables, please call or text me, and I will be sure to deliver the bags promptly.

This food drive will continue throughout the month of June, so feel free to pick up and fill a second bag if you're able. Through your participation in this program, FLC is truly praising God, nurturing faith, and serving all. Thank you.

Tina Sundquist 208 610 8147

## REMINDER—CHURCH YARD SALE, JUNE 29

Be sure to attend the church yard sale in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 29 from -- 8 AM to 2 PM. Lots of treasures to be found and all for a good cause (supporting the 2nd Harvest Mobile Market).

## BEAM BUFFERS INSTALLED



## MID-JUNE/MID-JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 6/17 Jim Payne
- 6/28 Jenn VanVolkinburg
- 6/30 Dan Staglund

## UPDATED ADDRESS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

Severe storms across the Midwestern and Southern United States have brought deadly tornadoes and flash flooding to millions of people. To contribute to their relief, please note the correct address to use in sending donations:

Lutheran Disaster Relief  
ELCA  
PO Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

## MAY 9—CHARTER SCHOOL CLEAN-UP CREW BEAUTIFIES FLC



The whole crew is pictured left.

Students at work.





## FLC MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.” – Malala Yousafzai

“Ina Loman is one of those exceptional teachers who helped change the world for countless Bonner County students...”

So begins the June 5 article in the *Daily Bee* detailing the life and many accomplishments of Ina Loman, a long-time member of First Lutheran Church.

Given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Women Honoring Women Committee, Mrs. Loman was honored along with other recipients during a gala brunch on June 15. You can read the full article posted on the bulletin board across from the church office.

## THANK YOU! HELPING HANDS TIDY UP MUSIC SPACES!

A while back, church council approved a proposal to tidy up and organize a few spaces for the musicians here at First Lutheran Church. Many people were involved in getting the various jobs completed, so this is a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out and said “yes” when asked to help organize and tidy up.

**ORGAN LOFT** – Bob Thurston, Lou Dillon, Tina Sundquist, Scott Youngren, Don Farnham, Corky Sanborn, Corina Hughes

The piano and organ were cleaned, carpet vacuumed, woodwork dusted and oiled, pews wiped down, wires dressed, general clean up following the organ console installation. Shelving was provided for the organist to store music and supplies. A custom shelf was built along the railing next to the organ bench for the organist to have music readily at hand during worship services.

**MUSIC ROOM** – Jean Cafferty, Jim Payne, Corky Sanborn, Lou Dillon, Tina Sundquist

During the organ console installation, much of the choral music was stored, (well, piled up) in a corner of the Fellowship Hall. It now has a place to call home, the Music Room, and is organized and easily accessible to the vocal musicians. Also, the Fellowship Hall is much neater without all those boxes.

Two shelving units house the choral collections and three filing cabinets hold the choral octavos. A small working desk is available for use. A keyboard was found in a closet and has been relocated to the space for small rehearsal purposes. The dry erase board is now usable after much removal of old cellophane tape and markings. The amazing amount of glitter in the rug is gone after persistent vacuuming.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL** – Scott Youngren, Erik Youngren, Corky Sanborn, and many others.

There were many others who helped with carrying boxes, building cabinets, moving cabinets, dressing wires, putting up nails to hang quilts, and cleaning. Thank you to those who were in the right place at the right time and lent a hand.

Job well done, everyone!

Gratefully yours,  
Lynn Youngren

## THE PLACE FISTERS NOW CALL HOME



*More about the parsonage to come in the July Messenger.*





## GETTING TO KNOW PASTOR NORM BRAATZ

Pastor Norman Braatz, who has lived in Bonners Ferry for twenty-one years and provided pulpit supply at First Lutheran many times over the years, is now a resident at Luther Park.

He grew up on a dairy farm near Green Bay, Wisconsin, with one sister and three brothers. The dairy business is hard work, but Norm enjoyed picking berries and wildflowers, walking in the woods, and being close to nature. At six, he began attending Sunday school which gave him a good start in learning about the Lutheran faith.

When asked at age nine the proverbial, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" he replied, "I think I'd like to be a minister." When his devout Roman Catholic grandmother heard that response she thought carefully for a few minutes before encouragingly answering, "Well, maybe you will!"

A scholarship from St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion, Wisconsin, enabled him to attend Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, for his undergraduate degree. He reminisced about receiving a check each semester from his church for his education and feels grateful for the Christian support from his community. He often returned to his hometown to share his faith, preach, and thank his supporters.

Norman received pastoral training at Wartburg Theological Seminary, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated in the morning on May 29, 1963 and married Kathryn Karsten in the evening. Life has many blessings and rewards, and he celebrated his faith and life daily.

His wife was a high school business teacher, an excellent mother and friend, and she coordinated the family's events. The Braatzes had

two children, Kara and Timothy. While in New York, they became foster parents and adopted their first foster child, Tanya, making them an interracial family. Then, in 1973, they moved to Lake Havasu, Arizona, where they spent 12 years enjoying the area, working with God, and raising their children. They adopted child number four, a boy, Mark, who was six.

Where are the children living now? His oldest daughter Kara lives in Spokane Valley, Timothy in Bonners Ferry, Tanya in California, and Mark in Tennessee.

### Career:

- Pastor Braatz attended a summer of Clinical Pastoral Training at the University of Michigan Hospital.

- On September 1, 1963, he was ordained in his home church in Wisconsin.

- During his third seminary year, he interned in Brooklyn, New York. On the last day of his internship, he had a conversation with a neighboring pastor which eventually led to a call to be associate pastor at Zion Lutheran in Brooklyn where he served for two years.

- In New York, he received a Master's in Pastoral Counseling and spent eight years in a suburban congregation, Dobbs Ferry Lutheran. He viewed this time as his second education because of the cultural differences between the East and the West.

- In Lake Havasu, Norm served Mount Olive Lutheran for 12 years. It was a mission congregation when he arrived which soon became self-supporting and grew rapidly in that growing new community which was begun in about 1963.

- Beginning in 1985, Norm served Emanuel Lutheran Church, in



La Habra, California, an Orange County suburban congregation, a large church with an excellent staff, for 11 years.

- The last call was to Rancho Palos Verdes, California, where he served for five years at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

### Conclusion:

When asked what brought him the most joy in his career, he says he aimed to help congregations flourish, grow, and reach their goals. His service to the Lord is reflected throughout his life and in the outcome and growth of each congregation. Norm mentions it is a privilege to serve the Lord. He retired in 2002. During his first nine years of retirement, he was employed in development work for Wartburg Seminary. That means he was one of several part-time, deployed retired pastors who visited alumni and friends of the seminary to raise funds for theological education. For that work, he traveled throughout the Northwest and Northern California about one week a month.

Now, Norm lives at Luther Park, where he is the president of the Resident Council. One never stops a busy and talented person. Norm celebrates every day as a blessing of his faith.



## Yoga Ministry

Classes designed for “Late Bloomers” are held weekly in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:15AM. Contact Judy Payne at 208-263-3564.

## At FLC: Community Organizations

### Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild (non-profit)

Second Tuesday each month, Fellowship Hall. Providing education, enjoyment and social exchange for those who enjoy the art of quilting. For questions or more information...

Contact: Linda Oldridge  
208-597-1598

### Teen Center

Teens will be using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and game room on schooldays from 2:30 to 5:30PM (1:30 to 5:30 on Fridays). Closed for the summer break.

Contact: Joan Avery  
208-946-1087

### Music Together

Music classes in the nursery for families with children, newborns to 8 years old. 9AM and 3:30PM, Tuesdays. Last classes 6/25 before summer break.

Contact: Emily Bond  
262-402-8295

## Quilting Groups

### Bosom Buddies

Third Monday each month  
9:30AM-12PM, Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Linda Aavedal  
208-610-6565

### Lutheran World Relief

Wednesdays, 1:00PM  
Sunday School Quilting Room.

Contact: Sharon Roget  
208-610-9005

### Stitches of Love

*Currently working independently at home.*

Contact: Brigette Sanborn.  
If you know of someone in the FLC congregation who would benefit from a tangible gift of love and caring through a handmade quilt, please call Brigette at 208-263-8120.

## Women’s Circles

### Phoebe / Faith Bible Study

Fourth Tuesday each month,  
1:00PM, Conference Room.

The Phoebe and Faith Bible Study groups have combined and are studying the Book of Ruth. *Gather Magazine* may be used.

For more information, contact:  
Judy Payne at 208-263-3564 or  
Sharon Roget at 208-610-9005

### Mary’s Circle

Each meeting arranged  
Contact: Jean Cafferty  
208-263-4942