Signs of “return” are all around us. We look forward to worship inside and hearing the church organ the first Sunday of June.

We understand outdoor gatherings all too well. I’ve spoken many times about what it's going to be like once we gather in person again and our routine becomes more routine. Things will be different. There will be new people, and some people will not be with us because of death. It will be a bittersweet return. However, I've learned some new skills that will probably carry me into the future. I know how to be on Facebook Live and how it feels to speak in front of a camera. I also know what it's like to minister to people who are not geographically close to us. What this time has really given me is an understanding of what it means to say “all are welcome.” Every church I know proclaims that “all are welcome.” Every church I know thinks of themselves as friendly. Some people would argue that, because the greater church has not been welcoming, maybe we should stop saying "all are welcome.” My approach is going to be different. We, as the people of First Lutheran Church, Lexington, strive to make it clear to those who come into our community that we are diligent to be a welcoming community. I jokingly say "welcome to First Lutheran Church — we will disappoint you eventually.” That said, despite our best efforts, we first have to acknowledge that we are not perfect when it comes to “welcome” or being the church. To be honest, we can be bad at it—but we're consistently striving to be better. I think those who walk into the worship space within our community are not looking for perfection — they are looking for authenticity. By the way, all of this begins with the imperfect pastor. Authenticity in our welcome means we have to know what we're talking about; celebrate when we are getting it right; and try to understand when we're get it wrong.

The tenth chapter of Acts gives the story of the Holy Spirit falling upon the Gentiles or “outsiders.” Peter has to acknowledge the Holy Spirit has fallen upon the strangers with only one conclusion......that we must baptize them. If God's Holy Spirit has fallen upon those God has called into our community, we only have one thing to we need to do. We must welcome and baptize them.

Those who are different than us because of background, denominational tradition, race, sexual orientation, male, female, democrat, republican, dog people, cat people, those who we find easy to love and those who we struggle to love have been called by the Holy Spirit. Let us welcome them home!

God's peace +

Pastor Matt

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March 18, 2021
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Attendees:
Tawn Bizzell (President)
Frank Bell
Bleasha Carroll
Kevin Hathcock
Melissa Morris
Pastor Matt Miller
Amanda Hathcock
Absent: Berry Odum, Sandy Hahn, John Leonard, James Whitaker

Call to Order
- Tawn Bizzell opened the meeting.

Devotion
- Melissa led us in a devotion centered on Psalm 147
- God uses the small things to bring healing to the world
- We give thanks that God works in small ways
- Prayer

Minutes
- Approval of minutes from February were tabled to next meeting as a quorum was not met for this meeting.

Financials
- Pastor reported that the PPP forgiveness came through at approximately $38,000.
- We have applied and qualified for the second PPP loan for approximately $44,000.
- March giving has been strong up to this point.
March 18, 2021
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor’s Report

- We need to discuss future plans for worship and make a deliberate plan for engaging in indoor worship.
- Those who are able to be vaccinated are taking that opportunity based on Pastor’s informal poll of congregants.
- We will continue to have outdoor worship through Easter Sunday (April 4). Outdoor worship on Easter will allow for more people to be present and will allow for masked singing.
- The Synod Task Force recommends that indoor worship contain only 30% of the room’s capacity (roughly 70 people in our sanctuary), social distanced, and no singing.
- Other churches in downtown have begun indoor worship.
- A possible target for indoor worship resuming is May.
- The Youth Group requests permission to meet outdoors at the picnic shelter, masked, with no meal, on Sunday evenings beginning April 11. Council has given approval.

Team Reports – No Reports

2021 Devotions

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Council Member Leading</th>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Kevin Hathcock</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Berry Odum</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>James Whitaker</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Bleasha Carroll</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Sandy Hahn</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>John Leonard</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Frank Bell</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Pastor Matthew Miller</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Greg Turlington</td>
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The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Matt Miller.

Council’s next meeting will be April 15, 2021 at 7:00PM on Zoom.
We Pray for Each Other

Let us remember in prayer:

CRCH FAMILY:
David Apple
Amy Hollar Cormier
Jean Conrad Darstein
Mary Huneycutt
Katie Lendy
Frank Mills
Ronnie Moretz
Willie Ruth Pleas
Gracie Shepherd
Jody Shepherd
Ron Sink
Sylvia Sink
Dan Smith
April Thompson
Terry Triplett
Deborah Wertman
Jarrett Whitley
Jan Willette

LOVED ONES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:
Tonya Adams (Friend of David Smith)
Susan Avery and Family (Friends of Christi Nebrich)
Nick Babcock (Friend of the Kitzmans)
Charles Baker (Bill Baker’s father)
Jim Bailey (Carol Leonard’s brother)
Nancy Beck (Judy Conrad’s sister)
Mary Brink (Niece of Pauletta Conrad)
Gene Bullock (Tracy Miller’s uncle)
Anne Burkhart (friend of Pam Mabry)
Tessa Burns (Bob Redwine’s niece)
Mike Byrd (Friend of Bob Sink)
Johnnie Canny (Emma Apple’s sister)
Rita Caudle (friend of Sabrina Conrad)
Mackey Charles (friend of Joe & Bleasha Carroll)
Adam Cheely (Michelle Eppinga’s son)
Edward Clancy (friend of Bing Sadaarmono)
Ken Clodfelter
Jessica Crabb
Don and Jackie Craft (Rebecca Moretz’ parents)
Amy and Wes Cups
Robert Dasch (Father of Keith Dasch)
Marina Dunaway and family (friends of Karen Riggs)
Delores Farrell (Dalane Kitzman’s sister)
Danny Fine (Lynn Smith’s brother)
Debra Gainey (The Kitzman’s neighbor)
Marlon Gaskins (Friend of Scott and Deb Wertman)
Rick Gransee
Ross Gray (Friend of Danny and Carol Leonard)
The Greer Family (Friends of Karen Riggs)
Kathy Harwood (Beth Lemly’s sister-in-law)

Norma Heath (friend of Kelly Newsme)
Paul Heath (friend of Kelly Newsme)
Ronald Hensley (friend of Mary Huneycutt)
Angelica Hernandez (coworker of Bill Nebrich)
Barbara Sue Herring (Friend of FLC)
James Hewett (friends of Bill and Christi Nebrich)
Gavin Hill (friend of the Odums)
Tina and Andrew Holcomb (friends of Christi Nebrich)
Reuben Huffman (Emma Apple’s brother-in-law)
Jeff Hutcherson (Husband of Karen Riggs’ coworker, Jill)
Caleb Hutcherson (Son of Karen Riggs’ coworker, Jill)
Ken Jacobs (Friend of Cindy Schoonmaker and FLC)
Damon Jones (brother of clothing closet volunteer, Teresa Smith)
Betty Jordan (friend of the Carlsons)
Steve and Fern Kennedy (friends of Pam Mabry)
Karen Kernstine (friend of Sabrina Conrad)
John Kleine (Nancy Carlson’s brother-in-law)
Terry Kohler (Wertman family member)
Jack Kunz (Nancy Carlson’s father)
Mary and Charles Lee (friends of FLC)
Nichole Leonard (friend of Patti Grant)
Aleigha Lockhart and Family (Neighbors of the Nebrichs)
Hazel Lovelace (Jim Lovelace’s mother)
Maria (Abbi Thompson’s friend)
Mandy Marshall (Debbie Triplett’s daughter)
Miranda and Children (Friends of Sabrina Conrad)
Zac Mazag (friend of Mattias Miller)
Deb McGraw (friend of Patrick Harris)
Joetta McQueen
Sandy Mendenhall (friend of Lynn Smith)
Larry Michaels
Bruce Moody (friend of Bill and Christy Nebrich)
Claire Murphy (Rebecca Moretz’ cousin)
Libby Puckett (friend of Connie Beck McMillan)
Mark Remissong (Frank and Pat Mills’ son-in-law)
Craig and Lisa Royal (friends of FLC)
Lynn Scoggins (brother-in-law of Beth and Katie Lemly)
Jordan Sharpe (friend of the Nebrich and Morris families)
Angie Shaw (friend of April Thompson)
Emil Schuh (Dalane Kitzman’s cousin)
Aubrey Smith (Dan Smith’s dad)
David Smith (Nephew of Bob Sink)
Jimmy Steele (friend of Mary Huneycutt)
Jason Stone (Wendy Coley’s son)
Marilee Strasser (friend of Bill and Patissie Baker)
Denny Swimley (brother-in-law of Scott and Deborah Wertman)
Jackie Taylor (Lorraine Carlson’s sister)
Marie Thomason (Sarah Whitaker’s grandmother)
Gary Tilton (friend of Dan and Lynn Smith)
Glenn Visbeen (friend of John Leonard)
Charlie Ward (friend of Kim Odum)
Barbara Weller (friend of FLC)
Mary Louise Wilkerson (Friend of FLC)
Drew Williams (friend of Kellie Fritts Michael)
Devone Wohl (Dalane Kitzman’s sister)
Nathan Wohl (Dalane Kitzman’s nephew)
Kara Wood (Mary Nebrich’s teacher)

The families of those who have passed to life eternal:
Daniel Holcomb (former student of Christi Nebrich)
Judy Dowell (Tracy Miller’s aunt)

Expectant Parents:

Jan Willette
## Homebound Member Visitation

Our elementary aged students have created “hand” picked flower bouquets for our home-bound members. If you are vaccinated, and would like to visit a shut-in member, please stop by the narthex to pick up a project to deliver on your visit. A sign up sheet is available to show who is in need of a visit. Thank you to all those who participated in this project!

## Graduate Gift Baskets

Graduation baskets are available in the narthex for our high school graduates, Gavin & Isaac. Please plan to bring a card or gift to help send them away to school with the best start. Ideas for gifts include: gift cards, towels, quarters, tumblers, & dorm items. Gavin will be attending NC State while Isaac will be attending UNCC. We will present these to our graduates on Graduate

## Pastor’s Pantry

Just a reminder that we are still collecting for Pastor’s Pantry. There is a donation bin on the lower level of FLC just inside the door. The need is great, please donate if you can!

### May - instant mashed potatoes

### June - grits (individual serving-size packets)

### July - Hamburger Helper or store brand version

### August - canned tuna

### September - cans of mixed vegetables

### October - oatmeal (individual servings)

### November - soups

### December – macaroni & cheese

### January– Canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.)

### February– dry pasta and/or pasta sauce

### March– canned pasta (i.e. ravioli, etc.)

### April - dry beans
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Each Sunday morning at 10:30 we will be hosting outdoor worship. Please drive through the covered entrance on the corner of S. State Street and W. 4th Avenue to receive your bulletin and the elements for the Eucharist. Please bring your own chair. You are welcome to bring a tent, or umbrella for shade if you so desire. The service will also be broadcast over the radio on station 97.7 and Facebook Live. Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed. Sanitizing stations will be available for your use. If you have been exposed to anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or have any symptoms yourself, please refrain from attending. Restrooms will be available only for emergency use only.

May 27 at 7:00PM
Beer and Bible at the Goose & Monkey Brew House
All are welcome to attend this time of fellowship and devotion. Bring your own Bible.
Childcare is not provided at this time.

Each Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Pericope in the ZOOM Room
Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

FELC Council will meet May 20 at 7:00 PM.
FELC Council will meet in the fellowship hall. Masks and social distancing will be observed.

The Learning Team will meet on May 12 at 5:15PM.
The Learning Team will meet in person in the youth room. Masks and social distancing will be observed.
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

May 13 & 27 at 7:30PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry in the ZOOM Room

Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

Each Wednesday at 11:00 AM
Devotions with Pastor Matt on Facebook Live
Join us here: https://www.facebook.com/FLCLEX/

FELC Youth Group
All middle and high school students are invited to attend youth group on the following Sundays from 5:00PM – 6:00PM.
No meal will be served. Please remember your mask.

May 2
May 16
May 23*

* last youth meeting before summer break

Save the date to honor Graduate Sunday
Sunday, May 23 at 10:30AM
We will celebrate our college & high school graduates during worship on Pentecost Sunday.
Our graduates include:
Ian Morris– UNCC
Mattias Miller– UNC
Eric Wertman– Penn State
Jordan Tanley– UNCW
Isaac Moretz– headed to UNCC
Gavin Tanley– headed to NC State
FIRST NEWS

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

My sincere thanks to you for remembering me with a beautiful prayer shawl. It has been a comfort to me since Robert’s passing. I appreciate people who share their talents in such a special way.

Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,
Ramona Phelps

Pastor Matt and First Lutheran Family,

Eric’s graduation from Penn State University is Mother’s Day, May 9th.

We want to thank all of you for your prayers, love, and support these past four years.

God Bless You,
Scott, Deborah and Eric

Notes of Appreciation

DEAR PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY:

My sincere thanks to you for remembering me with a beautiful prayer shawl. It has been a comfort to me since Robert’s passing. I appreciate people who share their talents in such a special way.

Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,
Ramona Phelps

Joys and Cares

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Tommy and Vea Barrentina, friends of Beth Huber, upon the loss of their son mid-April. Their son lived in North Dakota and passed away from cancer.

Zac Mazag (friend of the Matthew Miller family) upon the death of his mother; he had already experienced the loss of his father. Shelley Reneé Medich Mazag, 57, of Troutman, passed away on April 5. She loved camping with family, crafts and Hallmark Christmas movies. She especially loved spending time with her immediate family as well as when she was able to get together with all of her many, many cousins. She also enjoyed spending time with her closest friends. The family will hold a private service and a celebration of life will be conducted at a later date for family and friends.

Tracy Miller upon the death of her aunt, Judy Dowell. Judy C. Dowell, 77, passed away April 7 at her home from a lengthy battle with dementia. A Celebration of Life Tribute Service was held on April 14 at Heffner Funeral Chapel & Crematory, Inc in York, Pennsylvania; Pastor Matthew Miller led this service. Judy had been a member of the Pentecostal Church in Bunker Hill, Tennessee. She enjoyed taking care of her family, served as a Girl Scout Leader for many years and had received recognition from the teachers at Roundtown Elementary School for her assistance in the classroom. Judy was the sister of Tracy’s mother Norma. Five of Judy’s siblings, including Tracy’s mother, had previously passed away; of the seven siblings, only one survives: Tracy’s aunt, Linda Persinger.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Katie Lemly had been hospitalized for several weeks in February and March. We are sad to report that she was admitted to the hospital again on April 13 with another severe occurrence of pancreatitis, and is still hospitalized at the time of this writing. She is currently also battling a severe infection.

Patrick Harris, friend of the Matthew Miller family, and friend of the congregation (he is the artist from Statesville we commissioned to paint the Stations of the Cross in the FLC Columbarium) is hospitalized at Forsyth Hospital in Winston-Salem. Initially hospitalized in the intensive care unit at Davis Hospital in Statesville, he was moved to Forsyth on April 8. He had recently undergone surgery to repair his legs that had been damaged from many...
diabetic episodes, then developed severe sepsis. He continues to be hospitalized at the time of this writing, and is facing a long-term recovery.

Aubrey Smith, father of Dan Smith, was hospitalized again; but was able to return home mid-April.

Gary, friend of Dan Smith, was hospitalized with acute pancreatitis mid-April.

Gary Nance, husband of Peggy Everhart Nance, was hospitalized at Randolph Hospital in Asheboro from April 8-10 with diverticulitis and atrial fibrillation. Shortly upon coming home he returned to the emergency room for a kidney stone! He is awaiting a referral to a cardiologist and is on some new medications.

Michelle Eppinga was hospitalized overnight in the Forsyth Hospital emergency room for a urinary tract infection on April 15.

Barb Weller, former member and friend of the congregation, has been diagnosed with cancer under her tongue. She was having surgery in Shelby on April 28. She would appreciate all good thoughts and prayers not only for herself, but also for husband Jack and daughter Katie as they continue to take care of her. **UPDATE** as of May 6: Barb writes “Last Wednesday I had surgery to remove some cancer cells from the side of my tongue and a lymph node in my neck! They had to shave my tongue (several cm) and remove the lymph node! I came thru the surgery well - am recovery nicely at home under the great care of Dr. Jack!! I had a follow up today - all reports came back CLEAR!! ’ No need for any follow up treatments!!!! Needless to say we are very happy!!”

Jim Bailey, brother of Carol Leonard, has been struggling with mesothelioma (cancer from asbestos exposure) for almost a year. His prognosis is dim, and all treatments have been ended.

Aida Amplo is now under Hospice care. Please pray for her as God takes her hand and leads her into His kingdom.

David Apple has recently been diagnosed with cystic renal cancer after a very large growth (originally thought to be fluid retention from new medication) was discovered. He will have surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center on May 24, and will have both the growth and one kidney removed. The doctor feels the cancer is all contained and can be removed through the surgery; he will not have to have any chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

**THANKS!**

**Blood Drive** – Thanks to Carol Leonard for her leadership in making sure our community blood drives continue. At our FLC blood drive in April, 25 units of blood were collected! Thanks, too, to all the other volunteers involved in this activity.

**Education Appreciation** – During worship on May 2, all teachers and educators were recognized, and thanked for their ministry – especially during this difficult year. A blessing was given, and they were asked to pick up a gift after the service.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**School Acceptance**

- Caroline Dasch (daughter of Keith and Jennifer Schoonmaker-Dasch, granddaughter of Cindy Schoonmaker and Stan Schoonmaker) has been accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Math! She will participate in the online program so that she can continue to be co-enrolled at North Davidson High School.

- Megan Louia Hargest (daughter of Pastor Mike Louia) has thought about going to graduate school for six years. She has now been accepted into the Master in Social Work (MSW) Program at the University of Maryland!

**Coach of the Year** – Congratulations to Pete Kilcullen (husband of Erin Kilcullen, father of Jaden and Zeke) for a wonderful award! He serves as a women’s basketball coach at Wheatmore High School in Trinity. On April 20, Pete was presented with an award: “Piedmont 2-A Athletic Conference – Coach of the Year – Pete Kilcullen, Wheatmore High School Women’s Basketball, 2020-2021”! The award was voted on by his peers in his conference. Quite an honor!
Joys and Cares

OTHER NEWS & TIDBITS

Employment Update – Berry Odum has a new job! Earlier this year he began his position as Risk Manager in the Finance Department of Rowan County Government.

Art Exhibit – We have another artist in our midst! We reported a couple months ago that Ken Clodfelter is taking watercolor painting lessons from Dempsey Essick. Here is a sampling of his talent:
Don't forget to share your "joys and cares" with us! Please call Celie Lough at 249-6038, so that we may "double your joys and halve your cares!" In order to meet printing deadlines, please have all items submitted by the 18th of each month. Thanks! Please note: articles may also be submitted via e-mail to loughjc@lexcominc.net.

Electronic Giving

Please visit www.flelex.org and click on the “Give Online” tab on the home page. This will take you directly to the online contribution portal.

You may also contribute by texting MYOFFERING to (502) 650-9147. Once you’ve completed this step, you will receive easy instructions to continue with your contribution.
Return Service Requested

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
320 South State Street
PO BOX 308
Lexington, NC 27293

Phone: 336-248-6018
Email: office@flclex.org

We’re on the Web:
WWW.FLCLEX.ORG

Church Staff & Volunteers

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller ~ Pastor
Tawn Bizzell ~ Council President
Amanda Hathcock ~ Director of Congregational Life
Kelly Newsome ~ Organist / Parish Associate
Jim Lovelace ~ Pianist
Kelly Newsome ~ Music Ministries
Bing Grubb ~ Sexton

A Table Worship Service & Communion are available upon request.