

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26



The Power of Assembly

By: Barb Kittelson

The 2019 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly: “Following Jesus into a Changing World” was held May 31 and June 1 at the Rochester Civic Center. Pr. Hannah, Cheryl Kylo, Les Kylo, and Barb Kittelson attended for Minneola. Synod Assembly is a great place to meet up with old friends and with neighbors which is part of the reason I like to attend. The worship services, communion, and Bible studies leave me with something to consider.

This year Pr. Hannah helped plan some awakening music and service for worship and prayer. The Bible study was led by Rev. Dr. Eric Baretto and discussed what faith looks like when the world we know is coming to an end. The business of the synod was completed by approving the secretary and treasure’s reports as well as approving the Proposed Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry 2020-2021 for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. A few resolutions were discussed and approved as well as some minor changes to the Synod’s constitution. Cheryl Kylo was recognized and thanked for her 6 years as a lay member of the Synod Council and Mary Veiseth was voted into her first term as a lay member of the Synod Council. Minneola has been and will continue to be well represented on the Synod Council.

The main business of the 2019 Synod Assembly was to nominate and elect a new bishop. A bishop’s term is for six years and can be held for two terms. Bishop Steven Delzer has finished his first term and is retiring. The election of a bishop is not an easy process nor is it a short process. Seven months ago congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod were asked to bring forth the names of pastors in good standing on the Clergy Roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Those names were voted on during the spring conference meetings. Seven names came forth to be added to the nominating ballot. Those initially nominated were reverends Kirsten Venne, Sean Forde, Glenn Monson, Heather Culuris, John Weisenburger, Regina Hassanally, and Emily Carson. These seven had conversations with all who wanted to attend three different listening sessions throughout the synod a few weeks prior to the assembly. The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was present to lead us with word and then the deed of presiding over the voting process. We found Bishop Eaton to be enlightening and light-hearted leading us through some voting snafus.



(continued)

The first ballot at the Synod Assembly is called the nominating ballot or an Ecclesiastical ballot. The first ballot is blank of any names and the assembly could bring forth pastors in good standing on the Clergy Roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Forty plus individuals were nominated on the first ballot. Balloting and voting continued with the outcome of the third ballot leaving the top four nominees.

Those pastors who received the most votes went onto the fourth ballot and were Regina Hassanally 146 votes, Emily Carson 133 votes, Sean Forde 105 votes, and Glenn Monson 71 votes. The top two candidates made for the fifth ballot. The top two nominees were Rev. Emily Carson and Rev. Regina Hassanally. The full assembly was addressed by both candidates with the fifth ballot following. Rev. Regina Hassanally received 237 votes and Rev. Emily Carson received 206 votes.

I would encourage each of you to take your turn as a lay member from Minneola at Synod Assembly. At times the work is tedious and seemingly unimportant but the main take away is that you are enlightened by all that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod along with the church wide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American do in the world as disciples of Jesus Christ, "Following Jesus into a Changing World."

Barb Kittelson

July Meetings

Property Board: July 10 @ 6:30 pm

Financial Status

May 15th - June 14th

Our Treasurer, is on vacation and was unable to provide a financial status report from May 15th - June 14th as we would regularly see in the newsletter. The August newsletter will instead contain both the July and August numbers. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to connect with a Council member.

Financial Secretary Report

May 15th - June 14th

Operating Income \$ 8,964
Average needed to make budget \$ 2,470
Actual average per week \$ 2,241
Building/Siding Fund Income = \$ 100
Memorial Fund \$ 902

Thanks to all who continue to give as they are able to support our ministry. Thank you for all your financial support of God's ministry through Minneola.

June Council Update

- ✚ The President will be the primary backup carrier for the Treasurer in financial documentation, paper or electronic or any other form.
- ✚ Council will explore the possibility of new green paraments using Memorial Funds.

Pancake Breakfast

Minneola is hosting our annual Fourth of July Breakfast at Riverside Park in Wanamingo, Wednesday, July 4th from 6:30-9:30 am. Come and join in food and fellowship with the larger community while enjoying pancakes and sausage.



Park Worship

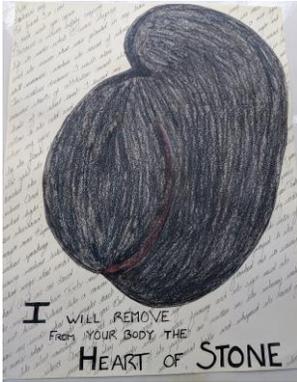
Join us at 9:00 am on July 7th for worship in the park, showing God's hospitality and love, by going out and being present with others.



Kenyon Senior Living Golf Tourney

The Kenyon Senior Living annual golf tournament will be on July 26th. Registration and lunch at 11:00 am, Shotgun start 12:15 pm, appetizers and social hour at 5:00 pm. 4 person team golf and cart - \$200.00, single golfer and cart \$50.00. RSVP deadline is July 19th. Call Chelsea at 507-789-7101 with any questions.

God's Working on the Heart



As July rolls in, I will be returning from my annual pilgrimage to Oshkosh, WI and 8 days of silence. I enter into that intentional and renewing time with God already working on my heart. Every year I am moved/nudged to

contemplate Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

As difficult as it is to admit, this world hardens me, hardens us. Through sheer desperation to survive another day the walls of our hearts tighten, stiffen, building armor that eventually turns to stone. In my annual time away, God softens my heart, or perhaps as Ezekiel says, simply removes the heart of stone another year of life has forged and replaces it with a heart of flesh; one ready to love the world and be loved by the world. A heart desperate and longing for the connections God instigates each and every day through people and situations all around.

During worship from July 21-August 4th we will journey together as we acknowledge the stoniness surrounding our hearts, rend those hearts for God (Joel 2:13) and invite our new hearts of flesh to guide and lead us into the world in service to the other. I hope and pray you join me, join us, as we examine our hearts before God and in community.

-Pr. Hannah

Chronic Pain Workshop

Put Life Back in Your Life! Call to sign-up for a Living Well with Chronic Conditions Workshop to be offered in Zumbrota. Classes are designed for adults, 18 and over, who want to take charge of their

ongoing health problems and get relief from their pain, fatigue, and other symptoms.

This free workshop, sponsored by Active Aging Programs with Catholic Charities of Southern MN, will meet six Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:00 am, starting June 12th at the Zumbrota Towers in Zumbrota, MN.

For more information contact Mariah Mariano, Active Aging Wellness Program Coordinator at 507-450-1091 ormmariano@ccsommn.org or register at www.ccsommn.org

Get Up and Go

By Tiffany C. Chaney

In a lectionary reading for the third Sunday of Easter, Saul has a life-altering encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)). Light from heaven shines down, the Jesus' voice knocks Saul off his feet, confronts Saul for persecuting him, and sends him on a new mission. Everything Saul had planned was interrupted. He found himself without sight and no instructions other than "Get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Jesus also speaks to Ananias, asking him to lay hands on Saul and restore his sight. This command troubles Ananias. He didn't question whether his hands would bring healing. No Ananias was shaking in his sandals because Saul had a reputation for "breathing threats and murder" against disciples like him. Ananias knew Saul had permission from the high priest to capture and bind Christ's followers and take them to Jerusalem.

Like Saul, Ananias had been minding his own business when Jesus interrupted his journey. Imagine what Ananias must have been thinking as he traveled to Straight Street. Oh, it must have been a long, long walk. Nevertheless, he heeded the Lord's call.

See, Jesus' instructions often make us uncomfortable, stretch our limits and interrupt our plans. The Lord desires that his disciples – then and now – lean into all we're capable of accomplishing, pushing

beyond our comfort stories. Sometimes that call may leave us shaking in our sandals like Saul or Ananias. Still we get up and go.

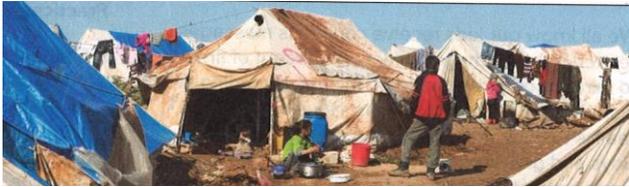
The Lord told Saul and Ananias to get up and go – and tells us the same. Their stories highlight how our calls are intertwined with those around us. Jesus didn't tell Saul somebody would come lay hands on him. He told him Ananias would come lay hands on him. After Ananias restored his vision, Saul joined with all the disciples, proclaiming Jesus throughout Damascus as the apostle Paul. What a powerful witness.

To fulfill God's plan, both Saul and Ananias had to push past doubt and act in faith together. The call for each was personal, yet their stories were connected. Likewise, God's call for each of us is personal and connected to the people around us. As individuals and communities we act as God's hands in the world.

Toward whom and what is Jesus calling you today? Get up and Go.

ELCA Advocacy

June Issue of Living Lutheran



Recent results of the Global Peace Index show that global violence has increased over the last decade, causing tremendous humanitarian crises. According to a World Bank fragility, conflict and violence overview, conflicts drive 80% of humanitarian needs.

Currently, US foreign assistance in fragile and conflict affected countries focuses more on responding to immediate needs and less on the causes of the discord. The resurgence of violent conflicts has compelled policymakers to consider ways to improve the work of prevention.

In March a bipartisan group in Congress introduced Global Fragility Act of 2019 to improve the government's ability to identify and prevent violent conflicts in fragile state and regions around the world.

The Global Fragility Act of 2019 requires the administration to develop a 10-year strategy for preventing such conflicts. It also authorizes funds for prevention programs in priority countries and calls for a development of measures to assess the effectiveness of these efforts.

As Lutherans, the act presents an opportunity to affirm biblical call to the peacemakers and to uphold the ELCA special statement "For Peace in God's World". The statement says, "As citizens, we are to seek to influence our nation's actions for peace among the nations. Sharing a common humanity with all people, we are called to work for peace throughout the globe".

Go to elca.org/advocacy/actioncenter to take action in support of the Global Fragility Act.

Happy Anniversary

Les and Cheryl Kylo 7/1
Dillon and Kelly Sellner 7/7
John and Corinne Morseth 7/8
Chuck and Shirley Fredrickson 7/11
David and Carmen Petersburg 7/16



Happy Birthday

Zachary Petersburg 7/1
Nancy Lu Arndt 7/7
Rayna Arndt 7/9
Jennifer Hanson 7/9
Isabelle Tews 7/10
Rick Clemens 7/11
Leslie Blakstad 7/12
Riley Putnam 7/12
Roger Fredrickson 7/15
Sara Putnam 7/15
Olivia O'Banion 7/16
Layla Sjolander 7/16
Dalton Ludington 7/17
Everly Sellner 7/17
Emily Kittelson 7/18
Katie O'Neill 7/18
Corlis Gifford 7/19
Alex Hanson 7/19
Marlys Loken 7/23
Kelly Blakstad 7/26
Ted Hartgers 7/27
Emma Stinennan 7/27
Leon Nerison 7/28
Russell Blakstad 7/29



July, 2019

Minneola Lutheran Church

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 Goodhue, MN 55027
 Telephone Church Office: 507-824-2685
 Rev. Hannah Bergstrom de Leon Cell: 952-564-7002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	4  Annual Pancake Breakfast 6:30 am - 9:30 am Wanamingo Park Pavilion	5	6
7 9:00 am Joint Worship w/communion at Riverside Park	8	9	10 6:30 pm Property Board	11	12	13
Pr. Hannah on vacation through July 14 th call Pr. Julie Rogness at 952-994-1201						
14 for Pastoral emergencies 9:30 am Worship	15	16 6:00 pm Book Club at Cheryl Kylo's	17 9:00 am Quilting 7:30 pm Bible Study at Cheryl Kylo's	18	19	20 KSL Golf Tourney at 11:00 am
21 9:30 am Worship	22	23 5:30 pm Nominating Committee meeting	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship w/communion	29	30	31	Upcoming Events: August 18 th : Park Worship at Lands August 16-18 GoodStock celebration at Good Earth Village August 20 th - Book Club		

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