

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

“LIGHT FROM THE HEIGHTS”

May 2021



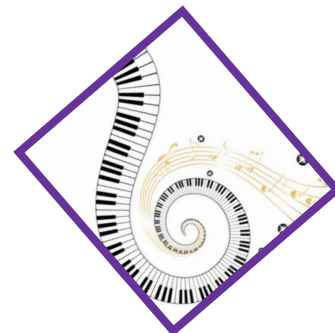
A note from Pastor Roger Hardy,

On Easter Sunday we started our in person worship and streaming live at the same time. Thanks to the many hands who prepared for this opening of worship and many thanks to those who help to keep it functioning on a regular basis. My guess is that we will be in this mode of worship- in person and streaming live—for some time to come.

Personally, I have found presiding and preaching to people sitting in the pews to be helpful to me. Somehow preaching to the empty church building didn't quite feel right. As we follow our protocols we hopefully can continue to worship in this format for months ahead.

I have been visiting with people as often as I can, mostly through Zoom. However, as the nice weather comes I am open to either meeting you at your place outside, or if you prefer, we can arrange to visit here at church in the reception room. For arranging a pastoral visit please contact me through Office Administrator Cheryl Hollman.

Peace
Pastor Hardy



The book *IN HIS STEPS: WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?* begins with Pastor Henry Maxwell's preparation of a sermon being interrupted by a visitor. An apparently homeless man asked for help in seeking work. Pastor Maxwell told him he did not know of any opportunities for employment and couldn't offer him work at his home because he had only a horse and a cow which he cared for himself.

Did any of the pastors who have served AHLC own a horse and a cow? Please make a guess of the date of the book's publication. The date can be found on one of the first pages of the book. The question "What would Jesus do?", abbreviated as WWJD, became popular after the publication of this book by Charles Sheldon. There was renewed interest in it, particularly by teenagers, in the 1990s. Many Christians developed a belief in an obligation to act in a manner that would demonstrate Jesus' love by imitating his actions.

Do you remember wrist bands bearing the letters WWJD? Did you wear one?

Pages 6 through 13 describe the worship service at Pastor Maxwell's church on the Sunday following the visit described above. Before the benediction the same man who had called on Pastor Maxwell appeared and spoke at great length. His comments were a request for an answer to the question: "What do Christians mean by following the steps of Jesus?" During the following week Pastor Maxwell prepared a list of things that he would do as his answer to the question. One of them was "Becoming a friend and companion of the people who lived in the city's slum."

The following Sunday Pastor Maxwell challenged the congregation to volunteer for a year not to do anything without first asking the question "What would Jesus do?" Several members accepted the challenge. A businessman completed a list of goals, including the statement that he would not consider the profits that his business earned as his, but as a trust to be used for the good of needy members of the community. What goals might a newspaper editor write? His list appears on pages 119 through 121. The majority of the book provides details about the costs to the people who honored their commitments.

(cont.)

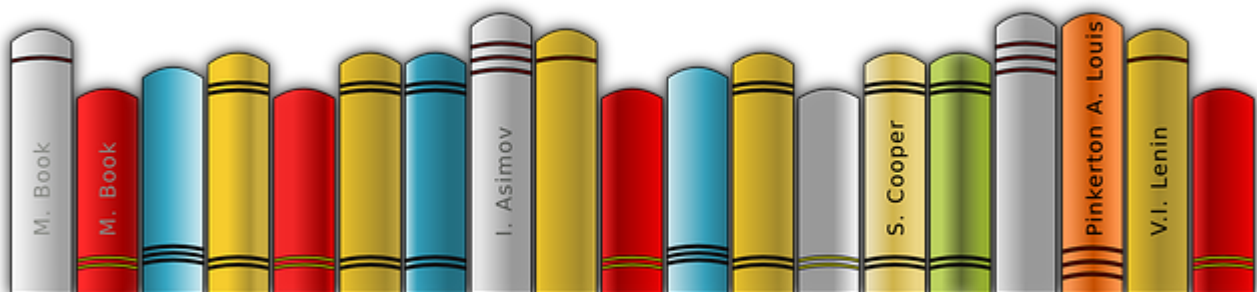
Here is a partial quotation at the beginning of chapter 6, page 90, "For I come to set a man at variance against his father, ..." The reader probably recognizes King James Version language. Can the internet be used to identify the source of quotations. That would be important to learn the context and if the author has used the quotation appropriately. A post it note is attached to page 90 with the source of the quotation.

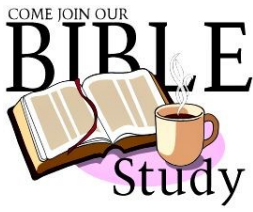
Doing what Jesus would do did not originate with Charles Sheldon. Thomas a Kempis wrote IMITATION OF CHRIST in 1420. John Wesley, a founder of the Methodist Church, advocated the love of God and neighbor with no ulterior motivation in his ministry in the 1760s. Charles Spurgeon, a Baptist pastor frequently used the question "What would Jesus do?" in his sermons in the 1880s.

The internet site Question of the Day" is the source of an article entitled "Is what would Jesus do? something we should seek to live by?" The articles states that knowing what Jesus would do is presumptuous. We might justify our behavior by falsely imagining that Jesus would agree with us. Instead of WWJD the article recommends the prayer JWSID, "Jesus, what should I do?"

When the epidemic is over this book will be in the book case near the office door. An envelope containing additional information will also be available.

Clair





Summary of The Gospel of John Chapter 2

By Valerie Robertson-Osmundson

valerie.osmundson@gmail.com 651-457-7032

Hello bible Study friends! This month I will write about Jesus' 1st miracle and His cleansing of the temple.

Jesus' 1st miracle, where he changes water into wine tells us that he has the power to transform our lives. In the Old Testament, wine and vineyards were often used as a sign of God's lavish blessings. Jesus can transform our lives from the ordinary to the extraordinary. I find it remarkable that Jesus had the servants involved in the miracle. Jesus transformed their simple act of obedience into experiencing a miracle. The guests didn't know where the finest wine came from, the simple obedient servants did, and they witnessed the power of the Almighty.

Not only does Jesus transform us, He can also cleanse us as he cleansed the temple in Jerusalem. During Passover, Jewish families traveled many miles to make a sacrifice in the temple. But the money changers made the prices for the animal sacrifices exorbitant, and this exploited the people, especially the poor. Jesus has righteous anger when people are kept from worshipping God. As a believer, you are His temple. We need to ask ourselves from what sin do I need Jesus to cleanse? Jesus Christ has the power and authority to cleanse us from our sins. He will transform us as we yield to Him.

So this is a brief (but I hope meaningful) review of Chapter 2. I'll review Chapter 3 next month. Do you want to know about Nicodemus? Read about him in Chapter 3. Here are some questions to reflect on.

- 1) Why do you think the bible mentions the detail of when Nicodemus visits Jesus in verse 1? (There is a symbolic meaning and a practical reason) Also read 9-11.
- 2) Nicodemus was possibly the only one in the Bible who told that he had to be born again. Why do you think that is? (Refer back to verses 9-11) What did Jesus want from his honored, respected and educated religious leader?
- 3) How does Jesus compare the wind with the Spirit? (In Hebrew, the word for spirit is also the word for wind.)
- 4) How does the event with Moses in the wilderness point to Jesus bearing our sins on the cross? (Numbers 21: 4-9)

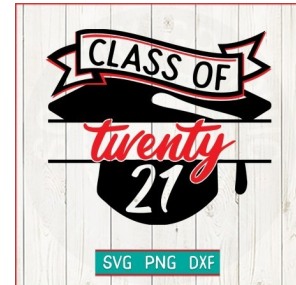
Read Chapter 3 with an open mind and open heart, and remember that the Bible not only informs, but transforms. Feel free to contact me, for I love discussing the Bible!

Congratulations Graduates!

2021



Matthew Helgason will be graduating with a BA degree in Individual Studies from Metropolitan State University on May 8th. Matthew is the son of Jon and Karen Helgason.



Justin Hanson will be graduating from Roseville Area High School. Justin will be continuing his education at Century Community College studying law enforcement and will be playing baseball. Justin is the son of Tom Hanson and Becky Nelson, grandparents are Sharon and Ron Hanson and Bob and Dee Ann Nelson .



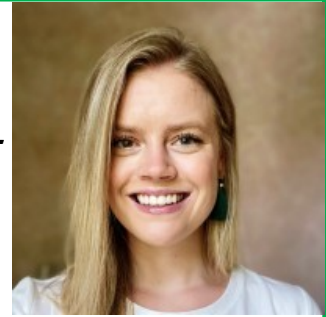
Leah S. Ekblad, daughter of Steven & Karen Ekblad & granddaughter of Jerome & Carol Ekblad will graduate from the University of Colorado-Boulder, May 7, Bachelor of Science Business Administration.



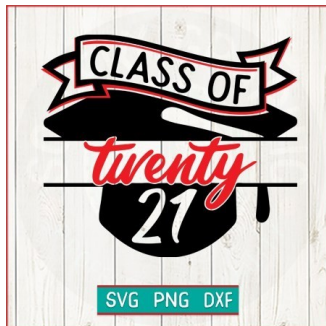
Elliott Dean will be graduating from Farmington High School, He will be going to Inver Grove Community College to study computer programming. Elliott is involved with MN Ingenious Program in Minneapolis and the LGBTQ group at Farmington High School. He is son of Rebecca and Jason Dean, the grandson of John and Cheryl Hollman and great grandson of Jackie Staples.



Johanna Weber is graduating from University of North Dakota. She is the daughter of Ann & Robert Weber and granddaughter of Jo Ann Metling. Johanna's degree is Dietetics and with a minor in Psychology.



Selena Cincotta, daughter of Mary Cincotta graduated from Winona State with a major in Criminal Justice.



Congratulations to all the other graduates in our community and church.

Johnson High School	Metro State
Harding High School	U of M
North High School	Century College
Tartan High School	St. Paul Tech
Roseville Area H.S.	

Open Door Preschool Graduates.

Nine pre-school students all ready for kindergarten. Thank you for all your support to the Minnesota Literacy Council.

Eh Ler



Lancy



Leilany



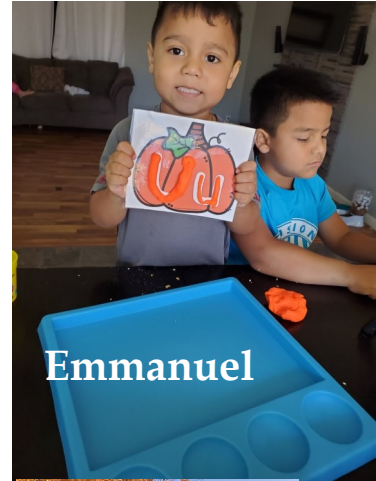
Assata



Aba



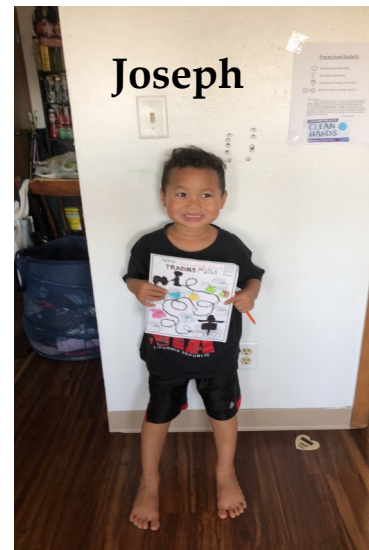
Mary



Emmanuel



Jack



Joseph

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes

March 16, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Roger Hardy, Diane Allmendinger, Amy Adams-Westin, Tom Hanson, Ryan Henk, Mary Kowitz, Jim Persoon, Florence Rasmusson, Silvester Vicic, Karl Ebert. Members Absent: Anna Clarke, Cindie Peterson and Linda Strohkirch

I. President Jim Persoon called the meeting to order.

II. **Devotions:** Jim Persoon

III. **Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Florence Rasmusson and seconded by Mary Kowitz "to approve the Consent Agenda". **Motion Passed.**

IV. **Finances (Allmendinger)** As of 3/15, 2021: Savings Account Balance: \$9,400; Checking Account Balance: \$3,900; Income in the last month: \$41,780; Anticipated March Expenses: \$20,000; These numbers do not include the \$50,000 MIF contribution to the General Fund. The check was received on 03-16-2021. MIF Balance prior to \$50,000 withdrawal for the General Fund: \$352,079; Ogren Fund Balance: \$759,155 A motion was made by Florence Rasmusson and seconded by Tom Hanson" to accept the finance report." Motion Passed.

V. **Old Business**

***Year of Generosity (Kowitz)** Bags will be given out on March 25 from 9- 11. They will contain information about Holy Week services, a palm cross, Communion, a magnet, and a treat.

***Sanctuary Services (Persoon)** A motion was made by Mary Kowitz and seconded by Ryan Henk "to have in-person and live streaming for the Easter Sunday service. After Easter, we will plan to continue in-person worship with live streaming, with the understanding that this could change with circumstances." **Motion Passed.** . Reservations and masks will be required. COVID protocols will be in place. Bags will be used to distribute Communion. There will be a trial run of the live streaming during Holy Week.

***Security cameras:** 8 security cameras have been installed and are operative. 3 are placed outside and 5 inside the building.

***Sunrise Bank PPP Loan Forgiveness Program (Persoon)** Sunrise Bank notified Jim that the PPP Loan for \$38, 900 has been forgiven. A motion was made by Pastor Hardy and seconded by Mary Kowitz "to thank Cheryl and Jim for all the work they did on the PPP Loan." **Motion Passed.**

***Sign up for devotions at meetings (Persoon)** Council members were reminded to sign up for opening and closing prayers at the Council meetings. ***Website Update (Vicic)** Silvester took members on a quick tour of the new website. A link will be sent to members to check

(Minutes continued)

VI. New Business:

***Pastor's Report, Mission Planning, Interim Report:** Pastor attended a Synod ZOOM meeting to learn about the mission initiative for the East Side that the Synod plans to launch at the Synod assembly in May. Pastor Hardy has continued meeting members through Zoom meetings and phone calls. Pastor Hardy is proposing Zoom meetings where Council, committee and Board members can discuss God's mission for the future of our church in break out groups. Discussion topics will be sent to participants prior to the meeting.

***Dedicated Accounts (Persoon)** A list of dedicated accounts was sent to Council members for review. These accounts will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

***Behavioral Covenant for Council (Persoon)** A copy of the Covenant will be sent to members to review.

VII. Open Forum/ Discussion

*Amy suggested that as administrative assistant Cheryl be recognized on April 21.

VIII. Next Meeting:

*April 20, 2021 6:30PM at Arlington Hills Church or by ZOOM

***Assignments:** Opening prayer: Amy Adams-Westin.

Closing pray-

er: Amy Adams-Westin

IX. Closing Prayer: Jim Persoon

X. Adjournment: A motion was made by Karl Ebert and seconded by Ryan Henk to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Passed.**

Dear Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

My heart is overwhelmed with joy! Thank you for the beautiful baptism and for the generous gift of allowing Johnny's papa to baptize him.

What a special day everyone made it. Thank you for the beautiful Children's Bible and all of the kids bags prepared before to occupy the little one's . Thank You very much!

God Bless,

Krista and Matt Walkowiak

To My Arlington Hills Family,

It's hard to believe it's been 25 years that I have been here at AHLC. There are so many precious memories that I hold dear. Thank you for the Edible Bouquet and for all the thoughtful cards and emails. I appreciate you all so much.

Sincerely, Barbara Rossow

Great News! *Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, along with Grace Lutheran, Hope Lutheran, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will be hosting an intern for the coming school year, beginning in August. This is a great opportunity to share ministry with this group known as the Eastside Collaboration. MIF funds have given us a grant to help cover some of the costs towards this internship, along with contributions from the three churches, the St. Paul Area Synod, and Luther Seminary. Look for future articles in the Lights about our candidate and the program. Two lay members from each congregation will serve on an Internship Committee to work with the pastors and the student during the internship. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity let the church office know.

***Pentecost Sunday – May 23** This will be a day of celebration with Pentecost and two confirmations. Let’s make it a colorful one. If you are willing to share a potted geranium with us (any size will do), please label your pot, bring it to church on Friday, May 21 st and we will use it to make our sanctuary beautiful. You can pick the pot up after the service to take home and enjoy afterwards. Mary and Paul Kowitz will be using them to decorate the altar area. If you would like to contribute to the church to purchase geraniums, you may also do that instead of bringing in a potted plant."

Congregation Zoom Meeting on Wednesday May 19 th – The Congregational Council will be hosting a Zoom meeting forum to receive Pastor Hardy’s final report as Interim Pastor with us. A link will be sent out in a few weeks. Note: We are in the process of interviewing new candidates for the next interim.

May Calendar

May 9 Mother’s Day

May 16 Music Sunday & Graduation Recognition

May 23 Pastor Hardy’s last Sunday and Confirmation

May 30 Amy and Adams performing

May 31 Memorial Day – Office Closed

May Birthdays

- Dave Balfanz
- Adam Ebert
- Priscilla Reeve
- Lorraine Nyberg
- Clara Rocco
- Dee Ann Nelson
- Tom Brockway
- Tom Schaber
- John Wiehe
- Wayne Blossey
- Eugene Karls
- Carol Gritzmaker
- Gary Gray
- Rebecca Swanson

Anniversaries

- Jon and Karen
- Kate and Ken Wagner





Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor Roger Hardy

Organist: Barbara Rossow

Admin.: Cheryl Hollman

Phone: 651-771-5501

Mail: www.info@ahlc-stp.org

Visit us at: www.ahlc-stp.org

Alley Shoppe clients by appointments only

651-771-5501 extension 100

Online Giving
is simple and easy!

OUR MISSION: "To Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all in word and deed."

OUR VISION:

"Arlington Hills Lutheran Church community a Beacon for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ."

Companion Congregation – Idegenda,,
Tanzania