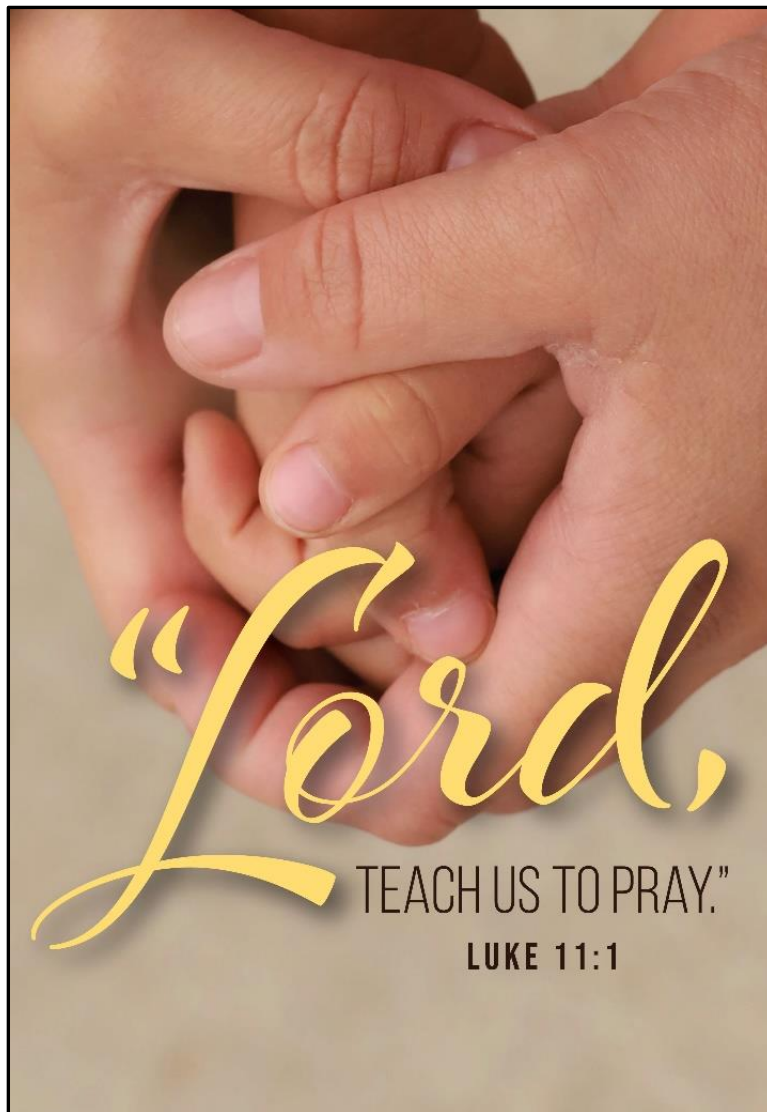


**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**July 24, 2022**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

July 24, 2022

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 am

<b>Gathering</b>
------------------

Everyone is a bit scared, said the horse. But we are less scared together.  
From the book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The nursery is available for young children.</li><li>- Activity bags are available for children.</li><li>- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.</li><li>- Please stand when noted by the *</li><li>- Congregation responses are in bold.</li><li>- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Worship faithfully</i></li><li>- <i>Welcome openly</i></li><li>- <i>Grow spiritually</i></li><li>- <i>Care passionately</i></li><li>- <i>Serve generously</i></li></ul>
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## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**L:** People of God, we are together to worship and pray.

**P:** **We do not know how to pray.**

**L:** Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, has taught us how to pray.

**P:** **But we do not know how to pray as we ought to pray.**

**L:** The Holy Spirit engages with our spirit to pray as we ought.

**P:** **But how can we have the Holy Spirit?**

**L:** Our Gracious God gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask.

**P:** **Then, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will worship and pray.**

**All:** **Thanks be to God. Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

\*HYMN

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*With a backbeat*

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me  
(I'm gon-na live so) (God can

use me,) an - y time and an - y - where  
(yes an - y time) (yes an - y -

I'm gon-na live so God can use me  
where) (I'm gon-na live so)

an - y time and an - y - where.  
(an - y time,) (yes an - y - where).

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Holy Teacher, we do not always pray as we ought.

**P: Help us to speak our truth and to listen for your forgiveness:**

L: When we pray, "Our Father in heaven,"

**P: But forget to embrace all people as your children...**

L: When we say, "Your kingdom come"

**P: Without working for your kingdom on earth...**

L: When we ask for our daily bread,

**P: But do not recognize it as your gift...**

L: When we request forgiveness for ourselves,

**P: But fail to pardon others...**

L: When we plead not to be led into times of trial,

**P: But walk willingly into temptation...**

L: When we honor you with our lips,

**P: But too often falter in our daily living...**

**All: Lord, forgive us. Help us to pray unceasingly, that we may be transformed by the renewing power of the Spirit. Create spaces in our prayer that we might hear and live out your words back to us, words of love and justice, grace and forgiveness. Amen.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear these words regarding prayer: "Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you."

**P: We remember that God longs to hear our prayer, and longs to communicate back.**

L: Let us friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let us live at peace as forgiven people.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

### **\*GLORIA**

*Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.*

*Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.*

## BAPTISM OF THEA JANE QUERNA

### *Welcome and Presentation*

L: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them.

P: **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate God’s gift of grace in the baptism of Thea Jane Querna. To us a child is given!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

### *Address*

L: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given a part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event, the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be a part of God’s people.

P: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.**

### *Questions*

L: Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Will you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, nurture one another in the Christian faith and include Thea in your love and prayer?

P: **We promise our love and prayer.**

### *Act of Baptism*

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, bless this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in your servant Thea who will be baptized this day, that she too may rise with Christ. Glory to you, Eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Thea, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

## **Baptismal Song**

## **Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.*

### **Prayer**

**L:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for this child and the grace acknowledged here in water and the Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive and nurture this new member of the body of Christ.

**P:** Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Name:** Thea Jane Querna

**Born:** November 12, 2021

**Baptized:** July 24, 2022

**Thea's parents are David and Jennifer Querna**

**Thea's sponsors are Joseph Querna and Amy Danielson**

<b>Hearing the Word</b>
-------------------------

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Colossians 2:6-12**

### **PSALM 85:7-13**

**R**      *Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.*

**L:** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**P:** **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

**L:** Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

**P:** **Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

**L:** Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**P:** **The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. R**

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 11:1-13**

# Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

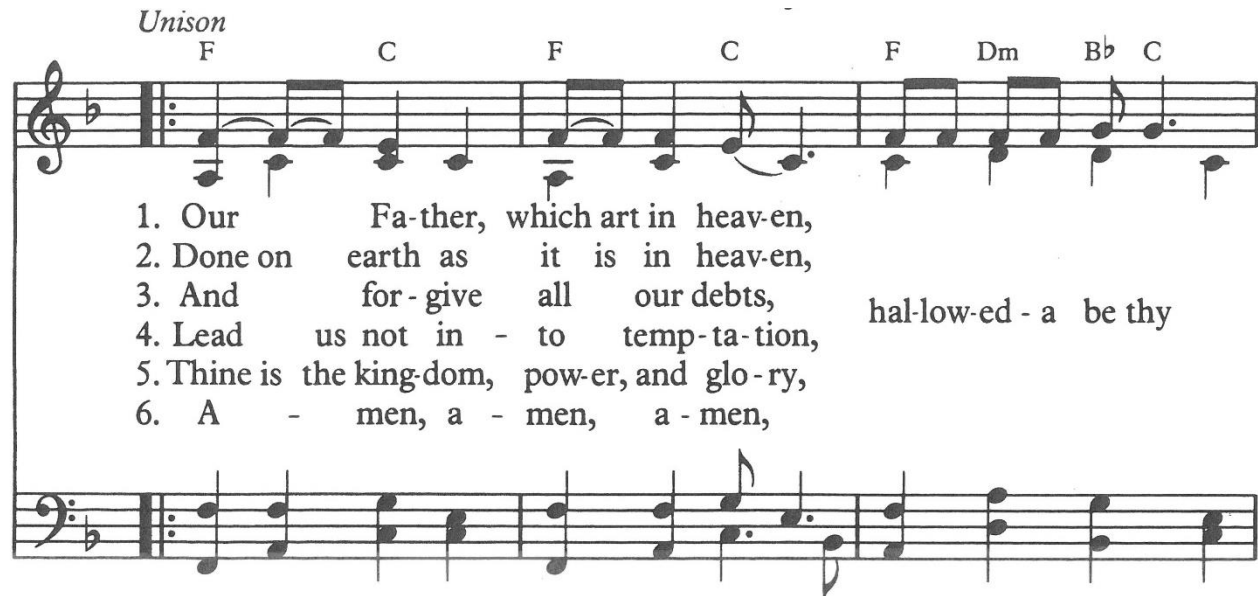
Rev. Chris Myers

\*HYMN

## The Lord's Prayer

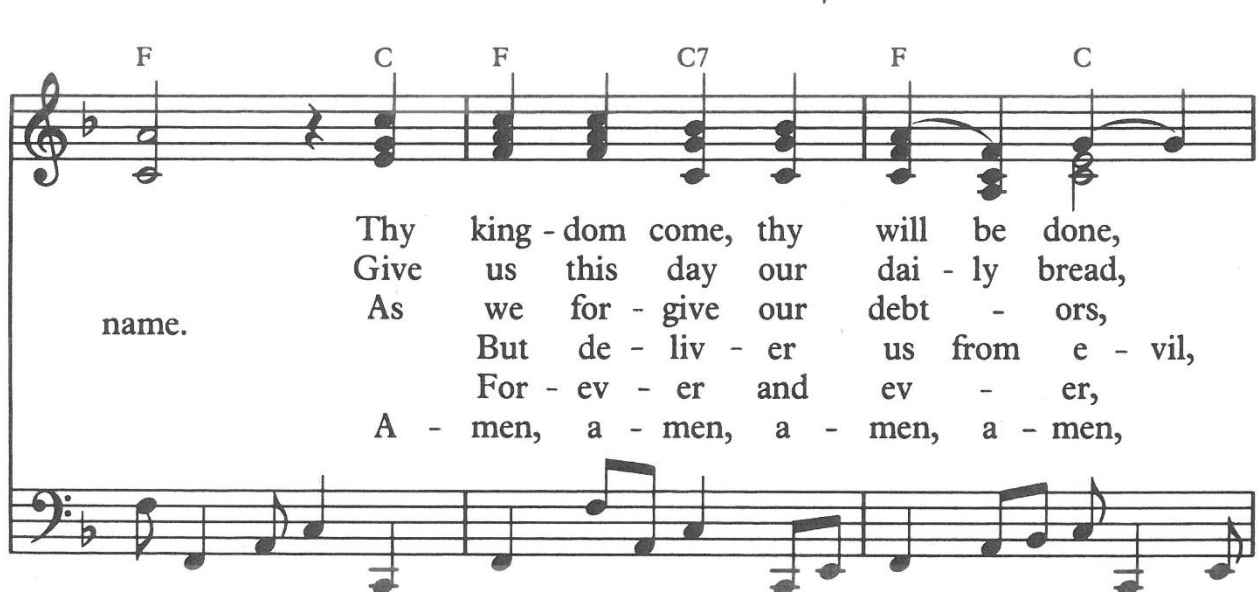
*Unison*

F C F C F Dm B $\flat$  C



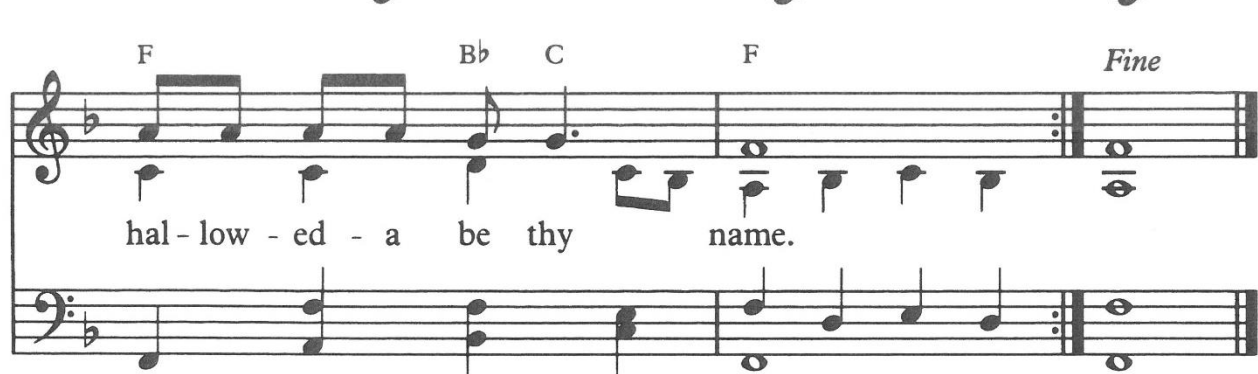
1. Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,  
2. Done on earth as it is in heav-en,  
3. And for-give all our debts, hal-low-ed - a be thy  
4. Lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion,  
5. Thine is the king-dom, pow-er, and glo-ry,  
6. A - men, a - men, a - men,

F C F C7 F C



Thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
Give us this day our dai - ly bread,  
name. As we for - give our debt - ors,  
But de - liv - er us from e - vil,  
For - ev - er and ev - er,  
A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

F B $\flat$  C F *Fine*



hal - low - ed - a be thy name.

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

**I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.**

**I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

**...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

*Believe*

**Jeff Pajac**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Generous God, you have been so bountiful with us, and we thank you for the chance to be generous as well. You have given us the beauty of this earth and taught us to be good stewards. You have brought us to faith and given us companions who have helped us along the way. Most of all, you have given us your Son. We praise you for all your blessings, and ask that we may learn to respond by sharing our good fortune with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

<b>Celebrating the Meal</b>
-----------------------------

(All Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord. The bread is gluten free and wine and grape juice are offered. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.)

***The Invitation to the Meal***

**L: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, this is the table where our Savior Jesus Christ wants to feed us on the bread of life. Let us feast on his grace that forgives us. Let us feast on his peace that calms us. Let us feast on his love that frees us. Come just as you are and be fed by him.**



## ***The Great Thanksgiving***

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**L:** It is right and good always to give thanks, ...

## ***The Words of Institution***

**L:** We praise your name as we proclaim the mystery of faith...

**All:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

## ***Prayer of Consecration***

### ***Distribution of the Elements***

*Hymns during the distribution of the elements:*

### **Come to the Table of Grace**

*Congregation joins on refrain*

***Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.***

***This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.***

***Additional stanzas: 2. peace; 3. love; 4. joy; 5. hope***

### **Bind Us Together**

*Congregation joins on refrain*

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.***

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together in love.***

### **Let Us Be Bread**

*Congregation joins on refrain*

***Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.***

***Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in the Lord.***

## ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

**All:** We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

**#506**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Assisting in today's worship service are:**

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<i>David Reilly</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Karen Lloyd, Cindy Gandrud, Marshall Skule</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Dennis and Lynn Linder</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Emma Cernohous</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Ryan Luedtke</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Tim Bylander</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Trish Graves, Roz Ostendorf</i>
<b>Music Coordinator &amp; Bell Director:</b>	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastors:</b>	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar flowers are given by the Querna family in celebration of Thea's baptism.*

*Altar flowers are given by Glenn and Jan Hansen in celebration of their 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

**Treasurer's Report**

	<u>July 17, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,660	\$ 291,097
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 287,361

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



**Offering QR Code**

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Roger Hirstein, Deb Larson (Jen Meyer's mother), Zeke Wells, Margaret (friend of Dave Reilly), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Susan (niece of Barb Stephens), Neal Prochnow, Henry (friend of Ann Nelson), Dennis Grisar, Dorothy Sorenson, Loral Keil

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For the Interview Team who met last week with candidates applying for the staff position of Minister of Outreach and Community, that they may be given discernment and wisdom to find the best candidate
- For the Boundary Waters group who returned from 5 days of fun, may you have a new appreciation for the beauty of God's good creation
- For the church softball team competing in this year's church league who had their first win this past week, congratulations!
- For our new church van that is built and should be here soon!
- For those volunteering to staff the church nursery over the summer, may you be blessed by hanging out with our youngest folks
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

**Prayers for our World:**

- For those struggling with rising prices and financial uncertainty
- For those traveling, especially those flying, may they pack lots of patience and God bless the baggage handlers, gate agents and TSA folk
- For our nation as we struggle through waves of violence
- For those working outside in the heat and humidity, may we appreciate their efforts
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For Thea Jane, daughter of David and Jennifer Querna, who will be baptized this Sunday, may she grow in faith, love and service
- For Glenn and Jan Hansen who celebrate 38 years of marriage on July 25, congratulations!
- For Bailey Plackner and Alex Boyer, and for Sheila Peterson and Jim Gregory who were all married recently, may they grow in love
- For Monty Wilson, one of our recent RFHS graduating seniors who competed in the Wisconsin State Football Coaches All-Star game at UW-Oshkosh on Saturday, July 16, a charity event and raised more than \$360,000 for Children's Hospitals of WI
- For those contributing school supplies for Tools for Schools, may your generosity lead to happy outcomes for our local kids
- For Carole Mottaz who has spent many hours organizing all the sheet music for choir and bells in the Music Room, thank you!
- For meeting our goal of \$495,000 for the Capital Campaign to pay off our building bank debt, upgrade our sound/video systems and install a new church sign, together we did it!
- For Neal and Caren Prochnow who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 21, you are an inspiration
- For the over \$15,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For Jen Syverson and her family as they mourn the death of her dad, Bruce Lindgren. A memorial service was Monday, July 18 in Bagley, MN
- For Pastor Stacy and her family as they mourn the death of her mom Barbara who died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. A memorial service will be in Minneapolis on August 13.
- For the family of JoAnn Lentz and Cheryl Zakrzewski on the death of Rosalie Harper

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Loving God...*

**Vacation Bible School:** Please mark your calendars for the 2022 VBS! The dates are **August 1–4, 2022**. Our plan is to return to a pre-pandemic VBS format. This means we need lots of people: kids to participate, teens to help, and adults to guide students. Please register your willingness to help by signing up on the volunteer list on the sign-up table.

**VBS Teachers and Volunteers Needed:** We still need three more adult teachers, a minimum of three additional adult craft volunteers, and teenage helpers for VBS. Please volunteer online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers1> or by signing the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. There will be an orientation meeting for volunteers on **Thursday, July 28, at 6:00 pm**.

**VBS Cookie Bakers Needed:** Homemade cookies are a special part of the VBS snack, so we need volunteers. Please sign the list on the sign-up table to bring 4 dozen cookies for VBS snacks.

**Ukraine Relief:** Many are asking what you can do for the people of Ukraine. Please pray and please consider making a financial contribution to help them. Working through our partner church in Hungary, we will regularly send financial support. We have sent over \$15,000. Thank you for your prayerful support.

### *Loving Neighbor...*

**Tools for School:** On **Monday, August 15, and Tuesday, August 16**, families in the River Falls School District can receive free school supplies for the upcoming year through the Tools for School Event. Please see the flyer for more information. The sorting and distribution of supplies will be here at our church. Please use the sign-up sheet if you can help sort and/or assist families during the give-away. Please bring your donated school supplies to our church **by Friday, August 12**. If you would like to give by check, please make a note “Tools for School” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

### *Loving Self...*

**Peaches:** It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! Single layer box is \$23.00 or two or more single layer boxes for \$21.00 each box. **Orders must be placed by August 1 for pick up in late August.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org); 2. Sign up link on website: [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org); 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – please include name, phone and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Colossians 2:6-12**

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 11:1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"