



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

231 W. Smoke Tree Lane
Prescott, Arizona
www.firstlutheranprescott.org

May Newsletter 2021



On Eagle's Wings

In Isaiah 40, we are told that by waiting on the Lord, we will mount on wings like eagles. Eagles are majestic birds with

remarkable vision. Scientists believe their vision may be eight times sharper than that of humans. They have powerful feet with talons that can grip like a vise. Their beaks are butcher-like, designed to cut and crash and tear their food.

But most of all, eagles are built for flying. They have incredible speed, able to fly at sixty and eighty and one hundred miles an hour. They can do rolls and loops like an airplane doing tricks. Their wingspan extends to nearly eight feet.

But eagles do not fly like sparrows or robins. Most birds fly through the air by flapping their wings, but eagles cannot flap very long. They're built for soaring, and thus they can go much further on little energy.

God created our planet with invisible columns of hot air called thermals rising up here and there from the surface of the earth. Eagles find these thermals, fly into the invisible currents, stretch out their wings, and are lifted higher and higher into the sky. They may rise as high as fourteen thousand feet, so high in the heavens that they cannot be seen with the naked eye from earth.

Isaiah seems to be telling us that God is invisible, but like the invisible uplifting thermal currents of this planet, he is present for his people. When we search him out, claim his promises, and trust in him, spreading out the wings of faith, we are caught up to a higher plane. We mount up with

wings like eagles. We can run and not grow weary. We can walk and not be faint.

The strength we need for holy, effective, victorious living comes not from frantically flapping our wings like sparrows in distress, but from trusting in God and resting in Jesus Christ. *Pastor Fred Piepenbrink*

NEWS IN BRIEF

The second joint meeting between Hope and First Lutheran was held on Saturday, April 24, at First Lutheran. Twenty-one members were present, 11 from First and 10 from Hope. Pastor Henning led the discussion on some preliminary ideas of what a one-church, two-site arrangement might look like in the area of outreach, worship, discipleship, elders' work, and offerings and finances.



Volunteers are currently needed in two important areas.

1. Sunday morning greeters job description:

Before the service:

- Be at church at least 20 minutes before the service begins, ready to greet.
- Wear your name tag, if you have one. Your children may enjoy greeting with you.
- Stand in the narthex at the visitors' registration podium with bulletins in hand.
- Greet everyone with a pleasant "good morning," hand them a bulletin, and be sure to smile.
- If you realize that someone is visiting for the first time, you may:
 - 1. Greet them with the following: "Good morning; welcome to our church."
 - 2. Introduce yourself, and ask them their names.

- 3. Ask them to sign the visitors' register.
- 4. Tell them where the restrooms are located.
- 5. Tell them where the child care room is located if they have children.
- 6. If possible, introduce them to another member who may be standing nearby.
- 7. Stay in the narthex until the first hymn begins for the sake of the latecomers.

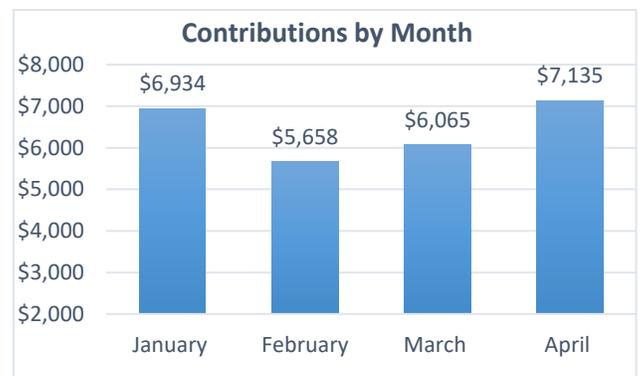
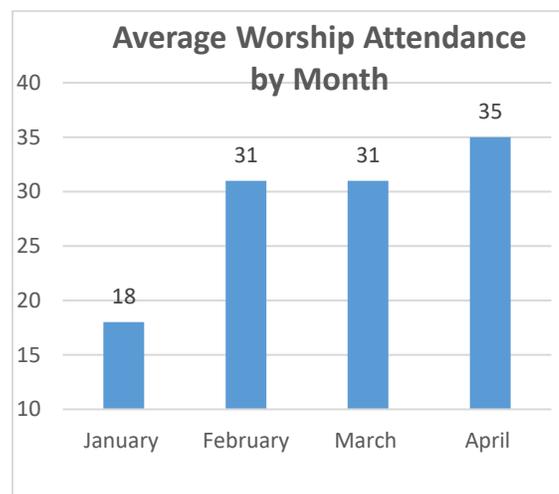
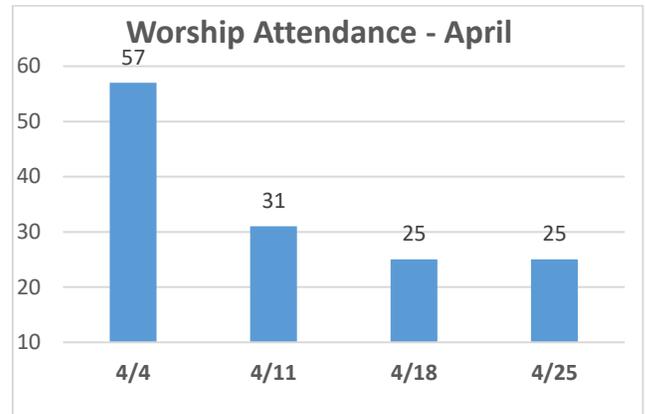
After the service: (if you are so inclined)

- Leave your seat early so you can be in the back as people leave the church.
- Seek out any visitors you have identified before the service and engage in a more detailed conversation like where they are from, what brought them to First.
- Introduce the visitors to the pastor if they have not already met him.
- Try to identify any members or visitors who seem to have no one to talk to. Go and strike up a conversation with them, even if only briefly.
- Thank the Lord for the opportunity to be the "host" and "doorkeeper" of his house today. Speak with Pastor Piepenbrink if you are interested.

2. Hymnsoft operator job description:

Hymnsoft is a computer program from our synod that allows congregations to provide electronic music, both liturgy and hymns, for worship services without an organist. We are blessed to have Nancy Cannon as our organist two Sundays a month, and then have three different organists from Christ Church to fill in. But there are some Sundays when none are available. That is especially true during the summer months. We need someone who will work with Pastor Piepenbrink to set up the service on the computer and then operate the program (clicking just a space bar) when the various musical parts of the service are needed. There are only five Sundays during the summer when we will need Hymnsoft, but the first time is May 30. Speak with Pastor Piepenbrink to find out more about it.

Church Statistics



Schedule: Altar and Communion setup:

Month	Volunteer
May	Lorraine Johnson
June	?
July	Lorraine Johnson

Birthday: May

Harriet Burger – 5/24