



# THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STEPHEN, MN

**September & October 2024**

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## CHURCH CONTACT INFO

573 STEPHEN AVE IN STEPHEN

**Phone:** 218-478-3895 | **Email:** [firstl@wiktel.com](mailto:firstl@wiktel.com) | **Mail:** PO Box 72, Stephen, MN 56757

**Web:** [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com) | **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/flcstephen](http://www.facebook.com/flcstephen)

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

DARLENE BATES, SECRETARY

**Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am–12 pm

## PASTOR'S CONTACT INFO

REV. BROTHER JEFF BROWN

**Phone:** 218-230-6583 | **Email:** [flcpastor@wiktel.com](mailto:flcpastor@wiktel.com) | **Days:** Sun–Thurs (off Friday)

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## FROM THE PASTOR

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Dear First Lutheran faith family ~ September & October blessings to you!

<sup>20</sup>*Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.*

<sup>21</sup>*Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.*

<sup>22</sup>*Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*

–Psalm 33:20-22

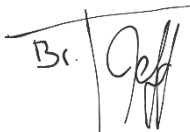
These months bring some exciting events! Check out all we have going on at First Lutheran:

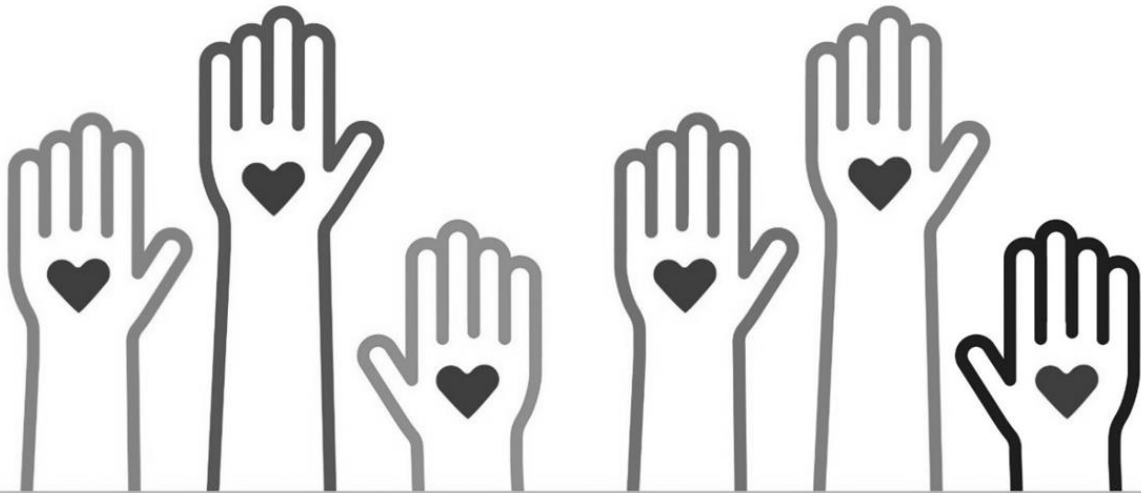
- + **September 8<sup>th</sup>**: God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This is the intentional day of service across the whole ELCA denomination. We will have a special worship service that day, and then a potluck brunch afterwards. During the brunch, we will have the opportunity to hear from community and mission partners in our area and we'll be discerning ways we can make an impact in our community in Jesus' name. Check out the poster on the next page.
  - + **This is also our backpack blessing Sunday, so everyone is invited to bring their backpack to be blessed!**
- + **September 25<sup>th</sup>**: Wednesday School begins!
- + **September 29<sup>th</sup>**: Harvest Dinner
- + **October 6<sup>th</sup>**: Pet blessing after worship (10:30 am in the parking lot)
- + **October 27<sup>th</sup>**: Reformation Sunday (wear red!)

Caitlin and I will be on our belated honeymoon in Italy **October 7-17**. As part of our trip, we will be spending some time in Assisi, the home of Francis of Assisi. We'll also be spending time in Florence and Venice, taking cooking classes, seeing sights, and of course, eating plenty of pasta, and gelato! We appreciate your prayers as we travel and spend time in *Italia!*

Peace and everything good to you!

Your pastor,  
Brother Jeff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Br. Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line separating the "Br." from the name "Jeff".



**God's work. Our hands.**



September 8, 2024

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,700 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands.” on Sept. 8. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God’s love. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**573 Stephen Ave**

**9 am: Worship Service**

**10 am: Potluck & Conversation with Community Partners**

**[www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com)**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!**



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# CHURCH NOTES

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## THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran,

You are helping to carry out VIP's mission with your financial contribution! We thank you for your gift of \$100 received on 7/31/24. We value your support tremendously. More than 400 children, women, and men were helped this year and we are on track to serve as many, or more, next year. We provide victim advocacy, shelter, housing, parenting time programs, child advocacy, and a 24/7 crisis line because of supporters like you. Furthermore, your cash donation expands in value as it becomes matching dollars for grant funding. Your gift works hard to help victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Carmen Zuniga, Executive Director

## THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. Lutheran Disaster Response brings expertise and experience by providing spiritual and emotional care, case management services for disaster survivors who have lost their homes or jobs, volunteer coordination and long-term recovery. Your gift helps the church respond compassionately and effectively to communities in crisis after disasters. Thank you for making this generous gift to bring help and hope to neighbors in need.

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

EICA Word Hunger and Disaster Appeal

**THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, September 9th at 6:30 pm at the church with Ann Woinarowicz as hostess. Bible study will be Session 3 from the July/August Gather magazine. We will meet on Monday, October 14th at 6:30 pm at the church with Jane Smidt as hostess. Bible study lessons will be from the September/magazine.

**BULLETIN SPONSORS:** If you would like to honor or remember a family member, you can sponsor a bulletin. Sponsorships are \$20. Please contact the office with your request.

**LOOSE CHANGE:** Loose Change Sunday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. September's Loose Change will be for the Northland Rescue Mission. October's Loose Change will be for People's Church.

**Are you missing any pans or bowls?** Please check the back counter in the kitchen for items you may have brought for funerals or other events.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES** are printed and available in the basket in the fellowship hall. They will no longer be printed in the newsletter.

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Remember to change the paraments and fill the candles. Communion is served the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. Committee members prepare the altar.

**SEPTEMBER FOOD SHELF'S** theme is "Thirst Comes First". Any beverage, liquid or powdered drink. Some suggestions: Case of six pack of water bottles, V-8 juice, Boost, Ensure, grape, apple, cranberry juices. Canned orange, pineapple, grapefruit juice, Kool-aid, Crystal Lite, etc. packages.

**WEDNESDAY SCHOOL**  
TO BEGIN SOON

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL AGAIN BE MEETING FROM 6PM - 7PM AT FLC BEGINNING **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH.**

LETTERS WILL BE SENT OUT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO FAMILIES WITH MORE DETAILS, AS WELL AS A TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR.

PLEASE LET KELSEY ANDERSON KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. **218-686-2788**

FIRST CLASS WILL BE **WEDNESDAY SEPT. 25**

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE EDUCATION FUND TO HELP SUPPORT WEDNESDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ALL YEAR.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**9/8** BACKPACK BLESSING

**9/29** KIDS SING DURING WORSHIP

**11/10** KIDS SING & 2ND GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES

**12/8** CHRISTMAS PROGRAM [AT] 5:00PM

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# CHURCH FINANCIALS UPDATE

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## Weekly Sunday offerings

	Plate	Vanco (on-line)	Loose Change
June 28	\$1435.00	\$280.00	
July 7	\$2408.00	\$405.00	
July 14	\$1660.00	\$205.00	\$106.23
July 21	\$2162.00	\$150.00	
July 28	\$2755.00	\$130.00	
Aug. 4	\$4270.00	\$456.50	
Aug. 11	\$1665.00	\$80.00	\$119.92
Aug. 18	\$991.00	\$170.00	
Aug. 25	\$1352.00	\$130.00	

**ANNUAL BUDGET: \$162,752.95**

***Currently \$21,954.16 behind***

## Current balances of Funds available for donations:

Technology Fund	\$-18,577.63
Outdoor Sign Fund	Paid in full with donation from Vernon Dagoberg Estate
Schendel Family Fund	\$9,798.25
Undesignated	\$3,470.00
Altar Fund	\$230.00
Education Fund	\$605.00

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## MEMORIALS

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<b><i>In Memory of</i></b>	<b><i>Given by</i></b>	<b><i>Fund</i></b>
Gary Rud	Lee & Jan Bukowski John & Shawna Peterson	Undesignated Schendel Family Fund
Richard Hanson	Robert & Dianne Dammann	Undesignated

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# PEOPLES CHURCH SERVICE DAY

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On Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 of us (Brother Jeff, Sharon Kotts, Marilee Marty, Pat Heggen and myself), went to Peoples Church for the day. With the generosity from our congregation, we brought with us supplies that People's Church go through the most, based on the list from Pastor Birgitte. We came home with a larger size list, but the 'needs list' changes. We want to continue to gather supplies, based on what their needs are at that time. Pastor Birgitte will keep us informed on things that we can help to stock. We have made notes on several items that they use. I'll try to keep a needs list updated in the back above the Peoples Church bucket.



Thank you to Andy and Anita Lankowicz for taking some of the supplies and meeting us at Peoples Church to drop them off. We had a couple of leftover items that didn't fit in the car, so Mike Douglas took them to Bemidji for us.

The special offering we collected on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, allowed us to present a check to Pastor Birgitte for \$402.00. Plus, another congregation member handed me a \$100 bill to assist with whatever we needed for the Peoples Church project. This gift helped supply our blessing bags.

We thank everyone that donated food. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We served lunch to around 11 to 13 people.

We also brought McDonalds gift cards with us. We had planned to play some games and hand out the gift cards as prizes, but people come and go, so there really wasn't a lot of people sticking around to play games this time, so we decided to just hand out the 10 McDonalds gift cards that we had.



We hope to make this a quarterly visit or plan special days to help with projects like yard work, laundry, etc, anything that needs to be done. We took a lot of notes while getting a tour of the building and the next door building that they own too. One thing we found out is that they have a pantry. So we will know for next time what other canned goods, etc, that we can bring with and stock in the pantry.

Thanks again for your generosity for our first trip to Peoples Church. It's very much appreciated. It was a great experience. I hope everyone will consider to go on the next trip.

Thank you!

Kris Ann Pietruszewski





# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

*Also available on the church website: [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com). Click on the Calendar tab.*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  Council	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>God's Work Our Hands Sunday</b> 9 am Worship Backpack Blessing  10 am Potluck	<b>9</b> Quilting  6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  5 pm Bible Study  6:30 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion  10:30 am 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  6:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am Worship  10:30 am 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>23</b> Quilting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  5 pm Bible Study  6 pm Wed. School begins!  6:30 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Worship	<b>30</b>					

# OCTOBER CALENDAR

*Also available on the church website: [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com). Click on the Calendar tab.*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  6 pm Wed. School  6:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion  10:30 am Pet Blessing	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  6 pm Wed. School  NO CONFIRMATION	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 am Worship	<b>14</b> Quilting  6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  NO WED. SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  5 pm Bible Study  6 pm Wed. School  6:30 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor's sabbath	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9 am Worship  10:30 am 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>28</b> Quilting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 am Morning Prayer (Fb)  6 pm Wed. School  6:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	<b>31</b>		

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# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/2 Brooklyn Ness  
9/2 Ty Winge  
9/5 Ellen Anton  
9/5 Shianne Kostrzewski  
9/5 Conner Rogus  
9/8 David Benson  
9/11 Amanda Anderson  
9/13 Gannon Nelson  
9/13 Jon Petersen  
9/17 Pat Heggen  
9/17 Tim Paulson  
9/19 Isaac Black  
9/20 Kelly Clausen  
9/25 Colter Clausen  
9/27 Michelle Weberg  
9/29 Cliff Nyland

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 Diane & Myron Danielson  
9/6 Kenny & Pat Heggen  
9/17 Aase & Bruce Hamnes  
9/30 Debbie & David Benson

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/2 Abby McMahon  
10/2 Kole Szczepanski  
10/6 Tara Jarshaw  
10/9 Krissy McMahon  
10/12 Kelsi Douglas  
10/21 Marilee Marty  
10/22 Jami Nelson  
10/23 Olive Douglas  
10/24 Staci Winge  
10/24 Marnie Peterson  
10/28 Lee Bukowski  
10/30 Thomas McGlynn  
10/31 Vicky Weiland

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/8 Roberta & Neil McGlynn  
10/16 Vicky & Ron Weiland  
10/19 Melanie & Steve McGlynn  
10/22 Muriel & Lowell Bring  
10/26 Alana & David McGlynn

**THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
**P.O. Box 72**  
**Stephen, MN 56757**

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