

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

April 2023

First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

We can't be sure when spring will be here! What we do know is that our Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead! We know that Jesus calls us to follow him and we will live with him forever! Thanks be to God!

We will celebrate the life of Christ at First Lutheran:

April 2 – 9:00 AM Sunday of the Passion with Holy Communion

April 6 – 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

April 7 – 7:00 PM Good Friday Service

April 9 – 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

April 9 – 9:00 AM Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion

Join us during Holy Week and Easter to remember the suffering of our Lord and to celebrate his victory over death for us! My prayer for you during this Lenten journey was to seek. Here is a blessing for the seekers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.



Blessed are those who turn your face up to the sky, who open your arms to feel the wind, who notice all the things we should notice.

Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder and familiar with awe.

Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams, who have not lost hope, who swear the glass is still half-full.

Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony, who tell the children how this world can be magic.

Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone, pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in.

Blessed are you. Amen.



May you always seek God.

Marilyn

SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTER OFFICE & CONTACT INFO:

SAM - Marilyn Grandstrand | Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 4 pm | Email: flcpastor@wiktel.com | Phone 763-258-9217

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION: Email: firstl@wiktel.com | Phone 218-478-3895 | www.stephenflc.com

HEY FARMERS, DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know First Lutheran Church has an account at Markit County Grain? To maximize your tax deduction, you should be donating bushels of grain instead of writing checks. Give once or twice a year instead of the weekly collection plate. Your Stewardship Chair, Betsy Jensen, has additional information, or ask your accountant. There are a few IRS rules to follow, but it's very simple. Maximize your tax deduction and your giving to First Lutheran with a simple phone call.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2..... Kohen Sundby
- 4/4..... Penny Jensen
- 4/4..... Ken Kalin
- 4/6..... Patrick Anderson
- 4/6..... John Jensen
- 4/7..... Kris Ann Pietruszewski
- 4/9..... Tim Bates
- 4/9..... Rylan Woinarowicz
- 4/13..... Alvin Nybladh
- 4/14..... Becky Nybladh
- 4/15..... Eric Anderson
- 4/15..... Erin Anderson
- 4/16..... Brian Jensen
- 4/17..... Hayes Hanson
- 4/17..... Beth Kroulik
- 4/18..... Matt Kroulik
- 4/19..... Griffin Thompson
- 4/20..... Elaine Benson
- 4/21..... Kelsey Anderson
- 4/21..... Trevor Benitt
- 4/22..... Kim Anderson
- 4/24..... Claire McGlynn
- 4/25..... Vernon Dagoberg
- 4/27..... Elsie Peterson



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/6..... Kelsey & Erin Anderson
- 4/12..... Becky & Alvin Nybladh
- 4/22..... Kayla & David Smith

SERVANT LISTS

Please note the dates that you are scheduled to acolyte/usher for Sunday Worship. If you are not able to serve that Sunday, please find a substitute. Then, notify the church so the bulletin can be printed correctly.

ACOLYTES

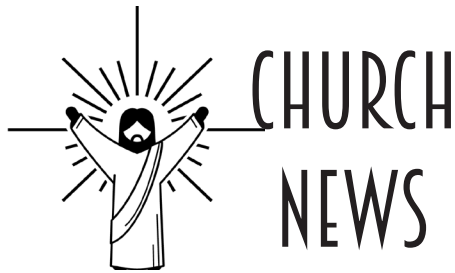
4/2	Lillian Douglas, Clara Rogus
4/6	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> - Kylee Clausen, Paig Smith
4/7	<i>Good Friday</i> - Ava Weisenberger, Rylan Woinarowicz
4/9	<i>Sunrise Service</i> - Bronson Pagnac, Rylan Klamar
4/9	<i>9 am Service</i> - Kristen McGregor, Ava Weisenberger
4/16	Anders Thompson, Mason Smith
4/23	Olivia Winge, Madison Woinarowicz
4/30	Brynn Benitt, Lillian Douglas
5/7	Jace McMahon, Kory McMahon
5/14	Ashton Setterholm, Shay Setterholm

USHERS

4/2	Brian and Jean Hendricks, Holly and James Parker
4/6	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> - Jenn Thompson Family, Reese & Jenny Setterholm
4/7	<i>Good Friday</i> - Alan and Ellen Anton, Mike and Sarah Berg
4/9	<i>Sunrise Service</i> - John & Shawna Peterson Family
4/9	<i>9 am Service</i> - Jessica Rogus Family, Brian and Betsy Jensen
4/16	Lon and Melissa Woinarowicz, Tom and Ann Woinarowicz
4/23	Jeff and Jamie Nelson, Gannon and Chrissy Nelson
4/30	Pat Heggen, Whitney Weisenberger, Matt Kroulik
5/7	Mark & Beth Kroulik, Sharon & Garry Kotts
5/14	Geoff & Deanna Swendseid

CHILDREN TO SING ON PALM SUNDAY

Wednesday school children will be singing at the Palm Sunday Service. Please join us as the children lead us into Holy Week.



THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet Monday, April 10th at 6:30 pm at the church.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday, April 12 at 7:15 pm.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. April Loose Change: SAC Lunch Program

LAY READERS - Thank you Pat Heggen, Nona Carl, Pat Heggen, Ava Weisenberger, and Jane Smidt for reading this past month.



A CALL TO CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

Every month the church council receives a report of the monetary donations to First Lutheran Church. We don't discuss or calculate the non monetary donations to First Lutheran, and those volunteer hours add up quickly.

There are so many ways to volunteer at First Lutheran. This is not a complete list, but something to get you thinking about how to best serve your church family.

- Lawn Mowing
- Snow Shoveling
- Lay Reader
- Stream on Facebook
- Clavinova- just pushing buttons, not actually playing so yes you can do it!
- Ushering 2 to 3 times a year
- Serving coffee twice a year
- Deep cleaning once a year
- Head Usher(s)- we would love to have a few people serve as head ushers for special events
- Special music
- Altar committee
- Substitute teacher for Wednesday school
- Quilting
- Decorate (and undecorate) for Christmas
- Summer flowers

There are jobs for families, retirees, college students, elementary students, everyone who is a member of our First Lutheran family. If you have a project you would like to add to our list, please talk to Betsy or Whitney. Updating the parsonage, staining our new entry doors and our monthly food shelf donations are examples of recent special projects.

We hope you remember First Lutheran with your monetary donations but we also need all hands on deck for the little jobs that make our church family run smoothly. If you have questions about volunteering, your Stewardship Committee, Betsy and Whitney can point you in the right direction.

APRIL FOOD BANK

Watch the weekly bulletin for information on the April Food Bank needs.

GROWING IN FAITH



Wednesday school children taking part in activities to learn more about their faith.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, May 14th the 9th graders will have their Affirmation of Baptism during the 9 am worship service.

THANK YOU!

Dear First Lutheran Church,
We hope you all are doing well and staying warm!

Thank you for your generous support to Pathways! Your continued support towards our mission allows our ministry to grow!

Peace and gratitude,
The Pathways Staff



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 1, 2023

Members Present: Connie Troska, Kristen Clausen, Krissy McMahon, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Jessica Rogus, Brian Hendricks, Betsy Jensen, Pat Heggen, Sharon Kotts, and Melanie McGlynn.

Also in attendance: S.A.M. Marilyn Grandstrand & Deanna Swendseid

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Melanie gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Jane Smidt's name was misspelled in the January minutes. It was corrected. Motion by Betsy to accept the corrected January minutes, seconded by Kris Ann. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: See new business.

Membership changes: None

Committee reports

Deacons: Marilyn will be gone Sunday, February 19th. Deb Hanson will be here. Marilyn will be gone February 13th-19th so will be out of the office.

Trustees: The new trustees were given a list to work on going forward. Phil Rogus was contacted about an

estimate on new gutters, down spouts, and wrapping the trim. Kick plates will be ordered for the front doors. Trevor Benitt will come look at both the front and back door to adjust some framing to avoid sticking.

Parish Education: Wednesday School students will be singing on Ash Wednesday. May 14th has been tentatively set for confirmation. There will be 3 members getting confirmed. Soup & sandwich will be served by the confirmation students before each Lenten service. They will also serve rolls between the 2 Easter services.

Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Parsonage Update: Todd hasn't been there much this month. The ceiling in the kitchen and dining room is fixed and retextured. Can lights have been installed in the kitchen and dining room. The pantry closet is finished. The tub & shower has been installed in the bathroom. He plans to start going up there every day again. The 1st thing he will do is get the bathroom subfloor ready to install the toilet and cabinets. Next week he will install the kitchen cupboards.

Security camera update: Three of the four are installed. There is a panel in the Secretary's Office where we can view if and only if there is an issue that needs to be investigated.

Lenten Schedule: Ash Wednesday is Feb 22nd. There will not be soup & sandwich that Wednesday. There will be communion and the Wednesday School students will be singing. March 1st is the next Lenten Service. Food will be served at 5:45 with the service at 7:00. March 8th is Sacred Sounds, which is the service the Stephen-Argyle music students assist with. This service is at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. March 15th, 22nd, & 29th will be regular services with food at 5:45 and the service at 7:00. April 6th is Maundy Thursday, and April 7th is Good Friday. Both services will be at 7 PM. April 9th is Easter Sunday. There will be 2 services-7:00 & 9:00. Rolls will be served between services.

The church's custodian and treasurer position were discussed. No changes were made.

New Business:

Connie & Deanna met with Richard Mortenson about handing over the bill paying and payroll to Mortenson & Rygh. Mortenson/Rygh is to have access to bank statements. Each Sunday the ushers would collect the money. Two of the following people will count the money and sign off: the treasurer, council president, vice president, a member of the stewardship committee or a trustee. The church treasurer would document the information, bring Mortenson the sheet, and deposit the money. The church treasurer would also be in charge of keeping track of each family's yearly giving. Ellen will need to be taken off the church signature cards, and Deanna will need to be added. Betsy will remain as the second person on all signature cards. The trustees will meet with Richard Mortenson and talk about the details. Kris Ann made a motion to outsource bill paying and payroll to Mortenson & Rygh. Jess seconded it. All in favor, motion carried.

We discussed correspondence that was received in the past month.

Dianne Dammann will take over the maintenance of the coffee pot. She will also take care of selling the old coffee pot. Thank you.

Pat Heggen will take over for Nona as the August servant leader. Thank you to Nona for her many years of service doing this.

We now need someone to take over the Funeral Coordinator position. Ellen put in her resignation for this position. Thank you to Ellen for her many years of service doing this.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be March 1st after Lenten Services. Connie has devotions.

Melanie McGlynn
Church Council Secretary

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 PO BOX 72
 STEPHEN, MN 56757

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
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 PERMIT NO. 1

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live						1
2 9 am Palm Sunday, Worship w/Communion	3	4	5 6:00 Wednesday School/Confirmation 7:00 Church Council	6 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Services	7 7:00 PM Good Friday Services	8
9 7 am - Sunrise Worship 9 am - Easter Worship	10	11 9:30 am Quilting	12 6:00 Wednesday School/Confirmation 7:15 Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9 am Worship with Communion; Loose Change Sunday	17	18	19 6:00 Wednesday School/Confirmation	20	21	22
23 9 am - Worship 9 am - Worship 30	24	25 9:30 am Quilting	26 6:00 Wednesday School/Confirmation	27	28	29

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