



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

January 2023

First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The following quote is often attributed to Teresa of Avila, but it was not found among her works. Whoever wrote it has a message for us today.

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body on earth but yours.”

We celebrated Christ coming to earth in the baby Jesus. We learned from Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and Wise men how to worship and glorify God.

During his time on this earth Christ taught us that we should love God and our neighbor. Christ set the example for how to live on this earth. Now as the quote says, we are to be the body, feet, hands and eyes of Christ. We are to live and proclaim Christ in our lives. We are to be Christ to others we meet every day.

What is your plan to be the body, feet, hands and eyes of Christ?

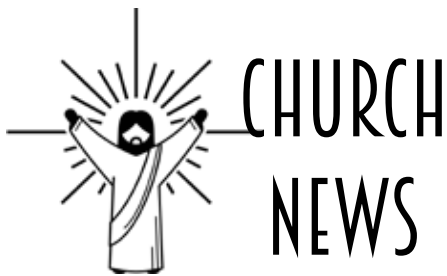
In Christ,
Marilyn



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



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 the the bulletin can be printed correctly.

ACOLYTES

1/1	Mason Smith, Ashton Setterholm
1/8	Jace McMahon, Liam McMahon
1/15	Olivia Winge, Madison Woinarowicz
1/22	Carrie Jensen, Clara Rogus
1/29	Kristen McGregor, Brynn Benitt
2/5	Ava Weisenberger, Rylan Klamar
2/12	Kory McMahon, Jace McMahon
2/19	Kylee Clausen, Paige Smith
2/22	ASH WEDNESDAY Anders Thompson, Shay Setterholm
2/26	Leiam McMahon, Kory McMahon

USHERS

1/1	Jessica Rogus family, Betsy and Brian Jensen
1/8	Mark and Laura McGregor family
1/15	John and Shawna Peterson family
1/22	Mark and Beth Kroulik, Garry and Sharon Kotts
1/29	Mark & Laura McGregor Family
2/5	Corey & Eiley Sundby; Josh & Alissa Sundby
2/12	Carl & Connie Troska
2/19	Tara & Tyson Jarshaw; Tamara & Trevor Benitt
2/22	ASH WEDNESDAY Dave & Alana McGlynn & Family
2/26	Kelsey & Erin Anderson; Jonathon & Amanda Anderson

Do You Have News To Share?

Send announcements and events you would like to share in the newsletter to firstl@wiktel.com by the 20th of each month.

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.

Altar Committee

Reminder to change the paraments and fill the candles. Communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sundays. Committee members prepare the altar.

Lay Readers

Please consider signing up to read during services. If you haven't been a lay reader before, contact Marilyn to find out more.

Thank you Pat Heggen, Nona Carl, Ava Weisenberger, Jane Smidt, and Melanie McGlynn for reading this past month.

Thrivent Members

Are you throwing away \$500 a year? You have the opportunity to use this money to help causes of your choice. Contact Ellen Anton for more info.

Do You Have News To Share?

Send announcements and events you would like to share in the newsletter to firstl@wiktel.com by the 20th of each month.

Prayer Partners

FLC is updating the Prayer Partner list. Please let Marilyn know if you would like to be part of this ministry.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Pastoral candidate, Leif Johnson, didn't feel First Lutheran was the right fit for him so he did not accept the call invitation. Since then, the committee has not received any more potential candidates from the Synod. We are hopeful that closer to spring there will be more seminary graduates that will be interested in our ministry profile. Please continue to keep the committee and our congregation in your prayers as we continue this journey.

MEMORIALS

Harmony Park

Theron Pearson

Geoff and Deanna Swenseid

Door Fund

Jim Larson

Melanie and Steve McGlynn

Karen Dalager

Melanie and Steve McGlynn

John Heggen

Penny Jensen

Door Fund, Cont.

Margaret Kasprovicz

Penny Jensen

Ken Boe

Penny Jensen

Gene Gajeski

Mike and Cheri Douglas

Penny Jensen

Mary St. Germain

Mike and Cheri Douglas



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1.....	Lowell Bring
1/4.....	Bruce Field
1/5.....	Kyler Szczepanski
1/8.....	William McGlynn
1/13.....	Darby Benitt
1/14.....	Addalynn Nelson
1/19.....	Justin McMahon
1/21.....	Luke Kuznia
1/22.....	Mason Smith
1/24.....	Jonathan Anderson
1/29.....	Tina Safranski
1/31.....	Dianne Dammann

NOTICES

Martha Ruth Circle will not meet until March.

Wednesday School will resume on Wednesday, January 11th at 6 pm.

Adult Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:15 pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month.
January Loose Change: ELCA Good Gifts

First Lutheran Church,



Thank you for your kind donation of 16 pounds of toiletries, soaps, etc in support of the East Grand Forks Food Shelf. It is through people like you, that are compassionate towards families that struggle to have enough food to feed themselves, that we can continue to serve our community. The East Grand Forks Food Shelf is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the emergency food needs of people in our community. We cannot express how grateful we are to have received your donation.

Because of donations and grants, we were able to serve our community. During 2022 our food shelf assisted 1,215 households. Those households were made up of 350 seniors, 2,035 adults and 1,107 children. We issued out 180,000 pounds of food.

This year we experienced the need of each household increase in the amount of assistance needed. Without the community involvement we would not be able to meet their needs. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

We now accept donations conveniently online through PayPal: www.paypal.me/egffoodshelf

Our sincere thanks and may God bless you!
Lori Bjerck, Operations Manager
Board Members, East Grand Forks Food Shelf

Dear First Lutheran Church,

We are blessed to receive your donation to our food pantry. We've seen an increase in the need for this service and your generosity will be put to hard work meeting the demand.

Gratefully, Mickey, St. Joseph's Social Care

First Lutheran Church,

Hello! Hope everyone is doing well. I really enjoy your Facebook church service. Great messages and keep up the Lord's great work. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

May God Bless you all!
Todd and Kim Larson

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
December 7, 2022

Members Present: Connie Troska, Deanna Swendseid, Kristen Clausen, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Jessica Rogus, Al Anton, Sharon Kotts, and Melanie McGlynn.

Also in attendance, S.A.M. Marilyn Grandstrand & Ellen Anton

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Kristen gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Motion by Kris Ann to accept the November minutes, seconded by Deanna. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Ellen provided the treasurer's report. We budget for \$2000/Sunday. Motion by Sharon to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Jess.

November 6, 2022: \$2,860.00

November 27, 2022: \$2,262.00

November 13, 2022: \$2,670.00

Vanco deposit: \$598.25

November 20, 2022: \$2,090.00

Thrivent Choice: \$380.00

Membership changes: None

Committee Reports:

Deacons: Marilyn will be gone the last Sunday in January (29th).

Trustees: TRF Glass called. They will install the door hardware next week.

Parish Education: Sunday, December 11th at 5 PM will be the Christmas Program. Tonight (12/7) was the last confirmation or Wednesday School until January 11th.

Trust Fund: They will meet the last week of December.

Stewardship: We got the grant to cover the toddler flowers for the Harmony Park!

Old Business:

- Parsonage Update: Cabinets, countertops, sinks, showers, and flooring are all in. Todd is waiting for LaBine Electric and Up North Plumbing & Heating to come do what they need to do before they can be installed. Todd can do flooring in a couple of the bedrooms, but he is waiting for painting to be done 1st. Jeanne & Diane don't want to paint without a source of water. Todd is going to talk to them and figure out a plan for water, as that can't be turned on until the stuff is installed. Once Todd gets back working upstairs, things will go quickly. He is going to focus on getting things (minus the bathroom) done downstairs and maybe painting could be done down there soon.
- Call Committee: Nothing to report at this time. No new prospects at this time.
- We got insurance reimbursement for the vandalism done to the brick on the church.

New Business:

- Brian Jensen will be the new authorized person on the St. Petri Cemetery account. Deanna made a motion to accept this change on the signature card at KODA Bank. Al seconded it.
- Ellen A Honek is the new Thrivent representative for this area. She would like to set up a meeting at the church for people to have a chance to talk to her without having to drive to EGF. She will set up a date and let people know.
- Annual Report: Reports are due by the 2nd week in January. The annual meeting will be the last Sunday in January.
- Ellen announced that she will be done as the church treasurer after the annual meeting. We thank her for all her years of devotion to our church!

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Jess made the motion to adjourn. Deanna seconded it.

The next meeting will be January 4th at 7:00. Kris Ann has devotions.

Melanie McGlynn, Church Council Secretary

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

FREE NOTES HARMONY PARK

The Free Notes Harmony Park is available for the whole community to use. Your continued donations will help build the Park.

NEW LIGHTED SIGN

A fund has been started for a lighted/electronic sign, to replace the current church sign in gratitude for Pastor Mike's 36 years of service to First Lutheran Church. Donations and memorials can be made to this fund.

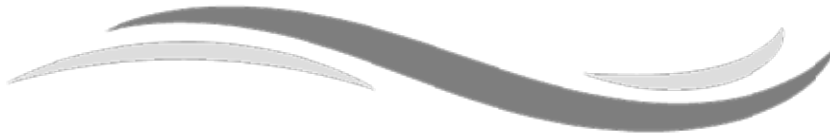
COFFEE MAKER FUND

A fund has been started to help pay for the new coffee maker in the kitchen. If you enjoy coffee on Sunday mornings, please consider making a donation to this fund.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Please remember all our service men and women in prayer, especially:

- Ben Hendricks, son of Brian & Jean Hendricks
- Todd & Adrian Jensen, son & daughter-in-law of David & Penny Jensen
- Luke Thompson, son-in-law of Garry & Sharon Kotts
- William Kotts, brother of Garry Kotts
- Kelsey Schendel, niece of Pastor Mike
- John Johnson, son of Roger & Jane Smidt



Hallelujah! The new year has arrived! May you find total comfort in your faith throughout the new year. Happy New Year. Be blessed!

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 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 PO BOX 72
 STEPHEN, MN 56757

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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 PERMIT NO. 1

JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Worship with Communion	2	3	4 7:00 pm Church Council	5	6	7
8 9 am Worship	9	10 9:30 am Quilting	11 6 pm - 7 pm: Wed. School & Confirmation 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9 am Worship with Communion; Loose Change Sunday	16	17	18 6 pm - 7 pm: Wed. School & Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9 am Worship	23	24 9:30 am Quilting	25 6 pm - 7 pm: Wed. School & Confirmation	26	27	28
29 9 am - Worship	30	31				All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live

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