

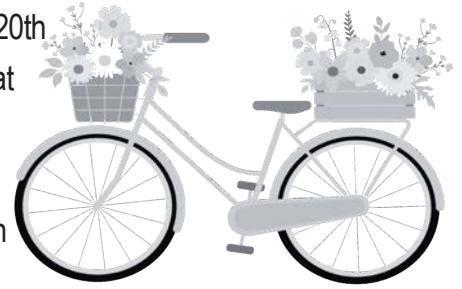
# THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

May 2023

First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

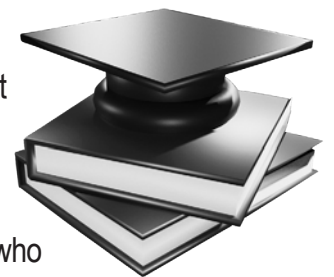
*Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

I so want to say Happy Spring! The first day of spring was waaaay back on March 20th and we have had nothing but wintery weather since. In spite of this I am hopeful that we will eventually have warm weather. I'm sure all the farmers in the congregation are probably not so patiently waiting to hit the fields. Be assured Spring will come. We can count on it just as we can count on our Savior to bring us through the tough times! May God keep us patient and thankful.



Please pray for our confirmands that affirmed their baptismal vows on April 30th – Kristen McGregor, Shay Setterholm, and Anders Thompson. May God continue to journey with them on their faith journey!

Also please pray for our seniors, Claire McGlynn and William McGlynn. We will recognize them on Sunday May 7th. Their baccalaureate service will be at 7:30 PM on May 24th at St Rose in Argyle. Graduation is May 27th. Our pray is that God will guide them in their journey through this life.



May you all have a safe and fun Memorial Day. May God bless our service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our county. May God richly bless the United States of America!

May God Richly Bless You!

**Marilyn**

## BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

First Lutheran Church is offering scholarships to youth members of our congregation to attend a Bible Camp of their choice during the summer of 2023. If your child is interested in attending a Bible Camp and you would like to request a scholarship to assist with some of the cost, please contact one of the individuals listed below by June 1, 2023. (You will be asked to provide the name of the camp and the cost for your child to attend the camp). This information will be presented to the church council for approval.

Contact: Krissy McMahon at 218-201-1408 or Marilyn Grandstrand at 763-258-9217.



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

# SYNOD ASSEMBLY - REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Synod Assembly will meet Saturday, June 3 from 8:30 to 4:30 pm. This year, our Assembly will be live-streamed simultaneously at four locations. The closest locations to us are Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, and Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji. The theme, "Telling the Old, Old Story... For the Love of God's World." Registration is now open. You can find it online here: <https://nwmnsynod.regfox.com/2023-synod-assembly>. Early registration closes on May 17, 2023. Registration closes on May 24, 2023. Keynote Speaker: Kara Powell. For more information, visit the Synod website: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/>. If you are interested in being a delegate, please let Connie know at 218-991-2576 or [firstl@wiktel.com](mailto:firstl@wiktel.com). Thank you for considering this.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1..... Holly Parker  
 5/2..... Esme Torgerson  
 5/3..... Ann Woinarowicz  
 5/4..... Kathy Labine  
 5/4..... Alexis Parker  
 5/5..... Venita Rogus  
 5/6..... Dwaine Rud  
 5/7..... Jean Nyland  
 5/8..... Jane Smidt  
 5/11..... Garry Kotts  
 5/11..... Audrey Swendseid  
 5/13..... Larry Grabowska  
 5/15..... Kenny Heggen  
 5/18..... David Smith  
 5/20..... Diane Danielson  
 5/23..... Ford Kuznia  
 5/23..... Ron Weiland  
 5/26..... Nona Carl  
 5/27..... Bernice Lindell  
 5/27..... Ava Weisenberger  
 5/30..... Seaver Thompson



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/1..... Jusin & Krissy McMahon  
 5/8..... Jean & Brian Hendricks  
 5/14..... Tamara & Trevor Benitt

## 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

5/7	Jace McMahon, Kory McMahon
5/14	Ashton Setterholm, Shay Setterholm
5/21	Liam McMahon, Rylan Woinarowicz
5/28	Carrie Jensen, Kylee Clausen
6/4	Clara Rogus, Paige Smith
6/11	Rylan Klamar, Bronson Pagnac

### USHERS

5/7	Mark & Beth Kroulik, Sharon & Garry Kotts
5/14	Geoff & Deanna Swendseid
5/21	Steve & Michelle Weberg
5/28	Kyle & Paige Pietruszewski, Kelly & Kristen Clausen
6/4	Marilee Marty, Nona Carl, Mark & Kim Anderson
6/11	Larry & Karen Nybladh, Gail Frei, Fanny Schaefer

### SERVANT GROUP

5/7	Mark & Kim Anderson, Daniel & Kelsi Douglas
5/14	Al & Ellen Anton, Audrey Swendseid
5/21	Larry & Pat Grabowska, Venita Rogus
5/28	Jean & Brian Hendricks, Tim & Darlene Bates



# CHURCH NEWS

THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet for Bible Study on Monday, May 8th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Kris Ann Pietruszewski is the hostess.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday, May 10 at 7:15 pm.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. May Loose Change: Area Relocation Assistance Program.

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

## MAY FOOD BANK

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Senior Recognition Sunday: Sunday, May 7th.

Baccalaureate Service - May 24th, at 7:30 PM at St Rose in Argyle

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS



This great group from First Lutheran helped pack meals for Feed My Starving Children in Grand Forks. The groups in Grand Forks packed a total of 270,162 meals during the 2 day event.

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

After several months of no new candidates to interview, we had contact with 3 different ones in March! After meeting with the first candidate, the committee felt they would not be the "right" fit for our congregation so it was decided to not pursue any more meetings with them. We have since met with the other two candidates and hope to bring a recommendation to the council very soon. When this happens, if the council approves the committee's recommendation, a date will be set for a special congregation meeting where the congregation will vote to accept or deny the pastoral candidate. As we move forward in this process, more information will be forthcoming.

# THANK YOU!

The Trustees would like to thank Daniel Douglas for clearing the snow from the parsonage so workers could access the house. Thank you Daniel for your quick response on short notice!

## 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.

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



## MEMORIALS

### Undesignated

Steve and Melanie McGlynn  
Mike and Cheri Douglas  
Garry and Sharon Kotts  
Mark and Kim Anderson  
Loren and Kristie Hoeper  
Alan and Ellen Anton  
Larry and Pat Grabowska  
Jeff and Jamie Nelson  
Gannon and Chrissy Nelson

### Outdoor Sign

Alvin and Becky Nybladh  
Trevor and Tara Benitt  
Tara and Tyson Jarshaw  
Mark and Beth Kroulik  
Alan and Ellen Anton  
Rita Chwialkowski

### Door Fund

Kenneth and Pat Heggen

### Coffee Pot

Clifford and Jean Nyland  
Robert and Dianne Dammann

### Wednesday School

John and Denise Grandstrand

### Harmony Park

Jessica Rogus Family

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.

**First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
March 1, 2023**

Members Present: Connie Troska, Krissy McMahon, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Jessica Rogus, Brian Hendricks, Betsy Jensen, Whitney Weisenberger, Pat Heggen, Sharon Kotts, and Melanie McGlynn. Also in attendance: S.A.M. Marilyn Grandstrand & Deanna Swendseid

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Connie gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Motion by Jess to accept the February minutes, seconded by Betsy. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Deanna presented January's print-out from Mortenson & Rygh. The print-outs will be 1 month behind. Kris Ann made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Pat. All in favor, motion carried.

**Offerings for January**

1-1-23 \$7165.20  
1-8-23 \$3693.00  
1-15-23 \$2129.00  
1-22-23 \$2248.00  
1-31-23 \$948.00

January Loose Change: \$74.39 - Good Gifts ELCA

**Offerings for February**

2-5-23 \$2593.00  
2-12-23 \$2935.00  
2-19-23 \$1388.00  
2-22-23 \$624.00 (Ash Wednesday)  
2-26-23 \$9927.07

February Loose Change: \$58.97 - Food Shelf

Membership changes: None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Deacons: Marilyn will be gone to Luther Crest on April 13-15.

Trustees:

- The trustees are working on getting some money back on the doors because of all the problems.
- The fire escape will be looked at in the spring to get sandblasted and make sure it is structurally safe.
- Mortenson & Rygh made a recommendation for last year's audit. Because most audits cost around \$25,000, most churches form a committee of 3-4 people to review all of the financial paperwork.

Parish Education: Palm Sunday, April 2nd is the next time the kids sing!

Stewardship: Lenten offering after \$500 will be designated towards the Stephen-Argyle school lunch accounts that have become delinquent. Sharon made a motion to approve the designation, seconded by Melanie. All in favor, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Betsy, Melanie, and Sharon will take over as the funeral coordinators.
- Parsonage Update: All of the kitchen & bathroom cupboards have been installed. The flooring is done on the main floor except the kitchen and living room. The bathroom is completely done except the toilet and sink. The appliances will be the next order of business. The ladies who have been painting are doing a fabulous job and keeping it up with Todd's progress.
- Lenten Schedule: 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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Stacy Szczepanski was our usher list coordinator. The current list is done through June. If anyone is interested in taking over this position, please contact Connie.

Krissy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kris Ann. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be April 5th at 7:00 PM. Betsy has devotions.

*Melanie McGlynn*

*Church Council Secretary*

## First Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 12, 2023

**Members Present:** Connie Troska, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Krissy McMahon, Betsy Jensen, Brian Hendricks, Pat Heggen, Whitney Weisenberger, Jess Rogus, Sharon Kotts, and Melanie McGlynn. Also in attendance: S.A.M. Marilyn Grandstrand, Deanna Swendseid & Jane Smidt.

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Betsy gave devotions.

**Secretary's report:** Motion by Betsy to accept the March minutes, seconded by Whitney. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Deanna presented March's offerings. She is officially not our treasurer, but did pull together this month's offerings. Kris Ann made a motions to accept the minutes. Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### Offerings for March

March 1st: \$662.00

March 5th: \$0.00 due to water

March 8th: \$0.00 due to water

March 12th: \$0.00 due to storm

March 15th: \$216.00

March 19th: \$3980.00

March 22nd: \$134.00

March 26th: \$1500.00

March 29th: \$200.00

March's Loose Change: \$71.17 Area Food Shelf

**Membership changes:** None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Deacons:** Marilyn will be gone May 21st, June 4th & July 2nd. Sharon & Jess will work on filling the pulpit those Sundays.

#### **Trustees:**

- Trustees will be starting a log to keep things organized with their projects.
- Leakage and water damage: There has been leakage in along the North wall upstairs. There is also leakage around the bell tower.
- Exterior stone cleaning/treatment: Hebron Brick has a product that will clean the brick. We would have to do the treatment ourselves, but shouldn't be hard.
- Fire escape: Structurally it looks good. There will be a company out of EGF coming to repaint the fire escape the end of May or beginning of June.
- Pat talked to Phil Rogus about seamless gutters. He can't do 6" gutters, which is what we need for our roof size. M&T Gutter from Grafton will be over soon to give us a quote.
- There is a light on the outdoor sign that needs fixing.
- The handicap button is not working on the East door. The trustees will check into getting that working.
- There are bulbs in the front of the church that need to be replaced.
- Yellow lines need to be sprayed to make off the area around the boiler where things cannot be stored.

#### **Parish Education:**

- The last day of Wednesday School will be April 19th.
- They are still working on VBS plans with Park River.

**Stewardship:** As a reminder: We did get the grant to purchase toddler flowers for our musical garden. They will get ordered soon and installed when they arrive.

#### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

- Marilyn will be gone to "Lead by Faith" April 13-15 & May 11-13.
- Marilyn is President of WELCA. April 17th, April 18th & April 27th are WELCA conferences.
- April 23rd Marilyn will be preaching at North Star Manor.
- April 30th is Confirmation-Kristen McGregor, Anders Thompson & Shay Setterholm will be confirmed.
- May 7th is Senior Recognition Sunday-Claire McGlynn & William McGlynn will be honored.
- May 24th is Baccalaureate for the Class of 2023. It will be at St. Rose Catholic Church in Argyle. Marilyn has been asked to speak.
- June 3rd is the Synod Assembly. We don't have many details yet, but it will be offered at 4 locations.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Parsonage Update:** The committee had to get a new quote because of the addition of the washer & dryer. They are confident that it will still be under the \$5000 approved by the council in January. All of the main floor is basically done. Todd is waiting on appliances. There is an issue with 3 of the cupboard doors. The lumberyard contacted the manufacturer and then want to wait to see if summer, more humid weather will make them straighten out. If not, they will replace the doors on the 3 cupboards. Hopefully Todd will get started on the downstairs soon. He is waiting to see what our spring thaw does around the windows. So far there has been no leakage in the basement! Gannon is checking to see if Dakota TV will take old appliances away. Also, the committee was thinking that our new pastor may want cupboards in the garage, but we would like to ask before installing.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Jane Smidt was at council to express her concerns over the Easter flower issue. There were more names than flowers this year. She is wondering if we could put stakes in the flowers so that the names are more visible as well. We will contact Kathy to see if the flowers were ever delivered. Jane was also wondering if the church could order a set number of flowers so that we have what we want.
- PCA Graphic display for the organ needed to be updated. It was \$800.00. Betsy made a motion to pay, Brian seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Call Committee: The call committee gave an update. They have visited with/interviewed with 3 candidates. We will be updated further at the May council meeting.
- CDs: Pat Heggen, Brian Hendricks, and Betsy Jensen need to be added to the signature cards on our American Federal, United Valley, and KODA CDs. We will update cards each time we elect new trustees and stewardship. Melanie made a motion, Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Kris Ann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Krissy. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be May 3rd at 7:00 PM. Jess has devotions.

*Melanie McGlynn*  
*Church Council Secretary*



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE  
 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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 STEPHEN, MN 56757

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 STEPHEN, MN 56757  
 PERMIT NO. 1

# MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live	1	2	3 7:00 Church Council	4	5	6
7 9 am Worship w/ Communion Senior Recognition	8 6:30 am Martha Ruth Circle	9 9:30 am Quilting	10	11	12	13
14 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship	15	16	17 7:15 Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9 am Worship with Communion; Loose Change Sunday	22	23 9:30 am Quilting	24 7:00 Baccalaureate	25	26	27
28 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship	29	30	31			

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