



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

March 2023

First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lent a time for reflection and renewal. This year's theme is: **"Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith"**. Some questions are hopeful and curious. The questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, I pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.



This Lent, I invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. I encourage you to stay curious, open and nimble. I hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. I pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore - to be drawn more deeply into the fulness of life, into the heart of God.



Please join us for soup and sandwiches from 5:45 – 6:45 and worship at 7 PM each Wednesday during Lent. (March 8th we will worship at St. Stephen's with Sacred Sounds.) The confirmation class will serve the soup and sandwiches. The proceeds from the suppers will be given to Feed My Starving Children.

Join us on March 24th from 6-8 PM to volunteer to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children in Grand Forks. Please prayerfully consider this important service project. See details on page 3 of this newsletter.

March 5th is Bold Women's Day 2023. Bold Women's Day celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold

in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold? I will have a special liturgy on March 5th observing Bold Women's Day. May you be richly blessed this Lenten season!

Marilyn

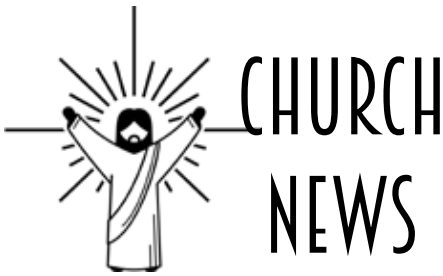
SOUP MENU FOR LENT: Menu for soup and sandwiches served from 5:45 – 6:45 PM. Proceeds from the Lenten suppers will go to Feed My Starving Children. The following soups are on the menu for Lent: **March 1** – Chicken Noodle Soup and Chili; **March 8** – No soup and sandwiches - Sacred Sounds at St. Stephen's; **March 15** – Creamy Tomato and Chicken Wild Rice; **March 22** – Chicken Tortilla and Vegetable Beef; **March 29** – Lasagna Soup and Beef Pot Roast

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS: Confirmation will meet at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays in the kitchen. We will have an informal class as we serve the soup and sandwiches. Parents if your youth are providing the sandwiches, would you please provide cleanup supervision as I prepare for the Lenten service.

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



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

No news to report at this time as we have not been forwarded any potential candidates.

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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will not meet in March due to Lenten Services.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. February Loose Change: Peoples Church of Bemidji

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

ACOLYTES

3/5	Kristen McGregor, Lillian Douglas
3/8	Wed. Services - Anders Thompson, Bronson Pagnac
3/12	Ava Weisenberger, Mason Smith
3/15	Wed. Services - Lillian Douglas, Madison Woinarowicz
3/19	Olivia Winge, Brynn Benitt
3/22	Wed. Services - Ashton Setterholm, Shay Setterholm
3/26	Kristen McGregor, Carrie Jensen
3/29	Wed. Services - Ashton Setterholm, Shay Setterholm
4/2	Lillian Douglas, Clara Rogus
4/6	Maudy Thursday - Kylee Clausen, Paige Smith

USHERS

3/5	Chris & Angie Mills, David & Kayla Smith
3/8	Wed. Services - Larry & Eileen Opp, Chad & Pennie Korynta
3/12	Daniel & Kelsi Douglas, Mike & Cheri Douglas
3/15	Wed. Services - Justin & Krissy McMahon Family
3/19	Bruce & Cindy Field, David & Penny Jensen
3/22	Wed. Services - David & Debbie Benson, Matthew & Kayla Benson
3/26	Steve & Melanie McGlynn Family, Megan & Jerome Hoper
3/29	Wed. Services - Mark & Laura McGregor Family
4/2	Brian & Jean Hendricks, Holly & James Parker
4/6	Maudy Thurs. - Jenn Thompson Family, Reece & Jenny Setterholm



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/7..... Ron Donarski
- 3/12..... Neil Anderson
- 3/13..... Pat Grabowska
- 3/13..... Roger Smidt
- 3/16..... Isaac Mills
- 3/18..... Zachary McGlynn
- 3/18..... Clara Sundby
- 3/19..... Bethany Ness
- 3/19..... Carson Pagnac
- 3/19..... Karen Schendel
- 3/19..... Mary Thorkildson
- 3/21..... Gustaf Douglas
- 3/21..... Carrie Jensen
- 3/26..... Madlyn Anderson
- 3/26..... Al Anton
- 3/29..... Myron Danielson



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/8..... Lee and Jan Bukowski
- 3/19..... Betty Pikop & John Jensen

SACRED SOUNDS

Please join the Stephen-Argyle Central students on Wednesday, March 8th at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church as they share the sounds of this Lenten Season.



MEMORIALS

Undesignated

Pat Kroulik

Mark and Kim Anderson
Garry and Sharon Kotts

John Thorlacious

Michael and Cheri Douglas

Butch Borowicz

Michael and Cheri Douglas

Arden Sundby

Michael and Cheri Douglas

New Sign

Arden Sundby

Pam Anderson
Patsy and Jerry Whitlow
Tim and Debbie Schroeder
Tom and Sheila Peterson
Ken and Lois Pagnac
Dan and Kathy Ostroot
Jim and Donna Safranski
Cindy Clow
Alvin and Becky Nybladh
Trevor and Tamara Benitt
Tara and Tyson Jarshaw

JANUARY OFFERINGS

January 1	\$7,165.20
January 8	\$3,693.00
January 15.....	\$2,129.00
January 22.....	\$2,248.00
January 29.....	\$948.00

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.

FOOD BANK: M IS FOR MACARONI!

First Lutheran Church will be shifting the Food Bank focus to reflect the ever-shifting needs of those served.

For the month of March, Food Bank needs are for shelf-stable pasta. Any brand of macaroni and cheese, or plain pasta of any shape are welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Smidt, FLC Food Shelf Coordinator at 478-2456.



GREAT SYNOD GET TOGETHER

On Saturday, March 18, Great Synod Get Together will be held at First Lutheran, 900 Bemidji Ave N, Bemidji MN 56601. The theme will be "Telling the Old, Old Story for a Strange New Time."

Together we will explore how to effectively communicate the timeless message of the gospel in a rapidly changing world. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Andy Root, will share his insight on how to reach a new generation with the message of the gospel in this era of transformational change amidst declining church attendance throughout churches in North America. To registration, visit www.nwmnsynod.org and scroll down to 2023 Great Synod Get Together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5 No Confirmation
- April 6 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service
- April 7 7 PM Good Friday Service
- April 9 7 AM Sunrise Easter Service
- 9 AM Easter Service - Confirmation Class will serve cinnamon rolls between services.
- May 14 9 AM Affirmation of Baptism for Grade 9

LENT SERVICE EVENT FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and under-nutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. From this data, we estimate at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to under-nutrition. This is heartbreaking.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities

for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential.

Learn more about Feed My Starving Children at their website www.fmsc.org.

Marilyn has reserved the last 14 spots to help pack meals for Feed My Starving Children. This will take place at the Minnkota Power Building, 5301 32nd Ave So, Grand Forks ND 58201, on March 24 from 6-8 PM. This is for anyone from our First Lutheran family. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex. Please join Marilyn for this great service event.

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 1, 2023

Members Present: Connie Troska, Kristen Clausen, Krissy McMahan, 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, Feb. 19th. Deb Hanson will be here. Marilyn will be gone Feb. 13th-19th.
- **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 will 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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 STEPHEN, MN 56757

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

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live			1 5:45 pm Soup/ Sandwich 6 pm Wed. School 7 pm Lenten Services 8 pm - Church Council	2	3	4
5 9 am Worship with Communion	6	7	8 7:00 PM Sacred Sounds at St. Stephen Catholic Church	9	10	11
12 9 am - Worship	13	14 9:30 am Quilting	15 5:45 pm Soup/ Sandwich 6 pm Wed. School 7 pm Lenten Services	16	17	18
19 9 am Worship with Communion; Loose Change Sunday	20	21	22 5:45 pm Soup/ Sandwich 6 pm Wed. School 7 pm Lenten Services	23	24	25
26 9 am - Worship	27	28 9:30 am Quilting				

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