

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

June 2023

First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is my last newsletter article as your pastor. It has been my pleasure to serve you for the past almost 2 years. I have enjoyed getting to know you and helping you in your faith journey. I will continue to pray for you as you get to know Pastor Jeff and continue your journey with him. Please pray for me as I move to the next stop on my faith journey.

I will be doing a sermon series on the Psalms during June. The Psalms are so beautiful. I am looking forward to exploring the words and music from them. If you have a Psalm you would like me to explore, please let me know.

Vacation Bible School will be June 19-21. Please pray for the children and teachers as they learn about God's wonderful world. If you know children who would like to attend VBS, please let us know. We would like to have as many children as possible attend.

I will leave you with a message from Psalm 108:3:

"I want to give thanks to you among the people, O LORD.

I want to make music to praise you among the nations

because your mercy is higher than the heavens.

Your truth reaches the skies."

Love to each and every one!

Marilyn



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sunday, May 21, a special congregational meeting was held to vote to offer call to Brother Jeff Brown. There were 58 eligible voters in attendance and the vote was unanimous in approving the call. The Call Committee and Council are working together in finishing the final steps to bring Brother Jeff to our pulpit. Look for information on our website and Facebook page as to start date and Meet and Greet which should both happen in July.



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



Your new funeral coordinators, Sharon Kotts, Betsy Jensen and Melanie McGlynn, want to thank everyone who says yes when we call for help. When we ask for food and workers, our congregation is eager to help. We appreciate your efforts to make bars a day or two in advance, or put a hotdish in the fridge the day before because you're gone the day of the service. Our church family is a blessing to families and friends dealing with a difficult time. If you haven't been called recently, please reach out to one of us. The combined efforts of our congregation make the workload manageable.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/3..... Debbie Benson
 6/4..... Nola Clausen
 6/4..... Maddie Weberg
 6/5..... Davis Mills
 6/5..... Betty Pikop
 6/6..... Conner Jensen
 6/8..... Angie Mills
 6/9..... Lute Johnson
 6/10..... Madison Woinarowicz
 6/13..... Leatrice Field
 6/15..... Darlene Bates
 6/16..... Yvonne Kazmierczak
 6/16..... Kayla Smith
 6/25..... Melanie McGlynn
 6/26..... Cheri Douglas
 6/29..... Jace McMahon
 6/29..... Kory McMahon
 6/29..... Liam McMahon



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/11 Dianne and Robert Dammann
 6/11 Karen and Larry Nyldah
 6/16..... Jody and Tim Paulson
 6/17 Jean and Cliff Nyland
 6/19..... Ellen and Al Anton
 6/21 Matthew and Kayla Benson
 6/22..... Staci and Garrit Winge
 6/23..... Connie and Carl Troska
 6/28..... Darlene and Tim Bates
 6/30..... Jami and Jeff Nelson



CHURCH NEWS

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

THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet for Bible Study on Monday, June 12th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Kris Ann Pietruszewski is the hostess.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. May Loose Change: Marshall County Social Services.

JUNE FOOD BANK: Watch the weekly bulletin for information on the June Food Bank needs.

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 parameters 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.

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.

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ARTS COUNCIL AND MUSEUM HOST EVENT

The Stephen Arts Council and Old Hometown Museum are hosting popular cowboy poet, Jay Tescher and local vocal talent, Dale Price, on Sunday, June 4 at 2 PM at the west building of the Old Hometown Museum. Free will donation and light refreshments.

VBS at First Lutheran

When: Monday, June 19th -
Wednesday, June 21st

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Who: Kids that attended Wednesday
school this year (Prek through 6th).
Feel free to invite a friend.

Please let Kelsey know if you are or
are not planning to attend as soon as
possible.

PIC • COLLAGE

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

6/4	Clara Rogus, Paige Smith
6/11	Rylan Klamar, Bronson Pagnac
6/18	Rylan Woinarowicz, Kristen McGregor
6/25	Olivia Winge, Madison Woinarowicz

USHERS

6/4	Marilee Marty, Nona Carl, Mark & Kim Anderson
6/11	Larry & Karen Nybladh, Gail Frei, Fanny Schaefer
6/18	Korey & Eiley Sundby; Josh & Alissa Sundby
6/25	Carl & Connie Troska
7/2	Larry & Eileen Opp; Chad & Pennie Korynta
7/9	Kyle & Paige Pietruszewski; Kelly & Kristen Clausen

CALL FOR HELP

Board of Trustees, would like to put out a call for people to work on two different projects. Pressure washing the black discoloration on the stone exterior of the church. It requires people and pressure washers that heat the water, fuel oil Aladdin type. Second, the exterior windows need painting. Anyone interested please contact Brian Hendricks for details.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Confirmed College Students: Remember the scholarship application for the Selma Fodstad and Wilson Scholarships are due July 1. You should have received an application in the mail. The scholarships require an official transcript sent directly to the church. You are also required to be an active member of the church and we can help you find a service project if you have not yet completed that.

SERVANT LIST, CONT.

JUNE SERVANT GROUP

6/4	Dave & Penny Jensen
6/11	Yvonne Kazmierczak, Nona Carl
6/18	Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Nina Platt
6/25	Jeff & Jami Nelson, Marilee Marty

FUNERAL NOTICE

The family of Michael Andrew Lankowicz invites you to gather with them to share memories and honor the life of their beloved son. The funeral will be held on Friday, June 16, 2023 at First Lutheran Church. Visitation is at 1 pm, Funeral service at 2 pm. Burial will be at 3 pm at Stephen Cemetery. Reception at First Lutheran to follow. Michael is the grandson of Larry and Juanita Eftafeld.

Michael Andrew Lankowicz
November 6, 2002 - March 13, 2023

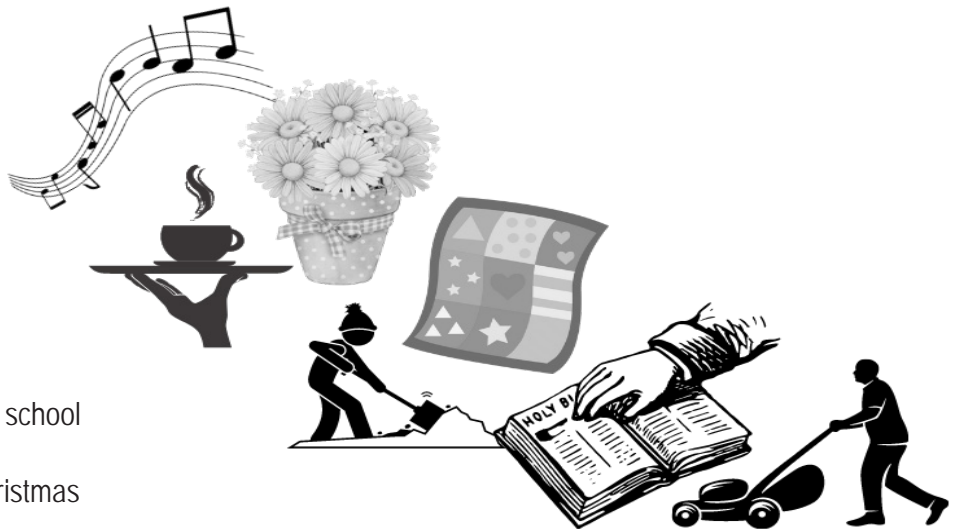


A CALL TO CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

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



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 May 3, 2023

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

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

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Jess gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Motion by Sharon to accept the April minutes, seconded by Krissy. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Deanna presented April's offerings. She is officially not our treasurer, but once again pulled together this month's offerings. Jess made a motion to accept the minutes. Brian seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Offerings for April

April 2nd-\$5256.00
April 9th-\$5270.00
April 16th-\$1655.00
April 23rd-\$2137.00

April 30th-\$1906.00
Maundy Thursday-\$198.40
Good Friday-\$110.00

Membership changes: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deacons: Tim Peterson will fill in for the 3 dates that Marilyn will be gone.

Trustees: The trustees got the CD set up at American Federal.

Parish Education:

- VBS will be on June 19-21 from 5-8 PM.
- Bible Camp information was in the newsletter. If kids are interested they should contact someone on the Board of Education.

Stewardship: Betsy is still waiting on a quote for the flowers for Harmony Park.

Pastor's Report:

- Retreat day will be on May 17th. This will be for students in grades 7-12. Marilyn will be running the retreat day. Permission slips will be going home with kids tomorrow.
- 3 students were confirmed last Sunday.
- 2 senior students will be recognized on May 7th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parsonage Update: It's easier to report on what's left! The appliances have been ordered. They will be delivered and installed in the near future. The water issue in the basement is almost done. Again, as a reminder, this summer something will have to be done with the window wells and possibly some fill brought in around the house. Brian was over at the house the other week, and he found an outlet that we will address as soon as LaBine Electric can fit us in. The toilets need to be installed, and the basement is not started yet. The garage is almost cleaned out besides Todd's equipment. The final things will be to get Steamagic to come "bomb the vents", and an intense all over cleaning.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Deanna, Gannon & Connie were here as a representatives of the call committee. They have met with a candidate, Brother Jeff Brown, and the call committee would like to recommend him to our congregation as a minister. Kris Ann made a motion to approve the calling of Brother Jeff Brown as our next minister. Melanie seconded it. All in favor, motion carried. The call committee will do the mandatory background check, which is the next step. According to our constitution, we need to announce a congregational vote 2 weeks prior to the vote. The committee will make announcements May 7th & May 14th. A letter will also be sent out explaining the timeline. The congregational vote will be on May 21st.
- For recording purposes, the following members of the Church Council are authorized to be on the signature cards for institutions where First Lutheran Church has investments: Members of the Board of Trustees-Pat Heggen & Brian Hendricks, and one member of the Stewardship Committee-Betsy Jensen.
- Deanna & Connie have volunteered to go to the Synod Assembly in East Grand Forks.
- Jess made a motion to add Betsy to the St. Petri Cemetery checkbook. Whitney seconded it. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be June 7th at 7:00 PM.

Melanie McGlynn, Church Council Secretary

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 PO BOX 72
 STEPHEN, MN 56757

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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JUNE 2023

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

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