



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

February 2023
First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.” Proverbs 16:3

Have you committed your work to the Lord? Is it something you would do? What can we as First Lutheran do?

The new year has passed and we go on with the work of the church. We will elect new church leadership at our annual meeting. Let us commit them to the Lord, pray for them, let them know that you are praying for them, and let us do the work of the Lord.

The church at First Lutheran is alive and well. Is there other work we should be doing? Have we committed to our neighbors? Do you see a need that is not being met?

Please let me know what you think we need to be doing at First Lutheran. Let's pray and see where the Lord leads us.

Ash Wednesday, February 22 marks the beginning of Lent. We will begin the Lenten season with worship and communion at 7 PM. Lenten services will continue each Wednesday from March 1st through March 29th. Soup and sandwich supper will be served starting at 5:45 PM and worship will be at 7 PM. The confirmation class will provide and serve the Lenten suppers. Please come and support the youth of the church.



Please mark your calendars for March 18. This is the day of the Great Synod Get Together at First Lutheran in Bemidji. This is a time to get together with others in our synod to learn and worship God. Please let me know if you will be joining me there!

May God bless you richly this month and throughout the year!

Marilyn

FOOD BANK: FLEXIBLE FEBRUARY

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

The Food Bank is located at St. Rose Church in Argyle, which provides the location for this non-denominational community service. While they would not turn down a food donation at this time, more sundry household and personal care items are needed.

FLC Food Bank Committee will keep you informed in the months ahead of specific needs, and will keep track of the volume of items we provide, to be shared at next year's annual meeting.

This month's theme is ***“FLEXIBLE FEBRUARY”***. Items needed include:

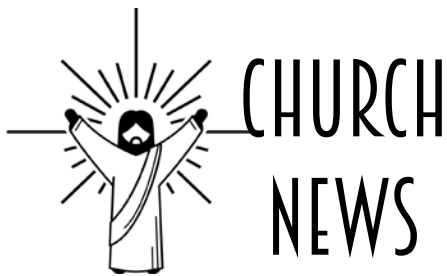
- Toilet paper (any size package)
- Laundry detergent (up to 50 oz.)
- Fabric softener or dryer sheets
- Personal care items such as toothpaste and tooth brushes (adult and children), dental floss, shampoos and conditioners, body washes and soap.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Smidt, coordinator at 478-2456.

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



YOUTH SINGING will be on Ash Wednesday (February 22) at the beginning of services.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be held on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:15 pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. February Loose Change: Area Food Shelf - Argyle

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2.....Colin McGregor
 2/3..... Betsy Jensen
 2/6..... Olivia Winge
 2/7..... Ellie Klamar
 2/8..... Sarah Berg
 2/12..... Jeff Nelson
 2/13..... Larry Opp
 2/16..... Fanny Schaeffer
 2/18..... Greyson Benson
 2/19..... Mark Anderson
 2/22..... Stacy Szczepanski
 2/23..... Mavis Petersen
 2/24..... Blaine Smith
 2/28..... Kristen McGregor



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/28. Jonathan & Amanda Anderson

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

2/5	Ava Weisenberger, Rylan Klamar
2/12	Kory McMahon, Jace McMahon
2/19	Kylee Clausen, Paige Smith
2/22	ASH WED. Anders Thompson, Shay Setterholm
2/26	Leiam McMahon, Kory McMahon
3/1	WED. Anders Thompson, Shay Setterholm
3/5	Kristen McGregor, Lillian Douglas

USHERS

2/5	Corey & Eiley Sundby; Josh & Alissa Sundby
2/12	Carl & Connie Troska
2/19	Tara & Tyson Jarshaw; Tamara & Trevor Benitt
2/22	ASH WED. Dave & Alana McGlynn & Family
2/26	Kelsey & Erin Anderson; Jonathon & Amanda Anderson
3/1	WED. Keith & Stacy Szczepanski; Steve & Michelle Weberg
3/5	Chris & Angie Mills; David & Kayla Smith

First Lutheran Church,



We hope you all are staying safe and cozy! Thank you for your thoughtful gift to Pathways with your noisy offering! Your support allows us to continue our mission in ministry! ~ Peace and Gratitude, The Pathways Staff

First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your donation. The love and support allows us to provide home, hope, healing. God Bless!
Eagle's Healing Nest

Dear First Lutheran,

The Marshall County Board of Commissioners and Marshall County Social Services wish to extend their deep appreciation for your donation this Christmas Season.

Thank you for your donation to the Christmas projects. Because of your generosity, food baskets were delivered to 135 people and 226 children received gifts from the Sharing Tree project.

Working together to reach out and do a kind deed brought some extra joy to many seniors, families and children this Christmas Season. May the joy you passed on to them come back to you in the New Year. Wishing you a happy, healthy 2023.

Marshall County Social Services

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 4, 2023

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

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

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Kris Ann gave devotions.

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

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

December 4, 2022-\$2,122.00

December 25, 2022-\$2,650.00

December 11, 2022-\$3,428.00

Vanco deposit-\$910.87

December 18, 2022-\$5,790.00

End of year-\$4,000.00

Christmas Eve 2022-\$3,608.29

Loose Change-\$61.85 (Donated to Pathways)

We are transferring the funds from the Parament Fund, Altar Vase Fund, and any Undesignated Funds to the Door & Harmony Park Funds. Deanna made the motion and Betsy seconded it.

Membership changes: None

Committee Reports

Deacons: Marilyn will be gone the last Sunday January 29th. Tim Peterson will be here. Marilyn will be gone February 12th.

Trustees: The window on the door going into the Fireside Room has been fixed. The cameras have been ordered and will be installed when LaBine Electric has time. The door project is finally completed!! Al will write Marvin Windows a letter to try get reimbursement.

Parish Education: Wednesday School and Confirmation will resume next Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Trust Fund: They met last Wednesday and did end-of-the year donations.

Stewardship: Betsy will be delivering the Reverse Advent calendar donations tomorrow.

Old Business:

- **Parsonage Update:** LaBine Electric is working this week. They will have "all" of their work done. There may be a little more when appliances come in, but it will mostly be done now. Flooring & painting is done in 2 of the bedrooms. Up North Plumbing & Heating will be in next week to install tub/shower, sinks & toilets. Todd will then work on ceiling in kitchen and cupboard installation. Once that is done, painting can be done and then flooring. Appliances have been priced out. Kris Ann made a motion to spend up to \$5000 on appliances, Deanna seconded.
- Church time on January 29th will be 9:00. Muffins, juice & coffee will be served after. Then, the annual meeting will be held!
- *"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."* Proverbs 11:25—This will be the verse on the bench that Matt Kroulik made out of our old doors. Deanna made a motion to approve the verse. Melanie seconded.
- Deanna has volunteered to take over as First Lutheran Church's Treasurer. Ellen will meet with her to go over details and will be available to answer questions. Melanie made a motion to approve her replacing Ellen. Sharon seconded it.

New Business:

- Jane Schmidt was at council to discuss the food shelf basket. She came up with some ideas to help promote more participation in donations. Betsy will talk to Karen Gunderson about food shelf needs and we will discuss the implementation plan next month.
- Devotion sign-up sheet was passed around and council members signed up for the month they wanted.
- Loose change designations for 2023 were made.
- We will discuss an usher sign-up sheet at annual meeting to see if we have any interest in people signing up versus getting assigned.
- Jodi Paulsen sent a thank you to the council & congregation for the gift certificate in appreciation for her playing for church services.

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

The next meeting will be February 1st at 7:00. Melanie has devotions.

Melanie McGlynn, Church Council Secretary

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 STEPHEN, MN 56757

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

FEBRUARY 2023

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

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