



# THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

September 2023  
First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

***Dear First Lutheran faith family,***

Happy September! We have entered an exciting time in the life of our congregation, with Wednesday School and Confirmation starting up again. Our children and youth are not the “future of the church,” as we so often think – they are the church now! And, just as much as we adults help shape their budding faith, so too do they shape us, and shape us for the better. So, in this article, you’ll find some basic details for the things coming up in September, as well as what this month means as a season in the church year.

Wednesday School will begin September 27th at 6:00 pm. Each week will be 6-7 pm, and we’ll have lots of music, Bible stories, and crafts each week. I’m looking forward to bringing in my guitar and growing with our young ones as they grow in their faith as little Lutherans.

Confirmation will be done a little differently this year. We are splitting out the 9th graders from the 7th and 8th grades. I have done this model of Confirmation most of my time as a pastor, and it works really well. It gives me a more focused time on those who will be affirming their baptism (being confirmed) next spring, and also gives space for the wide variety of ages (and energy levels) that exist within 7-9 grade. Confirmation for 7th-8th grade students begins on September 20th, at 6:30 pm, and will meet each month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. 9th grade Confirmation begins on September 27th, also at 6:30 pm, and will meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

## ***Season of Creation***

September 1 – October 4 marks an unofficial season in the church year – the Season of Creation. Genesis 1:31 reminds us: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good” and 2:15 also, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and guard it.” Although there’s a lot of busy-ness in our personal lives right now, we also pause to give thanks for God’s gift of creation, which is not something to be used up by us humans, but it is something to cherish and take care of not just for ourselves but for the generations to come.

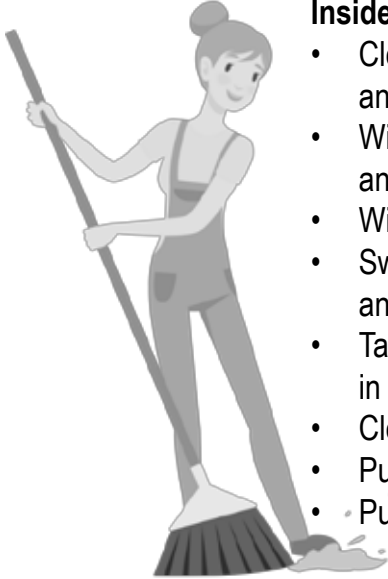
From the Season of Creation website, [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org): “The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.”

May God bless you in this exciting time, with peace and everything good!

Your pastor,  
Brother Jeff

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS! PARSONAGE CLEAN UP DAY

Sunday, September 10th, starting at 4:00 PM will be our work day at the parsonage. Here is a list of things that need to get done. Any and all help will be appreciated. People will need to bring their own supplies for the job they have in mind. If people have any questions, get ahold of Melanie McGlynn, Beth Kroulik, Shawna Peterson, Korey Sundby, or Gannon Nelson.



## Inside House Work

- Clean windows (both inside and out)
- Wipe down cupboards (inside and out)
- Wipe down countertops
- Sweep & mop floors (upstairs and downstairs)
- Take down window coverings in basement bedrooms
- Clean bathrooms (all 3)
- Put on outlet covers
- Put up smoke alarms

## Outside Work

- Clean up tree grindings in back yard
- Weed whack
- Clean gutters
- Weed landscaping
- Power wash deck
- Clean outdoor sheds
- Clean out window wells

## A Little Inside, A Little Outside

- Clean garage
- Put sealant on entry doors
- Remove chimney in garage



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# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FUND UPDATES

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have met our goals for the Door and the Harmony Park Funds! Both projects added so much to our grounds and we are excited to announce the fundraising efforts are complete.

The council has decided to create a new fund, The **Schendel Family Fund** in honor and memory of Pastor Mike and Karen Schendel, who gave so much to our congregation and community. The goal is to create an endowment fund, where the interest can be spent on church and community projects.

We have been fundraising for the outdoor sign fund in honor of Pastor Mike, and this would be a continuation of those efforts.

Our **Education Fund** is also open and receiving funds. If you stop by the church on a Wednesday night and see the rooms filled with K-9 students, you can appreciate how much time, love and materials go into our program.

The **Altar Fund** is also open for donations. The Altar is such a warm, welcoming sight for in person and online worshippers.

Thank you for remembering First Lutheran as you consider your monetary donations. We want to make investments in our youth, congregation, buildings and community.





# CHURCH NEWS

**THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE** will meet for Bible Study on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Ann Woinarowicz is the hostess.

**LOOSE CHANGE:** Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. September Loose Change: **Northland Rescue Mission.**

**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 the church office to find out more. Thank you Nona Carl, Jane Smidt, Pat Heggen, and Penny Jensen 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 Sharon Kotts for assistance.

### Do You Have News To Share?

Send announcements and events you would like to share in the news-letter to [firstl@wikel.com](mailto:firstl@wikel.com) by the 20th of each month.

## BENEFIT FOR CONNIE TROSKA

On Saturday, September 30 there will be a benefit for Connie Troska from 4-8 pm at the Stephen Legion. We would like members of FLC to provide salads for the meal. If you are able to bring a salad to the Legion, please contact Betsy Jensen, [jensenbetsyr@gmail.com](mailto:jensenbetsyr@gmail.com). We can also store some salads in the church fridge if you need to drop it off a day early.

We are also looking for items for a silent auction or raffle. If you would like to contribute, yourself or with a group, please let Betsy know.

Thank you for supporting your council president as she continues her fight against cancer.

## SEPTEMBER FOOD SHELF NEEDS

**"THIRST COMES FIRST"** is the theme for September This is a continued need from August. Any beverage, liquid or powdered drink.

Some suggestions:

*Case or six-pack of water bottles | V-8 juice | Boost or Ensure | Grape, Apple or Cranberry juices | Canned orange, pineapple or grapefruit juice | Kool Aid | Crystal Lite packages*

Contact Jane Smidt, FLC Coordinator, at 218-478-2456 with questions.

Remember, personal care and household items are always needed.

Baskets are located by the back door and in the Fellowship Hall.

## QUILTER NEWS

Quilters meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 am. If there is a change, it will be announced. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall. Sewers and non-sewers are welcome. Next meeting: August 8th.



## USHER LIST

*Please note the dates that you are scheduled to 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.*

9/3	Pat Heggen, Whitney Weisenberger, Matt Kroulik
9/10	Chris & Angie Mills, David & Kayla Smith
9/17	Keith Szczepanski, Steve & Michelle Weberg
9/24	Daniel & Kelsi Douglas, Mike & Cheri Douglas
10/1	Justin & Krissy McMahon Family

**First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
August 9, 2023**

**Members Present:** Connie Troska, Jess Rogus, Sharon Kotts, Betsy Jensen, Whitney Weisenberger, Krissy McMahon, Pat Heggen, and Brian Hendricks.

**Also in attendance:** Pastor Jeff, Caitlin Jensen, Deanna Swendseid and Darlene Bates

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Sharon gave devotions.

**Secretary's report:** Motion by Jess to accept the June minutes as well as the special July meeting held, seconded by Whitney. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Deanna presented June and July offerings. She is officially not our treasurer, but once again pulled together the offerings. Darlene Bates will begin working as treasurer this month. Deanna recommended we publicize our active and closed donation accounts. Krissy made a motion to accept the report, Sharon second. All in favor, motion carried.

**Offerings for June**

June 4th .....\$2867.00  
June 11th.....\$1287.00  
June 18th .....\$765.00  
June 25th .....\$1066.00

**Offerings for July**

July 2nd.....\$2595.00  
July 9th.....\$2415.00  
July 16th.....\$1504.00  
July 23rd.....\$1805.00  
July 30th.....\$870.00

April Loose Change..\$69.32  
Area Relocation Service  
May Loose Change ..\$282.85  
Marshall County Social Services

**Membership changes:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Deacons:** Pastor Jeff will not be gone in the next month.

**Trustees:**

- Pat's first gutter guy is unsure he can complete the job. She will contact ABC Seamless in Grand Forks.
- Brian will be working with a CD that is coming due.
- We still need someone to pressure wash the church. Brian looked into renting equipment but it might be cheaper to hire someone. Brian found someone out of Grand Forks that could get this done by winter. A motion was made by Jess to move forward, seconded by Melanie. All council members voted in the affirmative, and the motion was approved via email on August 17th.

**Parish Education:**

- Sept 27, Wednesday School will begin and run 6-7 pm. Brother Jeff might alternate the confirmation classes to give more time for each class. Confirmation will begin for 7th and 8th graders on Sept 20 from 6:30- 7:30 pm. The 9th graders will begin on September 27 from 6:30-7:30 pm.
- We will give our students two bibles, a story bible when they're in 2nd grade and a study bible when they are older in confirmation. This year we would give story bibles to 2nd and 3rd graders and study bibles to all 7-9th graders.
- October 8th we would do 2nd and 3rd grade bibles, a backpack blessing and the first time the classes sing in church.

**Stewardship:**

- The toddler flowers should arrive shortly.
- The council approved starting a Schendel Endowment Fund to support church and community projects.
- It was decided to purchase a Full LED Sign for the front of the church. Details will be presented at the next meeting.
- The Harvest Festival will be Sunday, Sept 24 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

**Trust Fund:**

- The committee gave out for \$500 Wilson Scholarship and one \$500 Fodstad Scholarship

## Pastor's Report:

- Brother Jeff has felt very welcomed at our church. He does want help finding those members who are unable to attend service or haven't been at a service recently.
- Brother Jeff and Caitlyn have been approached by Tri County schools to help with their music program. No details have been determined.
- Brother Jeff would like to create a mission statement for our church.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Canva has all our certificates and Connie working on getting it free of charge since we are a non profit.
- Darlene is our new treasurer and has worked with Deanna to transition the accounts. Mortensen will continue payroll and writing checks.

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

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be September 6th at 7:00 PM.

*Melanie McGlynn*  
Church Council Secretary

# MEMORIALS

## UNDESIGNATED

*Wally Knoll*  
Cliff and Jean Nyland  
Mike and Cheri Douglas  
*Rita Nelson*  
Cliff and Jean Nyland  
Micheal and Cherif Douglas  
*Lawrence Kuznia*  
Michael and Cheri Douglas  
Gale Frei  
*Kay Kroulik*  
Colleen Ness  
Fanny Schaeffer  
Larry Eftefield

## SCHENDEL FAMILY FUND

*Wally Knoll*  
Robert and Dianne Dammann  
*Rita Nelson*  
Robert and Dianne Dammann  
*Lawrence Kuznia*  
Robert and Dianne Dammann  
*Karen Schendel*  
Robert and Dianne Dammann  
Norma Hvidsten  
Brian Jensen  
Steve and Michelle Weberg  
Myron and Kris Ann Pietruszewski  
*Kay Kroulik*  
Brian Jensen

[www.stephenflc.com](http://www.stephenflc.com)

## NEW SIGN

*Karen Schendel*  
Audrey Swendseid  
*Barbara Benson*  
Lynn Benson Family  
*Shirley Ellefson*  
John and Shawna Peterson  
*Jim Burgoyne*  
Tim and Darlene Bates  
*Kay Kroulik*  
Kenneth and Pat Heggen  
Tim and Darlene Bates  
John and Shawna Peterson  
Ellen Anton  
Nancy Gajeski  
Mark and Beth Kroulik

## HARMONY PARK

*Shirley Ellefson*  
Myron and Kris Ann Pietruszewski  
*Kay Kroulik*  
Myron and Kris Ann Pietruszewski  
*Lila Grandstrand*  
Myron and Kris Ann Pietruszewski

## EDUCATION FUND

*Kay Kroulik*  
Doretta Olson

## QUILTERS

*Kay Kroulik*  
Cecil & Maryel Anderson

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**Confirmation and  
Wednesday School  
will soon be starting!**

**Wednesday School starts  
September 27, from  
6 pm to 7 pm**

**Confirmation starts  
September 20 for  
7th-8th grades and  
September 27 for  
9th grade. 6:30-7:30 pm.**

# Personal Care Kits

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Please review the General Assembly instructions on page 1 before collecting items for Personal Care Kits.

## Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20" X 40" to 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- One sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs; remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and secure with ribbon, yarn, or rubber bands. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

**Shipping Note:** LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one Personal Care Kit overseas is \$2.65 (including the addition of a tube of toothpaste). See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



Visit [lwr.org/kitvideos](http://lwr.org/kitvideos) to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Personal Care Kits!

## WANT TO GET THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK?

# Buy in Bulk!

Purchasing kit items in bulk saves time and money. Here are some tips to get started:

**ONLINE:** Many websites, such as overstock.com, carry items appropriate for LWR kits and often have sales. Inspect items carefully to make sure they meet LWR guidelines and are of good quality.

**CLUB STORES:** Does anyone in your congregation have a membership to Costco, Sam's Club or BJ's? You can get bulk prices for kit items from these stores.

**ASK:** Some local stores may be willing to place a bulk order for you and even cut you a discount if they know that you'll be using the supplies to help people in need. It never hurts to ask!

Visit [lwr.org/buyinbulk](http://lwr.org/buyinbulk) for a list of resources to help you buy supplies in bulk.

*"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3*



**\*\* Monetary donations will also be accepted and items will be purchased. \*\***

## BROTHER JEFF'S CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

Brother Jeff Brown | Email: [flcpastor@wiktel.com](mailto:flcpastor@wiktel.com) | Phone 218-230-6583 | Office Hours: Sunday -Thursday (Friday off)

## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION:

Secretary: Darlene Bates | Email: [firstl@wiktel.com](mailto:firstl@wiktel.com) | Phone 218-478-3895 | Office Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs 9am - 12 pm



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2.....Brooklyn Ness
- 9/2.....Ty Winge
- 9/5.....Ellen Anton
- 9/5.....Shianne Kostrzewski
- 9/5.....Conner Rogus
- 9/8.....David Benson
- 9/11.....Amanda Anderson
- 9/13.....Jon Petersen
- 9/17.....Patsy Heggen
- 9/17.....Tim Paulson
- 9/19.....Isaac Black
- 9/20.....Kelly Clausen
- 9/27.....Michelle Weberg
- 9/29.....Cliff Nyland



# SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/1 ..... Diane and Myron Danielson
- 9/6 ..... Kenny and Patsy Heggen
- 9/17 ..... Bruce and Aase Hamnes
- 9/30 ..... David and Debbie Benson

# STEPHEN ARTS CENTER PRESENTATION

Robby Vee and His Rock N' Roll Caravan will return to the stage at Arts on Fifth, Sunday, September 17 at 7:00 PM.

Join us for an evening of electricity and music hosted by the Prince of Twang and second General Rockabilly Hall of Famer, Robby Vee.

This event will be the end of the 2023 Concert Series and will be held inside the Art Center. Free will donation.

## THANK YOU!

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of your two scholarships. This church was like my second home growing up and it showed me the path to God.

Will McGlynn

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the Fodstad Scholarship! I will use this to continue my academic endeavors at NDSU. Thanks again,

Zachary McGlynn

First Lutheran Church,

Enclosed is a memorial to First Lutheran in memory of Karen Schendel. Please use wherever needed for the church. Love you all,

Norma Hvidsten and family

## Congregational Vitality

You are invited to...  
**Congregational Vitality Day**  
**Saturday, September 16th**  
 @ Grace Lutheran  
 Church Detroit Lakes.  
 9:00-3:00

*From the Kitchen of the NW MN Synod*

**Congregational Vitality**

- one cup of faith
- a dash of hope
- two sprinkles of curiosity
- a heap of willingness
- three pinches of the Holy Spirit
- a big handful of devotion to neighbor

*Come ready to create a recipe that feeds your community!*

\$40.00 per person/ \$25.00 if 4 or more people from your church/parish register together at the same time [lunch is included]  
 \*Discounts for Synod Authorized Ministers

Join Pastor Rebel Hurd, DEM; Pr. Melissa Pickering, Rural Revival Mission Developer; and Pr. Sue Koesterman, Adaptive Leadership Champion for this interactive Congregational Vitality Day.

**Women of the ELCA**  
 Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization  
**35th Annual Convention**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2023**  
 Registration & Coffee 9:00-9:30 am  
 Day includes worship, business meeting, speakers, fellowship and lunch.  
 Concludes by 5 pm

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
 505 Main Ave N  
 Thief River Falls, MN 56701



**Love your Neighbor  
 as Yourself**  
 Mark 12:31

Hosted by Conferences 1, 2, 3

Visit the NW Minnesota Synod website for event information <https://www.nwmnsynod.org>

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE  
 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 PO BOX 72  
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live					1	2
<b>3</b> 9 am Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm Church Council	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WELCA Convention - Thief River Falls
<b>10</b> 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Martha Ruth Circle	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Quilting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Congregational Vitality Day, Detroit Lakes
<b>17</b> 9 am Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm - Confirmation For 7th and 8th grade	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Quilting	<b>27</b> 6 pm - Wednesday School 6:30 - Confirmation for 9th grade	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
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