



# THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

March 2024  
First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

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

Happy March! As we enter into the third month of 2024, we do so in the midst of some of the biggest days of the church year. March begins in our Lenten routine of Sundays and Wednesdays, of psalms and singing. March ends, however, with Easter! We go from a solemn “Lord, have mercy” to joyful “Alleluia, Christ is risen!” This is an important time. Below you’ll find all the opportunities to join us for worship for the rest of Lent, but also for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

**Sunday, March 3rd:** Worship with Holy Communion at 9 am  
The 2024 Church Council will be installed this morning

**Wednesday, March 6th:** Lenten Worship at 7 pm  
Focus: Psalm 130, a psalm of lament

**Sunday, March 10th:** Worship at 9 am  
We’ll hear Jesus give the most famous Bible verse: John 3:16

**Wednesday, March 13th:** Lenten Worship at 7 pm  
Focus: Psalm 23, a psalm of hope

**Sunday, March 17th:** Worship with Holy Communion at 9 am  
Come learn about the real Christian who was St. Patrick

**Wednesday, March 20th:** Lenten Worship at 7 pm  
Focus: Psalm 42, a psalm of trust

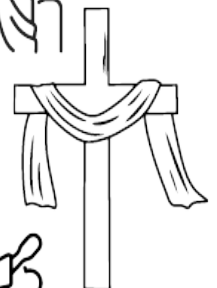
**Sunday, March 24th:** Palm Sunday Worship at 9 am  
We’ll wave palms and hear Jesus’ story of Holy Week

**Thursday, March 28th: Maundy Thursday** Worship with Holy Communion at 7 pm  
This is Jesus’ last night on earth, when he gives us the new commandment (from which we get the word ‘Maundy’), to love one another as he has loved us.

**Friday, March 29th: Good Friday** Worship at 7 pm  
This is the day we remember our Lord’s work on the cross, showing us how far God’s love will go for every one of us.

**Sunday, March 31st: Easter Sunrise** at 7 am and **Festival Worship** at 9 am, both with Holy Communion.  
Death never had any power over God, and that’s what we see in Jesus being raised from the dead. We, too, are joined to his death AND resurrection in our baptism!

Your pastor,  
Brother Jeff



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## **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



# CHURCH NEWS

**THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE:** will meet on Monday, March 11th at 6:30 pm at the church. The Bible Study will be taken from the January/February "Gather" magazine. Penny Jensen is hostess.

**LOOSE CHANGE:** Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. February Loose Change will be decided at the February Church Council Meeting.

**QUILTERS:** The Quilting Ladies meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. All are welcome to join them!

**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.

**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 newsletter to [firstl@wiktel.com](mailto:firstl@wiktel.com) by the 20th of each month.

# MEMORIALS

## In Memory: Luther Johnson

Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund  
Tim & Darlene Bates - Technology Fund  
Nancy Gajeski - St. Petri Cemetery  
John Jensen & Betty Pikop - St. Petri Cem.  
Nathan & Angela Smith - St. Petri Cem.  
Dr. Craig & Jane Johnson - St. Petri Cem.  
Mary & Steven Johnson - St. Petri Cem.  
Kenneth & Pat Heggen - Technology Fund  
Lutheran Johnson Family - Tech. Fund  
Keith Szczepanski - Undesignated  
Mark & Kim Anderson - Undesignated  
Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak -

Schendel Family Fund

Bruce & Aase Hamnes - Technology Fund  
Curt & Lavonne Lundeen - Undesignated  
Darrel & Linda Laudal - Undesignated  
Jeff & Jamie Nelson - Technology Fund  
Kenneth & Barbara Peterson - Undesignated  
Ellen Anton - New Sign Fund  
Gannon & Christine Nelson - Education Fund  
Mark & Beth Kroulik - New Sign Fund  
Brian & Jane Hendricks - Technology Fund  
Vernon Dagoberg Family - Undesignated  
Debra Anderson - Undesignated  
Gerald & Monica Heuer - Undesignated  
Sinnott Township - Technology Fund  
Bruce & Cindy Field - Technology Fund  
Brian & Betsy Jensen - St. Petri Cemetery  
Larry & Juanita Eftefield - Undesignated  
Loren & Kristie Hoepfer - Altar Fund  
John & Shawna Peterson -  
Schendel Family Fund  
Ingrid Bazey - Education Fund  
Katherine Labine - Undesignated  
Cliff & Jean Nyland - Undesignated

## In Memory: Dwaine Rud

Alvin & Becky Nybladh - New Sign Fund  
Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund  
Mike & Cheri Douglas - Undesignated  
Nancy Gajeski - Parsonage Repair  
Brian & Jean Hendricks - Undesignated  
Mark & Kim Anderson - Undesignated  
Ellen Anton - New Sign Fund  
Penny Jensen - Undesignated  
John & Shawna Peterson -  
Schendel Family Fund  
Ingrid Bazey - Education Fund

## In Memory: Vernon Dagoberg

Tim & Darlene Bates - Technology Fund  
Brian & Jean Hendricks - Technology Fund  
Alvin & Becky Nybladh - New Sign Fund  
Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund  
Pamela & Timothy Dagoberg - Undesignated  
Cindy Bondy - Undesignated  
Jerry Pope - Undesignated

Mike & Cheri Douglas - Undesignated  
Rodney Schwatken - Undesignated  
Loren & Krisitie Hoepfer - Altar Fund  
John & Shawna Peterson -  
Schendel Family Fund

Terry & Zelda Laudal - Undesignated  
Ingrid Bazey - Education Fund  
Katherine Labine - Undesignated  
Cliff & Jean Nyland - Undesignated

## In Memory: Joann Anderson

Steve & Melanie McGlynn - Undesignated

## In Memory: Wayne Langen

Alvin & Becky Nybladh - New Sign Fund

## In Memory: Roger Regimbal

Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund

## In Memory: Tom Rogus

Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund  
Larry & Eileen Opp - Undesignated  
Jan & Frank Voelker - Undesignated  
Ron & Vicky Weiland - Undesignated

## In Memory: K.C. Kuznia

Robert & Dianne Dammann - Altar Fund

## In Memory: Michael Weiland

Loren & Kristy Hoepfer - Technology Fund  
Ron & Vicky Weiland - Technology Fund

## In Memory: Arlyss Anton

Mark & Beth Kroulik - Schendel Family Fund

## In Memory: Karen Schendel

Gale Frei - Undesignated

# FOOD SHELF

The March Food Shelf theme will be printed in upcoming bulletins. As always, any donation is appreciated. Any questions, please call Jane Smidt, coordinator for FLC at (218) 478-2456.

# THANK YOU!

Special thanks to everyone who set up, cleaned up, brought food and served during our three February funerals. The willingness of our congregation to help when needed is incredible. We had so many compliments on the food. The wide variety of hot dishes and bars was mentioned by many family members. It might seem like just a hotdish or just a pan of bars, but it really means the world to friends and family. Your late night baking, early morning assembly, or time at the church was appreciated.

Thanks, Betsy, Sharon and Melanie

## First Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 7, 2024



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/8..... Reese Heggen  
 3/8..... Shae Sundby  
 3/12..... Neil Anderson  
 3/13..... Patricia Grabowska  
 3/13..... Roger Smidt  
 3/18..... Zachary McGlynn  
 3/18..... Clara Sundby  
 3/19..... Bethany Ness  
 3/21..... Gustaf Douglas  
 3/21..... Carrie Jensen  
 3/23..... Harper Torgerson  
 3/26..... Madilyn Anderson  
 3/26..... Al Anton  
 3/29..... Myron Danielson



### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/8..... Jan & Lee Bukowski  
 3/22..... Betty Pikop & John Jensen

Members Present: Jeff Nelson, Melanie McGlynn, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Debbie Benson, Jeanne Hendricks, Sharon Kotts, Betsy Jensen, Brian Hendricks, and Pat Heggen.

Also in attendance: Darlene Bates and Pastor Jeff.

President Jeff called the meeting to order.

Melanie gave devotions.

**Secretary's report:** Melanie presented January's Secretary's Report. A motion was made by Brian to accept the January minutes, seconded by Pat. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Darlene presented January's offerings. Betsy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Kris Ann seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Offerings for January**

January 7th.....\$2,822.00	Vanco.....\$615.15
January 14th.....\$5,079.00	
January 21st.....\$2,320.00	January Loose Change .....\$95.17
January 28th.....\$2,439.00	Bencke's/Missionaries

**Membership changes:** Kayla Benson has transferred into our church! Welcome!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Deacons:** Nothing

**Trustees:** The sink in the men's bathroom overflowed today. They will look into that.

**Parish Education:** Kids are singing on Ash Wednesday!

**Stewardship:** For our Lenten Offering designation, we will our 1st \$500 will go to the Bencke's/Missionaries. Anything over and above will go to Peoples Church in Bemidji.

Our February loose change will go the North Star Manor Nursing Home birthday party that we will host in March.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Lent starts next week, February 14th. Our Lenten theme will be "Psalms for the Seasons of Our Soul".
- Lake Bronson and Kennedy has been sharing pastoral leadership. Their leadership is retiring. Brother Jeff was approached by them to help if they should need an occasional Sunday at 11:00. We discussed this possibility.
- We continue to have major issues with our sound system. Brother Jeff would like to start a technology fund so that we will be prepared if/when the time comes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Our Wedding Book needs to be updated. The Deacons and Kris Ann will take look it over and make needed changes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Brother Jeff would like to have a Council Installation Date at church. He set the date as March 3rd.
- The devotion sign-up sheet went around for members to sign up for the month they want.
- HB Light & Sound gave us an estimate on what it would take to update our sound system. This would include wireless microphones, hard of hearing headsets, speakers, wiring, and everything else needed. The system would then be able to be controlled remotely. Their quote was \$25,191.25. This will be paid for with our newly created technology fund. Pat made a motion to approve moving forward with this update. Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Betsy 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 March 3rd after church.

Melanie McGlynn  
 Church Council Secretary

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE  
 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 PO BOX 72  
 STEPHEN, MN 56757

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

# MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live					1 Pastor's Day Off	2
3 9 am Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship	4	5	6 6 pm - Wed. School, Soup & Sandwich, Bible Study 7:00 Lenten Services	7	8 Pastor's Day Off	9
10 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship	11 9:30 am Quilting 6:30 am Martha-Ruth Circle	12	13 6 pm - Wed. School, Soup & Sandwich, Bible Study 7:00 Lenten Services	14	15 Pastor's Day Off	16
17 9 am Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship	18	19	20 6 pm - Wed. School, Soup & Sandwich, Bible Study 7:00 Lenten Services	21	22 Pastor's Day Off	23
24 9 am-Palm Sunday Worship 10 am - Fellowship	25 9:30 am Quilting	26	27 6 pm - Wed. School	28 7 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	29 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm - Good Friday Service	30
31 <b>Easter</b> 7 am-Sunrise Serv. 9 am-Festival Worship	Published monthly by the Congregation of First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN Copyright: First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN 56757					