



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

September 2023
First Lutheran Church, Stephen, MN

Dear First Lutheran faith family,

October blessings to you! We are well in the swing of fall, so remember: fall for Jesus – he never leaves!

Indeed, Jesus is with us in this time. By the time you're reading this, we have kicked off our Wednesday School year, and it's been a delight to welcome our little Lutherans back to Wednesday School. Confirmation has also begun, and I'm having a great time getting to know your students as we begin this year of learning and growing in our faith together.

Please make note of the upcoming Sunday dates in October!

- **October 1st: Pet blessing.**

In the church parking lot at 11 am

- **October 8th: Bibles, Backpack blessing, and beautiful singing!**

Second and third graders receive their own Spark Story Bible in worship AND we'll have a blessing of backpacks during the children's time, so please have your child bring their school backpack or bag this day. The kids will also sing!

- **October 15th: People's Church**

Pr. Birgitte, the mission redeveloper at People's Church in Bemidji, will be our pulpit supply! Let us welcome her in the name of Jesus, as she brings the Good News for us and gives some updates on People's Church. Our loose change offering on this day will go to this important ministry.

- **October 22nd:** Nothing special – just a great day to be together in worship as God's people

- **October 29th: Reformation Sunday**

The last Sunday of October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday in some denominations. Lutherans use red as the color of the day because it is the color used for the Holy Spirit, who renews and re-forms the Church and God's people, not just once, but each and every day. So, wear red, if you like, as we celebrate!

As always, I'm available if you need to chat or just want to grab a bite to eat. May God bless you with peace and everything good this month!

Your pastor,
Brother Jeff



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER FOOD SHELF NEEDS

October and November Food Shelf needs will be Autumn themed. Canned Pumpkin, Canned Cranberries. Think about things you find on the table during the Holidays.

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.



ST. STEPHEN'S SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 6



Join your friends and family and attend the annual St. Stephen's Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at St. Stephen's Church. It will be held on Friday, October 6th from 11 am to 1 pm in the Parish Hall. As a special bonus, you can end your meal with a delicious piece of pie!

Take outs are available.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET/SHARING TREE PROJECT

Dear Community Members and Businesses:

With fall in the air, it is time to start planning the annual Christmas Food Basket and Sharing Tree Projects, here at Marshall County Social Services. As we have in past years, we plan to distribute Christmas Food Baskets to elderly and disabled individuals in Marshall County; the Sharing Tree Project will be distributing toys, quilts, and gloves to children in our county who are in need. For years, these projects have been possible, because of generous donations from local businesses and community members. We hope to continue with these projects, helping to spread some Christmas joy.

Once again, we are asking for monetary donations to help support these projects. Donations are used for the purchase of food and other grocery items to make up the food baskets and to buy gloves, toys, and other gift items to use towards the Sharing Tree Project.

Along with monetary donations towards these projects, we also appreciate donations of new items of toys and winter gloves. We are also incredibly grateful for any donations of handmade quilts. All donated quilts are given to families who have indicated a need for this. All these items are used for gifts for the children on the Sharing Tree list, last year 226 children received gifts.

Community contributions received last year made it possible to distribute 136 food baskets. The food items for the food baskets are purchased locally and once the baskets are made up, they will be delivered to the needy and elderly by staff and volunteers.

If you would like to contribute to these projects, we would appreciate any of the mentioned donations. Checks can be written out to Marshall County Social Services and mailed to the Marshall County Social Services, 208 East Colvin Avenue, Suite 14, Warren, MN 56762. If you have questions, please contact me. We appreciate your generosity and thank you for your support of these Christmas projects!

Stacey Urbaniak
Marshall County Social Services
218-745-5124
stacey.urbaniak@co.marshall.mn.us





CHURCH NEWS

THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet for Bible Study on Monday, October 9th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. September Loose Change: **People's Church of Bemidji**

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, Ava Weisenberger 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 newsletter to firstl@wiktel.com by the 20th of each month.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who so faithfully bring food and work in the kitchen for funerals. With a smaller congregation, our calling is becoming more frequent. Whether it is bringing pickles, a salad, a hotdish or working, it is all an important part of putting on a meal for the families and friends of those who have lost a loved one. Your service to First Lutheran is so appreciated. Thank you for helping when we reach out!
Betsy, Melanie and Sharon

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FUND OPTIONS

The church 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.

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.



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.

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10/1 | Justin & Krissy McMahan Family |
| 10/8 | Bruce & Cindy Field, David & Penny Jensen |
| 10/15 | David & Debbie Benson, Matthew & Kayla Benson |
| 10/22 | Steve & Melanie McGlynn, Megan & Jerome Hoper |
| 10/29 | Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Marilee Marty, Nona Carl, Lee Bukowski |



Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for awarding me with the Fodstad Scholarship! I'm going into my 3rd year at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and can't wait to see what this year brings. Thank you for the support!

Holly Jensen

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for sending me your church newsletter. I really appreciate reading news about the church, as I grew up going to First Lutheran. I had some wonderful Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

Kind regards, Shirley Dammann Chamberlain



MEMORIALS

UNDESIGNATED

Mavis Petersen

David & Debbie Benson

Alvin & Becky Nybladh

Jeff & Jami Nelson

Larry & Karen Nybladh

Steve & Michelle Weberg

Mark & Kim Anderson

John & Sandra Staffenecker

Bruce & Aase Hamness

Marilee Marty

Karen Schendel

Michael & Cheri Douglas

Lila Grandstrand

Michael and Cheri Douglas

Shirley Ellefson

Michael and Cheri Douglas

SCHENDEL FAMILY FUND

Mavis Petersen

John & Shawna Peterson

Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak

Tim & Jody Paulson

NEW SIGN

Mavis Petersen

Tim & Darlene Bates

Brian & Jean Hendricks

Gale Frei

Al & Ellen Anton

Karen Schendel

Shirley Chamberlain

Lila Grandstrand

Tim & Darlene Bates

Kay Kroulik

Shirley Chamberlain

HARMONY PARK

Mavis Petersen

Garry & Sharon Kotts

EDUCATION FUND

Jim & Mavis Petersen

Michael & Monna Rae Hjedness

PARSONAGE FUND

Mavis Petersen

Nancy Gajeski



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/2..... Abby McMahon
 10/2..... Kole Szczepanski
 10/4..... Kelsie Torgerson
 10/6..... Tara Jarshaw
 10/9..... Krissy McMahon
 10/10..... Meghan Hoper
 10/22..... Jami Nelson
 10/23..... Olive Douglas
 10/23..... Brian Torgerson
 10/24..... Marnie Peterson
 10/24..... Staci Winge
 10/28..... Lee Bukowski
 10/30..... Thomas McGlynn
 10/31..... Vicky Weiland



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/8..... Roberta & Neil McGlynn
 10/16..... Vicky & Ron Weiland
 10/19..... Steve & Melanie McGlynn
 10/22..... Muriel & Lowell Bring
 10/26..... Alana & Dave McGlynn

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.

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.

PARSONAGE CLEANING UPDATE

THANK YOU! to everyone that showed up to help with cleaning the parsonage, both inside and out. It's lookin' bright and shiny! But, there are still a few things to be done. Below is the list. Please let Melanie McGlynn know if you can do any of the following:

Outside Work

- Clean gutters
- Power wash deck
- Clean outdoor sheds
- Clean garage
- Remove chimney in garage

Inside House Work

- Clean windows outside & 1 garage window
- Clean downstairs bathroom
- Put up smoke alarms
- Put sealant on entry doors
- Caulk around tub
- Wash light fixtures

Things left to purchase

- New mirror for bathroom by bedrooms
- Doorstops for bedroom doors
- Vent covers
- New door between house & garage

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 6, 2023

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

Also in attendance: Darlene Bates and Pastor Jeff.

President Connie called the meeting to order.

Betsy gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Minutes were updated with Kris Ann's attendance and addition of Whitney being the person who found the pressure washing service. Motion by Betsy to accept the August minutes with changes, seconded by Brian. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Darlene presented August's offerings. Melanie made a motion to accept the minutes. Whitney seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Offerings for August

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|---|--------------|
| August 6th | \$4,881.00 | August Loose Change-\$202.57 | St. Gianni's |
| August 13th | \$3,070.00 | Offering for Sustaining Rural Ministry- | \$647.00 |
| August 20th | \$1,341.00 | | |
| August 27th | \$1,715.91 | | |

Membership changes: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deacons:

- Pastor Jeff will not be gone in the next month.

Trustees:

- Seamless Pro gave us a quote to do the gutters. The total cost for the gutter replacement is \$9016.00. They will get it done before winter if we send them ½ as their down payment. Kris Ann made a motion to move forward, seconded by Jess.

Parish Education:

- Wednesday School will start September 27th and run from 6:00-7:00.
- Confirmation for 7th & 8th graders will start on September 20th from 6:30-7:30.
- Confirmation for 9th graders will begin on September 27th from 6:30-7:30.
- October 8th we will give 2nd & 3rd graders the story Bibles, have a backpack blessing, and this will be the 1st time the Wednesday School classes will sing in church.

Stewardship:

- The church sign that people have been donating money towards is still in the works. We have \$6,024.70 in donations so far. When Betsy gets the quote, she will send it out to the council right away.
- The toddler musical flowers for Harmony Park are in. Betsy will contact someone to pour the cement. This way they can be installed before winter. We already have taken in donations for the installation. Kris Ann made a motion that if the installation is more than \$500, she can go ahead. This was seconded by Pat.
- September 24th is the Harvest Festival from 4:30-6:30. A sign-up sheet will be put out. Council will stay after church on the 24th to get things organized.

Pastor's Report:

- October 1st would like to have a pet blessing. It wouldn't be during church, but Brother Jeff would like to offer something from 11:00-11:30.

- On October 15th Pastor Birgitte Simpson from People's Church in Bemidji will be at the church to preach and allow people to meet her. They are our sister church, so it would be very beneficial for people to get to know her. Our loose change that Sunday will go to People's Church.
- Renee Jensen talked to Brother Jeff about the school using the handbells again. Council agreed that it would be great for them to use them!
- Currently we do communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays. Brother Jeff would like permission to do some additional communion on special Sundays. Council thought it was a great idea!
- Currently we are putting together 3 bulletins every week. They would like to streamline this and just print 1 bulletin that would work for everyone.
- Last month we talked about developing the mission statement. Brother Jeff has a form that he'd like the council to look at in the next month. At next month's meeting we will talk about what our thoughts are about the form, and then we will move forward with having congregation members fill out the form.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parsonage cleaning will be this Sunday. Hopefully we get a good turn out to get a lot of work done!

NEW BUSINESS:

- Deanna received an email. Connie read the letter to the council.
- North Star Manor has monthly birthday parties. They sent a letter wondering if we would consider being a sponsor for a month. These parties are the 3rd Friday of each month at 2:00. Council will check with them to see if March is still available. February will be our 2nd option.
- Deanna did the treasurer job for 7 months with no pay. In the budget, we have \$200/month budgeted. Betsy made a motion to backpay Deanna for her 7 months (\$1400), seconded by Kris Ann.
- Kris Ann brought up the possibility of doing some sort of sharing event with First Lutheran in Karlstad occasionally since Brother Jeff & Pastor Caitlin are married.

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 October 4th at 7:30 PM.

Melanie McGlynn
Church Council Secretary



BROTHER JEFF'S CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION:

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

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

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

OCTOBER 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1 9 am Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship 11 am - Pet Blessing | 2 | 3 | 4 6 pm - Wednesday School 6:30 - Confirmation 7:30 pm Church Council | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9 am Worship (Bibles, Backpacks, Singing) 10 am - Fellowship | 9 6:30 pm Martha Ruth Circle | 10 9:30 am Quilting | 11 6 pm - Wednesday School 6:30 - Confirmation | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9 am - Worship with Communion 10 am - Fellowship | 16 | 17 | 18 6 pm - Wednesday School 6:30 - Confirmation | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9 am Worship 10 am - Fellowship | 23 | 24 9:30 am Quilting | 25 6 pm - Wednesday School 6:30 - Confirmation | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9 am - Worship 10 am - Fellowship | 30 | 31 | | | | All Sunday Services are celebrated in-person or on Facebook Live |
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