



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STEPHEN, MN

July & August 2024



CHURCH CONTACT INFO

573 STEPHEN AVE IN STEPHEN

Phone: 218-478-3895 | **Email:** firstl@wiktel.com | **Mail:** PO Box 72, Stephen, MN 56757

Web: www.flcstephen.com | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/flcstephen

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

DARLENE BATES, SECRETARY

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am–12 pm

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFO

REV. BROTHER JEFF BROWN

Phone: 218-230-6583 | **Email:** flcpastor@wiktel.com | **Days:** Sun–Thurs (off Friday)

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear First Lutheran faith family,

I hope and pray your summer is going well! It's been wonderful to see many of you around town, and for those who are making use of nearby lakes, I hope you're enjoying your lake time!

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith. ~ Galatians 6:9-10

Some reflection questions for us as we go through summer:

- Where do you see opportunities to “work for the good of all” in Jesus’ name?
- How is God calling you to serve “the family of faith” in our congregation?

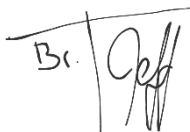
Please note I will be taking some time away in July:

- The 8th-13th, Caitlin and I will be in California helping her parents prepare their house there for inactivity as they make their way to Stephen to live in the parsonage here for a few months. We are excited to have them close by for a few months of this year, and also that our wonderfully remodeled and updated parsonage here can be lived in!
- The 24th-29th, I will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico for my annual retreat with the Lutheran Franciscans community. This is the one time of the year we all get together from around the country – to worship and pray together, discuss ministry and service, and to be together as a “chosen family.”

I don't have any time away for August scheduled as of this newsletter printing, but I will announce in worship if something comes up!

Peace and everything good to you!

Your pastor,
Brother Jeff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Br. Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the middle of the letters.

CHURCH NOTES

THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for the recent loose change offering/donation. We will put it in our Christmas project fund. It will be used to help buy gifts of toys, winter hats and gloves for children, along with food baskets for the elderly in our county. Thank you so much for thinking of our organization!

Sincerely,

Stacy Urbaniak, Marshall County Social Services.

THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, July 8th at 6:30 pm at the church with Nancy Gajeski as hostess and Monday, August 12th at 6:30 pm at the church with Jan Anderson as hostess. Bible study lessons will be from the "Gather" magazine.

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.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. July's Loose Change will be for Lutheran Disaster Relief. August's Loose Change will be for St. Gianni's.

Are you missing any pans or bowls? Please check the back counter in the kitchen for items you may have brought for funerals or other events.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES are printed and available in the basket in the fellowship hall. They will no longer be printed in the newsletter.

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Remember to change the paraments and fill the candles. Communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sundays. Committee members prepare the altar.

THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM was installed in May by HB Sound & Light, Inc. You may have noticed the better quality of the Sunday services both live and on Face Book. Thank you to those who have donated to the new Technology Fund already! Please consider future donations for this very needed upgrade. The total cost of this project was \$25,191.25. The total donations to date are \$5236.25.

JULY FOODSHELF: The theme is *SUMMER CRUNCH TIME*: Chips, Dips, Nachos, Salsa, Fritos, Pretzels, etc. As always, non-themed food items are always accepted along with any household and personal care items. Any questions? Please call Jane Smidt (218) 478-2456, FLC Coordinator. The MARSHALL COUNTY FOOD SHELF is located in St. Rose Church, Argyle, MN.

2024 NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Jeff Nelson and I attended the 2024 Northwestern Minnesota ELCA Synod Assembly at Concordia College as the voting members from our congregation. This year's theme was Good Soil. This was the first year since covid that an in-person assembly took place. We had a total of 3 plenary sessions. There was one on Friday and the other two were on Saturday. There was only one resolution that we needed to vote on, regarding the compensation guidelines for 2025. The changes were: 1) provide a 3% cost of living adjustments to the base salary charts, 2) add guidance on Minnesota's Safe and Sick law, 3) SAM guidelines have incorporated changes from previous years guidelines that were not reflected in the SAM guidelines going forward, 4) editorial changes to page numbering and table of contents. This resolution did pass. We voted on the Synod budget for the 2026 fiscal year along with the various Synod Elections. The Synod elections for the multiple candidates were: Lay Man, Lay Woman, Person of Color, Rostered Man, Rostered Woman, Young Adult. Otherwise, all other Synod elections had candidates running unopposed. Next year, we will be voting on Bishop. Bishop Tesch has indicated that he plans on running in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Ann Pietruszewski

SCHOOL KITS COLLECTION

Once again FLC will be collecting the items needed for Lutheran World Relief school kits.

A Thrivent grant will purchase bags and some notebooks. Usually during August there will be sales on these items.

Items needed:

- 5 pens
- 5 pencils
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Colors -24
- Pencil sharpener

If you want to donate money, we will shop for you. Any questions, contact Ellen Anton.





God is Good, All The Time! And All the Time, God is Good! Especially during the week of June 17th, when we hosted our yearly VBS at First Lutheran Church. We had over 20 kids in Pk-6th grade join us for the 3 nights of camp. Our team of energetic camp workers joined us from Park River/Red Willow Bible camp as well as Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria.

Our theme this year was “Created to Be”. Throughout the week we had 3 Bible Dives where we took a closer look at what that means. We read stories that helped us understand that we are created to be **free, brave & disruptive disciples**. There are opportunities around us everyday where we can spread His goodness if we simply open our eyes and hearts.

Even though our Bible Dives had some great stories & conversations, it seemed that most of the kids enjoyed the fellowship and worship the most. Our kids had a great time coming together and learning new games & fun table blessings. We were also thankful to have Brother Jeff & camp counselor Maria share their musical talents with us as they led our praise and worship time each evening.

I want to extend a big thank you to our First Lutheran Church council that values our youth and is willing to provide VBS free of charge to everyone. I also want to thank all of our FLC families that made VBS a priority in their busy summer schedules. Finally, thank you to our camp workers that bring such energy and excitement to VBS each year. They provide quality content and instruction each year and we are fortunate to have them in our area.

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed summer!
Kelsey Anderson

MEMORIALS

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Luther Johnson	Margaret Carter	Undesignated
Connie Troska	Alvin & Becky Nybladh	Undesignated
	Mark & Kim Anderson	Technology Fund
	Mark & Beth Kroulik	Technology Fund
	Lee & Jan Bukowski	Technology Fund
	Bruce & Cindy Field	Technology Fund
	Jeff & Jami Nelson	Technology Fund
	Tim & Jody Paulson	Technology Fund
	Ingrid Bazey	Technology Fund
	Nancy Gajeski	Technology Fund
	Larry & Eileen Opp	Technology Fund
	DeAnn Weiland	Technology Fund
	Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak	Technology Fund
	Larry & Juanita Eftefield	Technology Fund
	Ellen Anton	Sign Fund
	Penny Jensen	Altar Fund
Robert & Dianne Dammann	Technology Fund	
Family & friends	Undesignated	
Elaine Benson	David & Debbie Benson	Undesignated
	Katherine Labine	Undesignated
	Clifford & Jean Nyland	Undesignated
	Earl & Jan Anderson	Undesignated
	Mark & Kim Anderson	Undesignated
	Nancy Gajeski	Technology Fund
	Kenneth & Pat Heggen	Technology Fund
	Ingrid Bazey	Education Fund
	Bruce & Aase Hamnes	Technology Fund
	Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak	Schendel Fund
	Betty Pikop	Undesignated
	Elaine Benson Family	Undesignated
	Penny Jensen	Altar Fund
	Robert & Dianne Dammann	Technology Fund
	Family & friends	Undesignated

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Donald Merdink Jr.	Penny Jensen	Altar Fund
C. Carter	Margaret Carter	Undesignated
William McGregor	Kenneth & Pat Heggen	Technology Fund
Torkel & Inga Koland	John & Isabella Koland	Undesignated

CHURCH FINANCIALS UPDATE

Weekly Sunday offerings

	Plate	Vanco (on-line)	Loose Change
May 5	\$2904.26	\$130.00	
May 12	\$1609.00	\$205.00	
May 19	\$1781.00	\$130.00	\$98.56
May 26	\$1385.00	\$130.00	
June 2	\$2006.00	\$130.00	
June 9	\$1986.00	\$130.00	
June 16	\$1401.00	\$205.00	\$71.72
June 23	\$1631.00	\$150.00	

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$189,984.60

Currently \$15,080.25 behind

Current balances of Funds available for donations:

Technology Fund	\$-21,803.50
Outdoor Sign Fund	-\$3,979.10
Schendel Family Fund	\$9,778.25
Undesignated	\$3,280.00
Altar Fund	\$230.00
Education Fund	\$605.00

JULY CALENDAR

Also available on the church website: www.flcstephen.com. Click on the Calendar tab.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook 7:45 pm Council	4 USA Indep. Day	5 Pastor's sabbath	6
7 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	8 Quilting 6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	9	10 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	11	12 Pastor's sabbath	13
14 9 am Worship	15	16	17 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	18	19 Pastor's sabbath	20
21 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	22 Quilting	23	24 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	25	26 Pastor's sabbath	27
28 9 am Worship	29	30	31 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook			

AUGUST CALENDAR

Also available on the church website: www.flcstephen.com. Click on the Calendar tab.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Pastor's sabbath	3
4 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	5	6	7 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook 7:45 pm Council	8	9 Pastor's sabbath	10
11 9 am Worship	12 Quilting 6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	13	14 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook 5 pm Bible Study	15	16 Pastor's sabbath	17
18 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	19	20	21 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	22	23 Pastor's sabbath	24
25 9 am Worship	26 Quilting	27	28 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook 5 pm Bible Study	29	30 Pastor's sabbath	31

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Tamara Benitt
7/2 Linda Donarski
7/3 Daniel Douglas
7/3 Nixon Pietruszewski
7/5 Abigail McGlynn
7/6 Cayson Clausen
7/8 Alana McGlynn
7/8 Griffin Nelson
7/9 Paige Pietruszewski
7/9 Paige Smith
7/9 Kalen Szczepanski
7/10 Ethan Hendricks
7/10 Ashton Setterholm
7/11 David McGlynn
7/12 Kasen Benitt
7/12 Emmie McGlynn
7/15 Nick Winge
7/17 Joyce Nelson
7/17 Sawyer Sundby
7/18 Brynlee Benson
7/18 Jan Bukowski
7/21 Kyle Pietruszewski
7/25 Lon Woinarowicz
7/27 Nina Platt

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/3 Seth McGregor
8/4 Charlotte Rogus
8/6 Bob Dammann
8/7 Matthew Benson
8/9 Bruce Hamnes
8/14 Ethan McGregor
8/17 Chris McGlynn
8/18 Jess Rogus
8/19 Kylee Clausen
8/26 Larry Nybladh
8/29 Steve McGlynn
8/31 Neil McGlynn
8/31 Clara Rogus

JULY & AUG. ANNIVERSARIES

7/8 Roger & Jane Smidt
7/16 David & Penny Jensen
7/16 Lon & Melissa Woinarowicz
7/17 Earl & Jan Anderson
7/21 Larry & Eileen Opp
7/25 Mike & Cheri Douglas
7/26 Garry & Sharon Kotts
7/28 Tom & Ann Woinarowicz
8/2 Kyle and Paige Pietruszewski
8/4 Loren and Kristie Hoepfer
8/11 Mark & Beth Kroulik

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