

MAY 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

On Easter evening, Jesus' disciples were locked away in the upper room for fear of what may happen to them as a consequence of following him. As they were locked away, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you."

"Peace be with you." What comforting words for the disciples to hear in their time of fear and desperation. And what comforting words for us to hear in our lives filled with heartbreak and pain, and a world filled with war and suffering. We could all use a little peace. This is part of the reason we Share the Peace of Christ in worship on Sundays. When we do this, we are not merely saying, "good morning" or "hello" to one another. It is deeper than that. We are extending the peace that Christ gave to us to those with whom we worship and are filled with Christ's peace from them in return.

Peace can be hard to come by. With lives filled up with this activity or that commitment, or minds consumed by worry or stress, peace is not always easy to find. Perhaps you are busy with work, or shuttling children to-and-fro or volunteering, and you hardly have time to slow down and take a breath. Or perhaps you are anxious about difficulties at home or in your professional life. If only you could find some peace.

But we do have peace. And it comes from Christ. So, how might you be intentional about finding that peace in your own life? For you, that peace may be found in prayer or devotion. Or as it gets warmer, that peace may be found on the water, in the woods or on a summer vacation. Wherever and however, you find Christ's peace, remember his words to you, "Peace be with you."

God's blessings,
Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt's Office Hours and Contact Info

Cell Phone: 715-379-9002 **Email:** morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com

Wednesdays: 10:00am - 12:00pm at FEDERATED

Thursdays: 11:00am - 1:00pm at COMMON CUP

Fridays: 2:00 - 4:00pm at FIRST LUTHERAN

Pastor Matt will generally be in one of the church offices most afternoons, and is also available by appointment. Mondays are Pastor Matt's day off.

Let's Celebrate!

SUNDAY, MAY 10

➔ 9:30AM WORSHIP

with special recognition of our graduating high school students

➔ 10:30AM IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL



Celebrate the end of the Sunday school year with fun for all ages! Prizes for all ages preschool through adult



Come and congratulate our graduating seniors and wish them the best for the future!

Graduates this year are Grant Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Chance Buro, Sawyer Fynboh, Jennie Odello and Kye Suess

CAKE, ICE CREAM & COFFEE SERVED!



Sponsored by First Lutheran Church WELCA (Women of the ELCA) with funding from Thrivent



PEACE OF MIND SEMINAR Please join us for an advance funeral planning seminar on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30pm at First Lutheran. Topics include the steps involved in getting a funeral plan place, how that plan will affect your loved ones, and answering questions on the types of services. Hosted by Pedersen Funeral with Magen Barton. RSVP by contacting the church office at First or Federated. Walk-ins are welcome. Questions? Or unable to attend? Call Megan Barton at 801-998-2747.

THANK YOU for everyone's donations in March and April to the Stevens County Food Shelf. We donated 30 pounds of food/personal care items. Individual members, a girl scout troupe and money from our Fall dinner in November 2025 were combined to make a \$1000 donation from our church. This will be matched with our First Lutheran Church endowment money for a total of \$2000 to the Food Shelf. The committee decided to wait with this match until July when donations may not be as great from the community. Also, our Sunday School students packed 26 birthday bags for the Food Shelf. Each bag included a handmade birthday card from the students. Thank you families for donating supplies for the bags and we also used monies from a Thrivent Grant.

COFFEE HOUR is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **PEACE Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of May. Those in the Peace Service Group are: Emilie Brusten, Doug & Sharon Ehlers, Rob & Peggy Jergenson, Dennis & Natalie Ketterling, Heidi & Neil Suess, Kent & Erica Swenson, Dorwin & Millie Tschetter, Jamie & Rochelle Van Kemepen. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, May 6 at 11:30am at Mi Mexico in Morris. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the June newsletter is noon on Thursday, May 21.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, May 21 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

ENDOWMENT FUND DISPERSEMENT the Endowment Committee recently met and dispersed funds to the following: \$631.40 to Grappling with God Wrestling Camp, \$1000 to Common Cup, \$1000 to Cocoon House (youth homeless shelter & support in Everett, WA), \$1000 to Summit Cemetery Fund.

SHARE & CARE QUILTERS meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 9am to 12pm in the sewing room (lower level) to sew and put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Come and join the group! Sewing skills are NOT required as there are other talents needed.

SOCIAL HOUR AT LEGACY LIVING is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm for residents and friends. First Lutheran is on the schedule to supply the treats/goodies for 2026 on May 20 and September 16. Donated treats are welcome.... a batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us anytime. If interested in helping please contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700.

PIES...PIES...PIES! Thank you to all the helpers for their time and fellowship during the pie-making work sessions! And special thanks go out to those who purchased pies, which supports Women of the ELCA's outgoing ministry and the community. First Lutheran Church WELCA will be meeting shortly to decide what charities we want



to support with the funds that were raised. Looking forward to the 2027 pie bake, we will need more frozen **rhubarb** and **apples**. If you are willing to donate and cut up your own fruit, please put the fruit in containers or freezer bags with the number of cups labeled and dated. We have a freezer available at church to store the fruit in. If you have **rhubarb** or **apples** this year and would like to donate for our pies but are not able to cut them up yourselves, please contact Sharon Ehlers 320-808-4500 or Emilie Brustuen 719-440-8575 or leave your name with Rita at the church office, 320-589-3242. And THANK YOU to the pictured group of ladies for preparing crusts for 80 pies!

SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

Jan 12	In memory of Howard K. Olson on the anniversary of his birthday
Feb 24	In memory of Helen Olson on the anniversary of her birthday
April 4	In honor of Ward Voorhees on his 90 th birthday from Emilie Brustuen
April 6	In memory of Howard K. and Helen Olson on the anniversary of their wedding day
April 7	In memory of Lavon Francis Lund, father of Sheila Fahje, from Emilie Brustuen
April 8	In memory of Robert Matthies from Emilie Brustuen
April 16	In memory of Charlie Kirk from Bob & Nadine Heck
April 17	In loving memory of Lenore Anderson on her granddaughter's birthday from Shannon
April 19	Happy Birthday Nadine Heck from Bob
April 20	In memory of Lindsey Rossow from Emilie Brustuen
April 21	In memory of Kelly Hargus from Emilie Brustuen
April 22	In memory of Rick & Kathy Johnson from Emilie Brustuen
April 25	Happy Birthday Marlene Seip from Carol Day
April 26	In memory of Ben Presley from Jo Solvie
April 27	In memory of Courtney Engebretson from Jo Solvie

You can sponsor the of the ELCA for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor of someone. Please contact the church office for more information, or to sponsor at date.



The Sunday school students made 26 "Birthday in a Bag" for the local food shelf. Each bag contained the ingredients for a birthday cake, along with a homemade card.

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS



\$506 was raised during the Global Barnyard Noising offering! The Sunday school students will be choosing gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog to help families escape the cycle of hunger and poverty. Thank you to all that donated!

SENIORS on the MOVE

APRIL's EVENT is planned and we are set to go! We will be traveling to Alexandria to spend a couple hours volunteering at "Sharing Love & Hope" followed by treating ourselves to coffee before heading back to Morris.

MAY's EVENT is still in the planning stage, but we hope to visit the Barn Quilt and Boutique in Eagle Bend. Watch for more details in the upcoming bulletins!

JUNE's EVENT will be Women's Week at Luther Crest. Come for the day....or stay for the week! June 21-26 with a cost of \$680 per person for the week. Don't want to stay the whole week? A day trip is planned for Tuesday, June 23. More details coming soon! The weeklong stay is filling up fast, so let us know if you are interested.



 **You are invited to the
2026 SW MN Synodical
Women's Organization Convention**

Saturday, May 2, 2026
Calvary Lutheran Church
302 Olena Avenue SE, Willmar, Minnesota

“Rising in Faith, Leading with Courage”
Honoring Women in Ministry in our Synod



Theme Verse:
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14 NRSV^{ue}

Registration Fee: \$40 - includes lunch and concert

- Opening Worship with Holy Communion: Bishop Dee Pederson and Synod Ministers Rev. Seyward Ask and Rev. Heather Culuris
- Keynote Speaker: Bishop Dee Pederson
- Special Performance by Sweetwater Revival

In-Kind Offerings for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries will be collected in the parking lot.
 ≈ Convention Offerings: 50% to Churchwide Women, 25% to Hope for Our City, 25% to LWR for shipping
 ≈ In-Kind Donations of canned goods will be collected for Hope for Our City in Willmar.
 ≈ Katie's Cans will be on the tables at lunch. Bring your loose change for Katie's Fund.

- 7:30 a.m. Registration and service projects begin. Coffee and treats will be served
In-Kind Offering Drop-off begins in church parking lot.
 9:00 a.m. Convention Opens, In-Kind Drop-off ends, Opening Worship
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Service opportunities, recognition of women in ministry, short business meeting and election of SWO Board members, guest speakers, lunch, commissioning of Triennial Voting Members, and Sweetwater Revival concert.

**The Lutheran Men in Mission Convention will be held simultaneously.
Please encourage the men in your congregation to attend.**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: April 14, 2026

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Matt reported that Holy Week Services went well and were also well attended. He also noted that on May 21, Pedersen Funeral Home will give a seminar on advance funeral planning at First at 6pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Worship & Music:** Printed minutes provided. Plans are underway to honor high school graduates at the May 10 service.
- **Mission & Evangelism:** Olivewood pieces have been purchased as Confirmation gifts for the 2026 confirmands. They are being stored for Confirmation Sunday.
- **Education:** looking for ideas for an alternative to VBS this year with maybe something that includes whole family involvement.
- **Property:** SnowDogs hired to fertilize the lawn 4x this year. Waiting to hear the cost of replacing the hydraulic power unit. Drywall will be installed on the bell tower wall due to peeling.
- **WELCA:** Glacial Ridge Women's Gathering was held on April 18, Pie Baking/Sales on April 25/26, and Family Bingo on May 10.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- UMM Community Engagement will hold the September Community meal at First
- Rita requested reduced hours for the summer (mid-May through August) without pay. Request approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Congregational Meeting and potluck in March were a success, with many people and many potluck dishes shared
- Each congregation is hosting one Sunday to vote on whether or not to continue the First/Federated collaboration. Both church councils will meet on April 29 to count the votes together. Rita will email the congregation with the results that evening.
- The Glacial Ridge Conference meeting was rescheduled to April 12 at Kongsvinger.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Congregational Life Committee needs some fresh ideas on how to get more participation from congregation members for serving at coffee hour and funerals. How can we do things differently moving forward? What could that look like? Brainstorming needs to happen, and a committee needs to investigate options to present to the council.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The CD at National Bank of Commerce in Morris came due (6-month term). A motion was approved to allow the CD to continue being renewed each time until the council deems it necessary to do otherwise.

NEXT MEETING & TIME: May 12, 2026, at 7pm. Donations given by Al Monroe.

MARCH'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$12,096.75	March Giving	\$57,215.25	Year-to-Date Giving
\$29,860.72	March Expense	\$73,668.73	Year-to-Date Expenses

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2026</h1>					1	2 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith
3 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following	4	5 11am Pastors' Text Study	6 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Mi Mexico 1pm Worship & Music Mtg 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	7	8	9 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith
10 Graduate Sunday Mother's Day No Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following service 10:30am Family Bingo Event	11	12 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Church Council Mtg	13 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	14 9am - 12pm Share & Care (quilting)	15	16 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith
17 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following	18	19 11am Pastors' Text Study	20	21 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 2pm Zipporah Bible Study 6:30pm Peace of Mind Seminar at FIRST	22	23 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith
24 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following service	25 MEMORIAL DAY (office closed)	26 11am Pastors' Text Study	27	28 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	29	30 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith
31 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following service						

*Services are streamed live on YouTube at both FIRST or FEDERATED depending on where the service is held.
(First Lutheran Church - Morris MN) and (Federated Church of Morris)*

Recorded services available on FIRST'S website at www.flcmorris.org and on FEDERATED'S website at morrisfederated.org

Rita is available Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, with in-office days on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

MAY WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, MAY 10 <i>No Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Family Bingo</i>	SUNDAY, MAY 24 <i>No Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC</i>	SUNDAY, MAY 31 <i>No Sunday school 9:30am Worship</i>
Ushers: Steve Just Ward Voorhees Kellie Hentges	Ushers: Bob Heck Dennis Feuchtenberger Michael Bjorklund	Ushers: Al Harris Doug & Sharon Ehlers
Lector: Denise Odello	Lector: Allyn Plattner	Lector: LeAnn Dean
Acolytes: Wes Odello Kenzie Just	Acolytes: Giana Feuchtenberger Ashlyn Williamson	Acolytes: Zachary Huebner Braeden Huebner
Communion Prep: Vicki Dalager	Communion Prep: Kahla Gillespie	
Communion Server: Judy Buro	Communion Server: Laurie Feuchtenberger	
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger	Video: Dave Jungst	Video: Mike Odello
TV slides: Abigail Anderson	TV slides: Aubrey Williamson	TV slides: Copper Nesvig
Nursery: Michelle Just	Nursery: Lindy Ekola	Nursery: Jone Anderson
Accompanist: Suzanne Smith	Accompanist: Suzanne Smith	Accompanist: Jennie Odello

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 3:

9:30am at FEDERATED with fellowship following. Sunday school during service.

Sunday, May 10:

9:30am at FIRST with Family Bingo event following. No Sunday school.

Sunday, May 17:

9:30am at FEDERATED with fellowship following. Sunday school during service.

Sunday, May 24:

9:30am at FIRST with fellowship following; no Sunday school.

Sunday, May 31:

9:30am at FIRST with fellowship following.

Happy Birthday

- May 6: Abigail Anderson, Diane Dosdall
Estelle Feuchtenberger, Craig Knochenmus
- May 9: Wes Odello, Andrew Ulrich
- May 10: Dick Hawkinson
- May 13: Justin Anderson, Kevin Williamson
- May 15: Kenneth Grunig
- May 17: Brady Krusemark
- May 18: Isaac Just
- May 20: Eric Smith
- May 21: Greta Hentges
- May 22: Elizabeth Harris, Jacqui Hills
- May 23: Carol Day, Tammy Roth
- May 24: Mary Huebner
- May 26: Andi Van Kempen
- May 27: Charli Erdahl
- May 31: Ken Keller

HAPPY Anniversary!

- May 9: Mark & Deb Mattheis
- May 20: Barry & Nancy Erdahl
- May 22: Marisa & Brian Knutson
- May 26: Wayne & Laura Peterson
- May 27: Ken & Noreen Grunig



THIS IS THE DAY
THAT THE LORD HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Psalm 118:24

First Lutheran Church
200 East 5th St
Morris, MN 56267
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Organization
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Permit #83
Morris, MN

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Morris, MN 56267
Phone: 320-589-3242
website: www.flcmorris.org
email: office@flcmorris.org
Facebook: Morris-First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

SEE SCHEDULE ON CALENDAR
Broadcasted live via Facebook and
YouTube; recorded services
available on our website.

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 1:30pm
MediaCom: Channel 8 or 117-2 (*digital*)

STAFF

Matt Orendorff, Pastor
Rita Bye, Office Manager
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sharon Ehlers, President
Dick Smith, Vice President
Naomi Fynboh, Treasurer
J. Mark Nesvig, Secretary
Elizabeth Harris
Nadine Heck
Allen Monroe

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