

# First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

200 East 5th Street, Morris MN 56267  
320-589-3242  
www.flcmorris.org



*Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve*

# January 2021

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30am

broadcasted live on Facebook;  
also available on our website  
and YouTube channel

Dear People and Friends of First Lutheran,

What a year it has been. Where do we even start? A pandemic that continues. Disruption after disruption. The need to adapt, the struggle to learn how to live, work, parent and respond, and seek to be good neighbors in the midst of a pandemic. Polarized viewpoints. Hard decisions. Painful closures.. Schools, churches, restaurants and bars, businesses, hospitals all on steep learning curve. The world has faced challenges unlike any we have faced for a very long time. A contentious election cycle. Huge adjustments navigated in educational approaches and schools. And more. This has been like no other year any of us have lived through.

Your church council and I have worked hard, and prayed often, to make wise, though difficult, decisions in the midst of all this. We have grappled with decisions while weighing in the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, Minnesota Dept. of Health, our own Synod/ELCA, and our local situation. We have adapted and learned new ways of doing ministry. We continued to work beyond our church walls to partner with others in new ministries... We've lamented the loss of some things we once took for granted, like attending a concert, worship, or sporting event. To say it has been a roller coaster may be an understatement. I (and maybe you, too) have lost sleep with wondering: "How do I do ministry, and how are we to do ministry, in a pandemic? Is it right to not have in-person services? Is it right to potentially expose people to the coronavirus by meeting together? What is the best way forward. How do we use Zoom?" And a myriad of other things. All of us have seen our lives disrupted in so multiple ways.

We have done our best. Our Task Force for reopening met twice. We learned how to live stream our service. We developed a website-based YouTube channel for our services and devotions. We learned how to wear masks and physically distance to protect one another. Weekly we send our bulletins and sermons to those who would like them. We have phoned one another, learned how to Zoom with family or small groups or committees. You have sought to serve your neighbor in many and various ways. You have worn masks and had your glasses fog up continually; you have brought a meal or treats to a neighbor who was sick or lives alone; you have worshipped with us virtually, or in the parking lot, or in the church (before March, and in November). You have helped us move forward in various ways. Including prayers and financial support for our shared ministry. God has been our refuge and strength. We have continued to be the body of Christ and to do ministry. You have parented in trying circumstances... Some of you are "on the front lines" as teachers, paras, medics, health professionals, or running a business. Thank you for the ways you have served, supported and been "the church"! God has been at work among us. God has blessed us with one another!

We now have *the very good news* that vaccines are coming and in the New Year will be widely distributed. Meanwhile, challenges continue for the next few months, until the vaccine makes its way to all who want it, and can finally have large scale effect. Meanwhile, we continue to do all we can to protect one another, for Jesus sake. All of us are weary of this. Yet, now there is light at the end of the tunnel.

In the midst of all this, "the God who comes" has been among us. Can you sense the Spirit in your neighbor, in our or other's worship, with us, with you, in times of prayer, laughter and tears? In anxious moments, and nights of wondering what will come, in our griefs and tears, in laughter. We have been humbled by an invisible virus. Christmas is here and we celebrate the One who bears our griefs and carries our sorrows. The man of sorrow, Jesus Christ. "Surely, surely, he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted..." (Isaiah 53:4, KJV). Jesus shares our sorrows, shares our griefs, shares our losses, sustains and lifts us up, is present in our community, our homes, and is He who can even transform death to life!

He raises us up on eagles' wings, bears us on the breath of dawn, makes us to shine like the sun, and hold us in the palm of His hand.... How has God raised you up? Your family? Others? How can we serve our gracious and loving God? May the nurturing and sending Love of God abide with us all. (Isaiah 40:30-31)

Pastor Dan Belgium

# Mark Your Calendars!

## Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 31

All reports to be included in the Annual Report are due by Monday, January 11

**The following proposed amendments will be voted on  
at First Lutheran's Annual Meeting set to take place at our Annual Meeting.**

### **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution for FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Be it resolved that:

The first sentence of Chapter 12, Paragraph C12.01 of the Constitution for First Lutheran Church be AMENDED so as to provide as follows:

“The voting membership of the Church Council shall consist of **seven (7)** members of the congregation.”

The remaining provisions of Chapter 12, Paragraph C12.01 of the Constitution for First Lutheran Church shall remain unchanged.

Explanation:

The current number of voting members on the Church Council is 11 members. This proposed Amendment would reduce the number of voting members on the Church Council to 7 members. There would be no other changes.

### **Amendment to BYLAWS**

Section 1-Congregational Committee Organization, paragraph 1, subpart a. shall be amended with the inclusion of the following provisions:

“It shall be an aspiration for the Nominating Committee to include younger members of the congregation (i.e., under thirty (30) years of age) as candidates for Church Council and other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran so as to enable a younger member or members to serve as a representative for younger members of First Lutheran on the Council or on the other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran”

so as to provide as follows:

- “a. Nominating Committee- The Nominating Committee shall annually prior to the annual congregational meeting, recommend candidates for Church Council, West Central Homes, West Central Homes Board of Directors, Second Century Foundation, Audit Committee, and such other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran Church and are required to be elected at the annual meeting. It shall be an aspiration for the Nominating Committee to include younger members of the congregation (i.e., under thirty (30) years of age) as candidates for Church Council and other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran so as to enable a younger member or members to serve as a representative for younger members of First Lutheran on the Council or on the other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran and are required to be elected at the annual meeting. The recommended candidates shall be from among those eligible and otherwise qualified to serve in said capacity. The Nominating Committee shall make known to the Church Council its report and recommendations prior to the annual meeting.”

# FIRST THINGS

## Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

Pastor Alex LaChapelle is the pastor at Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation in Kenya, Africa. We continue to provide him with needed support through our Missionary for the Day contributions. Contact the church office to sponsor a day "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone. Address of congregation is: Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation, PO Box 34089, Nairobi, Kenya 00100  
Website: [www.nilc-nairobi.org](http://www.nilc-nairobi.org)

- Dec 1 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Ken & Noreen Gruning
- Dec 2 In memory of Chuck Seip from Jeanne Richards
- Dec 3 In memory of Don Legreid from Emilie Brustuen
- Dec 4 In memory of Lois Radnick from Emilie Brustuen
- Dec 5 In loving memory of Dewey Solvie on his birthday
- Dec 6 In memory of Enid Grindland from Al & Liz Harris
- Dec 7 In memory of Marilyn Hansen from Emilie Brustuen
- Dec 8 In memory of Mary Bright from Jo Solvie
- Dec 9 In memory of Minnie Benson from Jo Solvie
- Dec 10 In memory of Enid Grindland from Jo Solvie
- Dec 11 In memory of Enid Grindland from Ward & Carol Voorhees
- Dec 24 In memory of Gordon and Caroline Smith from their family

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hour broadcasted on KMRS on Christmas Eve  
was in memory of Candace Day Altonen given by Carol Day

**Thank you to those that purchased a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Plants can be picked up anytime after Christmas Day. Any remaining plants will be disposed of after January 6.**

*In loving memory of Art & Verna Hawkinson given by their family.*

*In loving memory of Alexandra Rose Curfman given by Grandma Pam.*

*In loving memory of our parents given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.*

*In honor of all those with Covid19 given by Cheryl Higgins.*

*In honor of our daughters and their families given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.*

Our local Food Shelf is always taking donations of food and other non-perishable items. Some items needed include soups, sugar, flour, toilet paper, paper towels and dish detergent. They also encourage cash donations, as they are able to purchase foods at significantly reduced prices. The Food Shelf supplies a five-day emergency or supplemental food package to residents of Stevens County. There is no fee for this service, but clients must provide proof of residency. The food shelf is located at 701 Iowa Ave in Morris, and is open the following days/hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30-11:30am, Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm. Please mail any monetary donations, or give them a call to schedule a time to drop off any food donations.

Children's Nutrition Win! The letters we wrote during our Bread for the World Offering of Letter's Sunday, alongside efforts by other individuals and congregations led to the bill's passage in Congress just a few weeks ago! Good news for children and families who suffer from food shortages.

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting December 16, 2020

The December meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met by teleconference through Zoom and was called to order by President Bob Dalager on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:36pm. Present: Bob Dalager, John Dossdall, Gary Wagner, Naomi Fynboh, Allyn Plattner, Terry Dybdahl and Tony Feuchtenberger. Absent: Rheanne Kline, Eugene Anderson, Peggy Jergenson and Jason Reed. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye. A devotion and opening prayer was given by Pastor Dan.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from November were emailed to each council member. No corrections or additions were needed. John moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Naomi.

**Treasurer's Report:** Naomi went over the year end short fall and will be meeting with Laurie at Morris & Associates about year-end financial reports needed to work out a budget for 2021. Naomi also reported that Ryan at RiverWood Bank informed her that our PPP loan has been forgiven.

**Pastor's Report:** A written report was emailed to each council member. No further discussion was needed.

**Communications:** Pastor Art Wiese, on behalf of the Synod, called Council President Bob Dalager to say "Thank You" from the Synod for our benevolence giving in 2020. According to the Synod, First Lutheran is "among the leaders" in benevolence giving this year.

**Committee Reports:** No written or verbal reports received.

## Old Business

- In-person Worship Update: we will continue offering services as "on-line" worship only, including the upcoming Christmas services.
- Employee Reviews: Reviews have been completed and all employees have done an excellent job this past year. Naomi & Peggy will be working on the Salary Review.
- 2021 Budget and Nominating Committee: Naomi has been working on the budget. All council members will be looking for people to fill vacancies on various boards and/or to serve as delegates.

## New Business

- A sizable donation was received this past week. It was decided to hold this donation in the bank until after the New Year to see where it would best be used.
- Snow removal for our parking lots and sidewalks were discussed. John Wiese will continue to clear our parking lots, and quotes are being looked at for clearing the sidewalks.
- The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 31 and discussion was held on how to best hold this meeting if Covid restrictions are still in place. Pastor Dan will ask other area pastors if they have plans or ideas they could share.
- Two Council Meetings were set for January: Wednesday, January 6th at 7:30pm and Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30, both through Zoom.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Bye, Recording Secretary

Approved and edited by Gary Wagner,

Council Secretary

# THIS N' THAT

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

The schedule has been set with the hopes we can have in-person worship sometime in January. Please check our website to see what form of services we are holding on the following Sundays. Those scheduled for Video and TV slides will need to help as scheduled, whether it is in-person or on-line only.

### Sunday, January 3

Ushers: Bob Heck, Dougherty family  
Video: Kyle Dougherty TV slides: Ward Voorhees

### Sunday, January 10

Ushers: Al Harris & Paul Grove  
Communion: Sandy Grove  
Video: Dave Jungst TV slides: Colby Schultz

### Sunday, January 17

Ushers: Dick Smith, Mortenson family  
Video: Steve Wagner TV slides: Dave Jungst

### Sunday, January 24

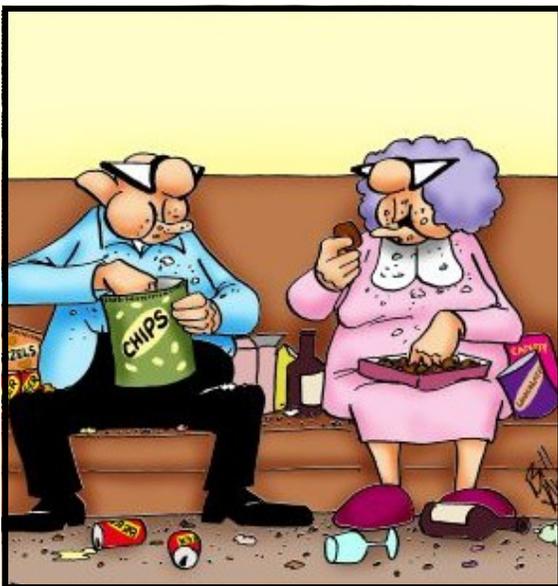
Ushers: Barry & Nancy Erdahl  
Communion: Laurie Feuchtenberger  
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger TV slides: Judy Buro

### Sunday, January 31

Ushers: Just family  
Video: Mike Odello TV slides: Steve Just



- Jan 1: Grant Anderson, Owen Anderson, Brenda Boever, Peggy Jergenson
- Jan 3: Doug Ehlers, Jane Johnson, Julie Thymian
- Jan 4: Ashlyn Williamson
- Jan 5: Andrew Hutchings
- Jan 6: Ron Rosen
- Jan 9: Ryan S. Anderson
- Jan 10: Honor Knochenmus, Shiloh Knochenmus
- Jan 11: Philip Ask, Denny Neisius, Jayce Plattner
- Jan 12: Doug Beyer, Renee Ersted, Aubrey Williamson
- Jan 13: Jazlynn Hilbrands
- Jan 14: Cheryl Higgins, Glen Gillespie, Tyler Schneider
- Jan 17: Jone Anderson
- Jan 19: Steve Just, Sarah Larson
- Jan 21: Jayson Galligan-Halbe
- Jan 25: Jeanne Halbe, Adrienne Hilbrands
- Jan 26: Mark Gunderson
- Jan 27: Luella Anderson
- Jan 28: Nicholas Miller, Brian Williams
- Jan 29: Gwyneth Hanson
- Jan 31: Jamis Burnett, Blaine Hills, Zoe Krosch



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes!"

*Happy Anniversary*

- Jan 5: Brad & Ana Miller
- Jan 6: Greg & Naomi Fynboh
- Jan 15: Al & Lavonne Watson
- Jan 28: John & Marie Eblen

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div data-bbox="186 1270 357 1995" data-label="Section-Header"> <h1>January</h1> </div> <div data-bbox="194 630 349 1228" data-label="Text"> <p>Please check our website at <a href="http://www.ficmorris.org">www.ficmorris.org</a> to see if our worship services are in-person or on-line only. All of our services are streamed live via Facebook each Sunday morning and are available later that day on our website.</p> </div>						
3 9:30am Worship	4	5	6 6:00-7:30pm Element 7:30pm Council Meeting (Zoom)	7 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	8 1:30pm Mission & Evangelism Meeting	9
10 9:30am Worship	11 12:00pm Reports due for Annual Meeting	12	13 6:00-7:30pm Element	14	15 Companion Synod Partnership Meeting	16
17 9:30 am Worship	18	19	20 6:00-7:30pm Element	21 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due 7:30pm Council Meeting (Zoom)	22	23
24 9:30am Worship	25	26	27 6:00-7:30pm Element	28	29	30
<div data-bbox="1469 1680 1567 1890" data-label="Text"> <p>31 9:30am Worship ANNUAL MEETING</p> </div>						

# ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Go **tail** it on  
the mountain.



Shop the ELCA Global Barnyard  
for living gifts that grow  
the church, fight hunger,  
and transform lives.

[www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)



# ELCA GOOD GIFTS

#### How it works...

As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. More than 85% of your gifts directly support programmatic work. Your gifts support work in 77 countries and is tax-deductible.

Choose your gift on-line at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or stop by the church office to browse through a catalog.

Some popular gifts include:

Goat \$60	Chicks \$10	Piglet \$50	Honeybees \$20	Water Filter \$30
School supplies for a child \$10	Fruit-tree seedling \$10		Seeds and gardening tool \$50	
Mosquito net \$10	Health care for a child \$10		Vaccination for a child \$30	
Warm meals at a soup kitchen (feeds 10 people) \$20			Latrine \$150	
Family farm (cow, goats, chicks, pigs, tools, seeds) \$715			Stock a health clinic for 1 week \$75	

**First Lutheran Church**  
200 East 5th St  
Morris, MN 56267  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Permit #83  
Morris, MN

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email: [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)

**Worship Schedule**

***Sundays: 9:30am  
broadcasted via Facebook Live;  
also available on our website  
and YouTube channel***

**STAFF**

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor [danelbelgumblad@gmail.com](mailto:danelbelgumblad@gmail.com)  
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director [heather.kill14@gmail.com](mailto:heather.kill14@gmail.com)  
Rita Bye, Office Manager [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)  
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian  
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist  
Brad Miller, Choir Director [bamiller@morris.umn.edu](mailto:bamiller@morris.umn.edu)  
Rheanne Kline, Contemporary Director [rheannekline@gmail.com](mailto:rheannekline@gmail.com)  
Pastor Alex LaChapelle, Missionary

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Bob Dalager President  
Eugene Anderson Vice-President  
Naomi Fynboh Treasurer  
Gary Wagner Secretary  
John Dosdall  
Terry Dybdahl  
Tony Feuchtenberger  
Peggy Jergenson  
Rheanne Kline  
Allyn Plattner  
Jason Reed