

First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

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



Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

June 2020
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sundays: 9:30am Worship
via Facebook Live
also available on our website
and YouTube channel



While there is no in-person worship is taking place at First Lutheran, there are still a lot of happenings going on!

- Check out our website at www.flcmorris.org for weekly worship services and devotions!
- Look us up on Facebook at “Morris-First Lutheran Church” and send us a friend request! You’ll be able to watch “live” when we broadcast worship services and devotions.
- Bible study groups are taking place on-line through Zoom. If you would like to be added to this group, please contact the church office.
- Congregational emails are being sent at various times with information and reminders. Not on our email list? Send us an email at: office@flcmorris.org if you would like to be added.
- Weekly bulletins are being sent by regular mail to those that are not able to download or print them from our website. If we missed your household in this mailing and would like to be added, please let us know.

Strategies to cope with social distancing, self-isolation or quarantine

Going into a period of social distancing, self-isolation or quarantine may feel daunting or overwhelming, and can contribute to feelings of helplessness and fear. In addition to the above, we encourage the following;

- Perspective – try to see this time as unique and different, not necessarily bad, even if it something you didn’t necessarily choose
- Connection – think of creative ways to stay connected with others, including social media, email and phone
- Be generous to others – giving to others in times of need not only helps the recipient, it enhances your wellbeing too. Is there a way to help others around you?
- Stay connected with your values. Don’t let fear or anxiety drive your interactions with others. We are all in this together!
- Daily routine – create a routine that prioritizes things you enjoy and even things you have been meaning to do but haven’t had enough time. Read that book, watch that show, take up that new hobby.
- Try to see this as a new and unusual period that might even have some benefits.
- Limit your exposure to news and media. Perhaps choose specific times of day when you will get updates, and ensure they are from reputable and reliable sources.

<https://www.lifeline.org>

PASTOR'S PAGE

Called by the Spirit....

When the Apostle Paul was “socially (physically) distanced” from the church he started in Philippi, he resorted to letter writing to keep in touch. He had no choice, he was in prison. He wrote the following, from a Roman prison (or, while contained somehow), in his opening words to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Paul had to keep in touch by letter with the many congregations he started simply due to their geographic distance from one another. He even wrote a very lengthy letter to the church at Rome (Romans), a church he didn't found and had never visited.

As we just began a study of Philippians yesterday and having just finished, with our Confirmands, a study of this letter, I've spent a lot of time pondering its message and significance. Paul could not meet face-to-face with people he had a deep and warm relationship with based on the shared faith in the Triune God. This church in Philippi, which he planted; a community of people he knew by name.

Though we are not in prison, our situation is vastly changed since just two months ago. We have been unable to meet in person, yet, we have quickly adapted by offering online worship, devotions, and reflections, and special music. Many have expressed thanks for these services; and we are even reaching people who are not part of our congregation. The Gospel goes out through these offerings. Unlike Paul, thankfully we have technologies that help us stay connected in remarkable ways. And, we *still* send out letters, like Paul did (with the help of the U.S. Postal Service). This is one of those letters!

Like the Apostle, I thank God, every time I remember you. I give thanks for our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Savior. I remember you in my prayers. I am thankful for all of you, for living out your faith in daily life... We give thank that you are supporting your church through your prayers and financial offerings. I affirm and believe with confidence that the Holy Spirit has called us together to be the church. As Luther wrote in his Small Catechism:

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

We will continue to trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in the days ahead. We will continue to look to our public health officials for best practices for guidance on reducing the spread of the illness Covid-19. We believe that God works through sanctified common sense, good science and medicine, and the Holy Spirit. We will keep in touch by letter, and by all other tools available until we can meet again in person.

In the meantime, please keep in touch with one another and pray for one another. I encourage you to call someone, *or more than one*, from our congregation and check in and ask how they are doing. This is very important. I encourage you to support our local businesses, and as you are able to consider ways to support those who are without work. Let's look for ways to live out our faith in creative ways. The Holy Spirit continues to call us and guide us.

“May the God who began a God work among us bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ.”

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Dan Belgum

“Shelter Me”

Shepherd and sheep, my God and I:
to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.
You gave me rest by quiet springs
and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

**Refrain: O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.**

Yet now I tread a diff'rent way;
Death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.
I cannot find your peaceful place
But dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face. **Refrain**

I will look back in days to come
and realize your faithfulness has led me home.
Within your house I'll find my peace,
trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me. **Refrain**

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COMPOSER'S NOTE

These are difficult times for all of us, individually and globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life as normal and called for acts of corporate and individual heroism in the face of present suffering and an uncertain future. People of faith may be struggling to articulate their belief in an all-good and all-powerful God in this new era. “Shelter Me” is my attempt as a church composer to find God’s presence even in these fraught times. Based on the beloved Psalm 23, my paraphrase adapts the psalmist’s sentiments to respond to our present anxieties:

While the text is clearly in the first-person singular, reflecting the intimacy of Psalm 23, I believe that, like many spirituals also using “I” language, it can reflect our common experience when sung by an assembly sharing the same experiences.

GIA Publications has graciously agreed to publish a basic melody/piano accompaniment version of the piece at <https://bit.ly/joncasshelterm>. There you should be able to download a high-resolution graphic file of the score, a conbox containing the notated refrain and printed verses of “Shelter Me” for the worshipping assembly to use, and a copy of these composer’s notes. **THOSE WHO WISH MAY DOWNLOAD THE SCORE FREE OF CHARGE AND MAY FREELY REPRODUCE IT FOR USE IN YOUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES UNTIL 31 MARCH 2021.** While there is no charge for the download, I’d encourage you to make a donation to groups who are offering physical, emotional and spiritual care in this time of crisis, including Catholic Charities USA, Lutheran Social Services and/or the American Red Cross. After 31 March 2021, this basic score will be available for purchase.

May God sustain us with mercy and compassion as we travel through the valley of the shadow of death to the banquet of eternal life.

Mike Joncas
27 March 2020

FIRST THINGS & ETC.

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

- May 1 In memory of Wally Feuchtenberger from Ray & Jane Johnson
- May 2 In memory of Betty Waage from Ray & Jane Johnson
- May 3 In memory of Steve Wagner's mother from Ray & Jane Johnson
- May 4 In memory of Jane Johnson's mother from Gary & Corrine Knochenmus
- May 5 In memory of Sylvia Yarger from Deb & Dick Mahoney
- May 20 In loving memory of Dale Crow from his family
- May 20 Happy Anniversary Barry & Nancy Erdahl from Bernice Erdahl
- May 21 In memory of Wally Feuchtenberger from Dick & Judy Bluth
- May 22 In memory of Jane Johnson's mother from Dick & Judy Bluth
- May 23 Happy Birthday Carol Day from Bernice Erdahl
- May 24 In memory of Aunt Gerry from Ron & Deanna Rosen
- May 25 In memory of Steve's mom Ida from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- May 26 In memory of Steve's mom Ida from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- May 27 Happy Birthday Charli Erdahl from Bernice Erdahl
- May 28 In memory of Steve's mom Ida from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- May 29 In memory of Steve's mom Ida from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- May 30 In memory of Steve's mom Ida from Steve & Sherry Wagner

Stevens County 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.

Newsletter Deadline for the July newsletter is noon on Monday, June 22

2020 KMRS Radio Broadcast dates are: July 19, Aug 23, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 24. Help support the ELCA Worship Hour by sponsoring a broadcast (\$65) in memory or in honor of a loved one. Contact the church office for more information.

Women of First Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 9:00am through Zoom conferencing. If you would like to join in the meeting, please contact the church office and an email link will be sent to you.



Class of 2020



ELIJAH THOMAS GROVE

Parents: Paul and Sandy Grove

Activities and Honors: Football, Class AA Academic All-State, District Speciality Player of the Year; Choir, Golf, Morris Area High School - EXCEL winner and Triple A winner.

Future Plans: Concordia College, Moorhead MN; Football and Choir, Economics and Business.



CHRISTOPHER STEVEN JUST

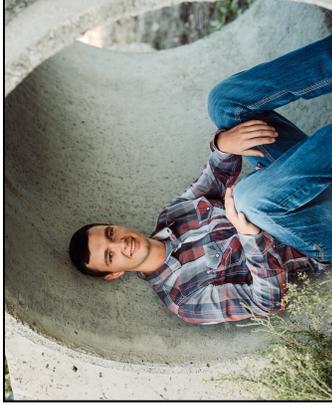
Parents: Steve and Michelle Just

Activities and Honors: Football, Swimming, Robotics, National Honor Society, Cyrus Scholarship recipient, Band.

Plans for the future: Major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

AIDEN LEBRIJA

Parents: Ameer & Brad Gibson

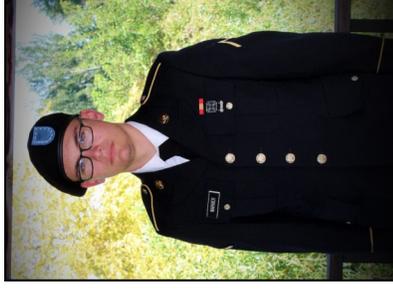


JACOB JON ULRICH

Parents: Jon and Shana Ulrich

Activities and Honors: Honor Roll, Football, Baseball, Golf, FFA, Trap Shooting, Athlete of the Week.

Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State Wadena for Electrical Lineworker



DAMIEN MARK WARNER

Parents: Ryan and Laura Anderson

Activities and Honors: One Act, Spring Play, Fall Musical, National Guards

Future Plans: Continue the National Guard and start Law Enforcement program at Alexandria Technical College.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

AUSTIN HILLS

son of Jim & Jacqui Hills, graduated from UND with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training.

BRADY JERGENSEN

son of Rob & Peggy Jergenson, graduated from the University of Minnesota Morris with an Elementary Education degree. He accepted a teaching position in Alexandria for the fall.

BECCA HOLLAND

daughter of Joe & Linda Holland, graduated from University Minnesota Morris with a Degree in Elementary Education and Coaching. She has accepted a 6th grade teaching position at West Central Area School.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship of Creation

In the spring we are moved by the emerging signs of new life in nature. The Easter story, greening grass and budding trees, and planting seeds are antidotes to the pandemic that threatens us. Spring activities stir up our sense of stewardship. A steward is a person who is responsible for something the person doesn't own. The creation, which God declared good, is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care as stewards is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship.

We think of pledges of time and talent when stewardship comes up, but Christian stewardship is much more. Caring for God's creation is an ever evolving need in this world, especially with each new natural or human-made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to examine our behaviors toward creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we also need to be careful that we maintain good stewardship and do not exploit the wonderful things the earth provides.

Stewardship of creation calls us to be active in our personal life, as a congregation and as a denomination. Each of us can be a good steward in some way.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Happy summer, First Lutheran!

At the end of this semester, I shared the following Nelson Mandela quote with my students: *"It always seems impossible until it's done."* These words really hit home for me. For the last eight weeks, Sunday evenings were full of dread. With two professors teaching remotely and two elementary school children completing their distance learning, all in the same house, these were trying times. My teaching was not perfect, nor was my parenting or "husbanding," but we made it. All along the way, I prayed for strength and patience, and chose to be grateful for the blessings in my life, of which there are many. God walked beside us and taught us invaluable lessons about love, patience, grace, and forgiveness.

Regardless of vocation, I imagine that many of you have felt the same way I have during this time. In so many aspects of our lives, we have had to be creative, change course, and muster up the energy to keep moving forward each day. This is also the case here at First Lutheran. I am grateful for Pastor Dan and all of the individuals who have been unwavering in following the call to keep us engaged and connected. We are called to be a shining light during this dark time; struggling souls catch light from those that are fully lit! *Have you asked yourself how your light can shine more brightly during this time?*

In an end-of-the-year reflection, one of my students reminded me of something I told him: "sometimes the practicality of things gets in the way of our doing what we are called to do." I know that I need to take my own advice more often! Is this advice you need to hear, too? Are you feeling called to serve *right now*, in the midst of this pandemic? Do you have new and innovative ideas? Is "practicality" getting in your way? I would encourage us all to share these ideas, regardless of their practicality, with Pastor Dan and our other wonderful church leaders—maybe, just maybe, something we could have never dreamed of three months ago could lead us into deeper communion with God and help us better love and serve our neighbors, near and far.

Wishing you all a summer of good health and much joy!

Brad Miller, Choir Director

MAY COUNCIL MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting May 13, 2020

The May meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met by teleconference through Zoom and was called to order by President Bob Dalager on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 5:36pm. Present: Bob Dalager, Tony Feuchtenberger, Rheanne Kline, Gary Wagner, Naomi Fynboh, Peggy Jergenson, Jason Reed, Terry Dybdahl, Eugene Anderson, John Dossdall, Absent: Allyn Plattner. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye. Visitors present at the beginning of the meeting were Robert Thompson and Bob Heck.

Property Committee Report: Robert Thompson was present to discuss the repaving of the eastside parking lot. Riley Brothers are set to start the work at the cost of approximately \$17,000 upon council approval. Robert also reported that our insurance company is requiring repair of the front sidewalk by July 1 due to safety issues of it being uneven. Replacing the entire sidewalk could cost between \$12,000 to \$16,000. After some discussion, it was decided that the parking lot repaving will be put on hold, and the sidewalk issues will be addressed. Robert Thompson will contact our insurance company for more direction as to what specifically needs to be corrected/repaved.

Bob Heck updated the council on projects that Wyatt is helping with around the church, including organizing and painting the custodial closets on the upper and lower levels. Wyatt is also mowing the lawn.

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

Treasurer's Report: Naomi reported that giving has been fair, but expenses still exceed our income. Our expenses this month were much higher due to an error with the pastor's Portico benefits paid in 2019, which is being corrected. We have paid almost half of the 2019 catch-up benevolence, and have stayed on track with the 2020 benevolence. Tony moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Rheanne.

Pastor's Report: A written report was emailed to each council member. Pastor spoke on some of the highlights of his report.

Committee Reports

- Naomi said VBS is being planned with Luther Crest as an on-line camp this August. More details are being worked on. Our Sr. High Fusion youth have been doing Zoom Bible studies, and Jr High have been trying Zoom Bible studies but with not as much success as the older youth. Pledges for the Fusion Youth Group were also briefly discussed.
- Tony reported that the Mission and Evangelism Committee has met and is trying to prioritize its work. A Prayer Box is being built that will allow people to request specific prayers.

Old Business

- Video System Update: equipment has been ordered and should be delivered next week. Tony will organize the installation of the equipment once it arrives.
- Payroll Protection Program was discussed. Are we complying with all the rules/regulations to receive the loan forgiveness? There was some discussion on different interpretation of the regulations. Naomi will check into it to make sure we are on track.
- Robert Thompson reported that the elevator updates are set to begin on Monday, May 18 with Otis Elevator doing the upgrades.

New Business

- Pastor discussed having a Funeral Policy specific for the Covid-19 pandemic that would prohibit having funerals being held at the church during the pandemic. Funerals would need to be held at the funeral home, or placed on hold until after the pandemic. After some discussion, Eugene made a motion to accept the new policy, seconded by Naomi. Motion carried with 1 nay vote.
- The Worship videos were discussed with the possibility of changing things up some. Pastor asked for feedback; both good and bad. Discussion was held on how we can involve congregational members remotely, especially the upcoming high school graduates.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Bye, Recording Secretary
Edited/verified by: Gary Wagner, Council Secretary

WORSHIP SERVANTS

While we are uncertain as to when in-person worshiping will begin again, the worship servant schedule is ready for when that happens!

	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
June 7	S Maanum, D & M Tschetter	V Maanum	D Tschetter	Reeds
June 14	D Smith, J Buro, Brian Erdahl	Fynboh family	W Voorhees	Fynbohs
June 21	A Harris, Dougherty family	J Richards	A Dougherty	Hilbrands
June 28	B Heck, D & S Ehlers	Odello family	S Ehlers	Doughertys
	<u>Communion Prep</u>	<u>Communion Servers</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	
June 7	V Dalager	S VanKempen, J Johnson, J Buro	Siegels	
June 14	P & S Grove	Bowmans, B Erdahl	P Wiese	
June 21	J Johnson	L Feuchtenberger, P & S Grove	K Grove	
June 28	Maanums	L Holland, Kroschs	Doughertys	

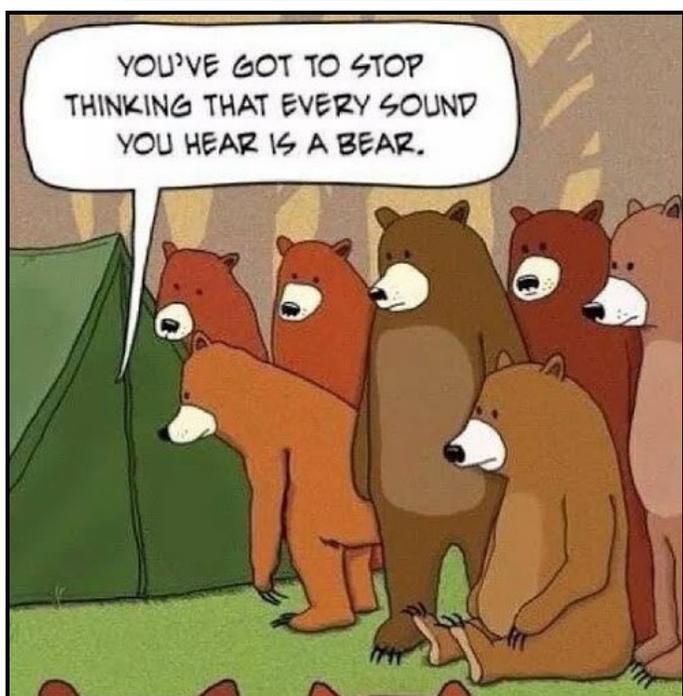
	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
July 5	B & N Erdahl, T Feuchtenberger	Schneider family	C Anderson	T Schneider & S Anderson
July 12	Just family	Just family	K Bolling	Erdahls
July 19	Maanums, D & L Feuchtenberger	Ulrich family	L Feuchtenberger	M Ulrich & J Christians
July 26	A Harris, P & S Grove	VanKempens	A Harris	B Dybdahl & M Grove
	<u>Communion Prep</u>	<u>Communion Servers</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	
July 5	J Buro	Maanums, B Dalager	V Dalager	
July 12	R Hokanson	D Smith, W Voorhees, M Tschetter	A Erdahl	
July 19	S Ehlers	R Hokanson, D Ehlers, S VanKempen	J Anderson	
July 26	E Harris	B Erdahl, T Grove, E Brustuen	Ekola/Jungst	

	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Aug 2	B Heck, Hentges family	P Weise	D Odello	O Hentges & O Anderson
Aug 9	B & N Erdahl, L Holland	K Bolling	J Johnson	Mortensons
Aug 16	Just family	Just family	S Ulrich	Justs
Aug 23	S & V Maanum, Jungst/Ekola	Bowman family	J Krosch	Lebrijas
Aug 30	D Smith, Stan Staples, Scott Staples	Feuchtenbergers	D Jungst	E Bowman & M Siegel
	<u>Communion Prep</u>	<u>Communion Servers</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	
Aug 2	L Holland	J Johnson, J Buro, B Erdahl	M Just	
Aug 9	Bowmans	L Feuchtenberger, Kroschs	V Dalager	
Aug 16	V Dalager	P & S Grove, B Dalager	B Siegel	
Aug 23	L Feuchtenberger	E Brustuen, L Holland, T Grove	P Weise	
Aug 30	J Johnson	W Voorhees, Bowmans	Doughertys	

THIS N' THAT



- June 1: Matthew Lair
- June 2: Scott Erdahl
- June 3: Deanna Rosen, Madelyn Siegel, Jon Ulrich, Everett Van Kempen
- June 4: Amy Dougherty
- June 5: Deb Decker, Gary Wagner
- June 7: Jen Buchanan, Ann Erdahl, Kent Swenson, LaVonne Watson
- June 8: Heather Schneider, Morgan Wevely
- June 9: Jean Anderson, Virene Irwin-Nagl
- June 10: Eric Buchanan, Marian Thraen
- June 12: Lydia Fynboh
- June 13: Evelyn Warnes
- June 15: June Reynolds
- June 16: Denner Dougherty, Jolene Hanson
- June 19: Bobbie Jo Staples
- June 20: Sandy Grove, Corrine Knochenmus, William Peterson, Zayne Plattner, Jim Thraen
- June 22: Audrey Anderson, Rebecca Nemmers
- June 23: Connie Anderson, Karli Siegel
- June 24: Sherry Anderson, Lana Burnett
- June 25: Irene Erickson, John Huebner
- June 27: Olivia Morris-Durkee, Jeanne Richards



Happy Anniversary

- June 1: Arnie & Verna Sharstrom
- June 4: Heather & Bradley Krosch
- June 6: Richard & Suzanne Smith
Steve & Michelle Just
- June 7: Craig & Kate Knochenmus
- June 8: Greg & Julie Thymian
- June 9: Steve & Jill Van Kempen
- June 10: Jim & Marian Thraen
- June 11: Skip & Vicki Maanum
- June 16: Michael & Rhonda Lair
- June 17: Matt & Adrienne Hilbrands
- June 20: Cody & Molly Krosch
- June 21: Ryan & Summer Anderson
- June 22: Gary & Corrine Knochenmus
Jared & Brittney House
- June 29: Tim & Kristin Grove
- June 30: Ward & Carol Voohees



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200 East 5th St
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Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit #83
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First Lutheran Church ELCA

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website: www.flcmorris.org
email: office@flcmorris.org

Worship Schedule

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

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director heather.kill14@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist
Brad Miller, Choir Director bamiller@morris.umn.edu
Rheanne Kline, Contemporary Director 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