

April 2023

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

Dear Members and Friends,

*"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."
—Philippians 1: 3-6*

When I sensed a call to pastoring, that is, to ministry of the "preaching" sort, it entailed going to seminary. I had little idea what I was getting into. At age 33, I would be a "second career" seminarian. I could no longer ignore the nudge I sensed from the Spirit to give seminary a try; a nudge I first felt the last year I was in college. At that time, I also had a desire to explore the world of biological sciences, and so I did. Yet, a couple of friends had gone into ministry, and finally, during the five years I served in agricultural development work in Asia, I knew that I couldn't ignore this deep-felt desire any longer. I wanted to learn more about the Bible, to explore the many theological (God) questions I had, and hopefully, to become a pastor.

That decision of 33 years ago eventually led to several calls to different churches over the years, first in North Dakota, then to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. And, finally, to Morris, among you, my siblings in Christ, here, at First Lutheran. It's been quite a journey!

The book of Ecclesiastes says: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." (3:1). I have decided, after much reflection and prayer, it's time to seek a "new season" of life, and so I plan to retire this June. I'm well into my 6th year here with you. In retrospect, these years have gone by quickly. The Holy Spirit has been present working among us. We have faced some real challenges and experienced countless blessings. Little did any of us know that, in what would be the middle of my time with you, a global pandemic would upend our lives as individuals, families, churches, businesses, village, town and city, countries and the entire world. This stretched and confounded us, forced us to adapt our ministries, made us soul search, and dig deeper into God's love, power and provision. Though it's not over, thankfully, we are in a better place today. One thing I have appreciated about being your pastor is your willingness to try new things: including new liturgies, efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger, and seek justice in our world, and your support of the Fusion Youth Ministry.

I thank God for each of you, for these years of life and the partnership we have shared. It has been a privilege and joy to journey with you. I trust I will miss many aspects of being a pastor, especially, importantly the relationships we have developed. You have been gracious, kind and a missional congregation; partners in a ministry that we share. I am filled with thanksgiving and positive memories. I will always cherish these years. I look forward to serving with you the next two months, before I finish up my call in mid-June.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dan

- ☐ **Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The *Kindness Service Group* is on the schedule to serve coffee hours during the month of May. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in the Hope Service Group are:

Ryan & Laura Anderson	Kyle & Amy Dougherty	Sheila & Leroy Fahje
Jay & Joleen Hanson	* Al & Elizabeth Harris	Bruce & Laura McCormack
Allen & Julie Monroe	Jason & Selena Reed	Jon & Shana Ulrich
Steve & Sherry Wagner		
- ☐ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wednesday, May 3rd at 11:30am at Mi Mexico in Morris. Join us...all are welcome!
- ☐ **Social Hour at Legacy Living** is held each Wednesday at 2:30pm for residents and "friends." On the third Wednesday of each month, friends from First Lutheran supply the treats/goodies. Help may be needed occasionally....a batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us anytime. If interested in helping out occasionally, contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700 or Marlene at 320-589-3879.
- ☐ **2023 KMRS Radio Broadcast** available dates are: July 9, August 20, October 1 and November 12. 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.
- ☐ **Join us for Choir!** All are welcome at Choir Rehearsals each Sunday morning at 8:30am.
- ☐ **Newsletter Deadline** for the June newsletter is noon on Tuesday, May 23rd.
- ☐ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, May 18th at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Need to drop something off for the Zipporah group? Their church mailbox is located in the office waiting area.
- ☐ **Gatherings for Widows/Widowers** meets on Tuesday, May 9th at noon. Please join us for a time of friendship, conversation and time together for lunch. You are welcome to invite others to join you. Gatherings meet at 12:00pm (noon) on the second Tuesday of each month at Old #1 Southside. Order off the menu at your cost. Listen to KKOK 95.7 for any schedule changes.
- ☐ **Volunteers Needed!** Looking for an opportunity to serve at church outside of Sunday mornings? We are looking for assistance with baking communion bread, which is served on the first and second Sundays of each month, plus special occasions. Training will be provided! For more information, please contact Sharon Ehlers at 320-808-4500 or the church office at 320-589-3242.
- ☐ **Reminder!** If you or someone you know is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or home-bound and would like a pastoral visit or Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Dan at 320.894.3577 or the church office at 320.589.3242. Hospital and nursing home staff can not contact the Pastor or church office without permission.
- ☐ **Donate with Venmo!** You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe and easy way to transfer money) Check out and download the app on your smart phone (available for Android and Apple) or check out their website at www.venmo.com.
- ☐ **RUSC Kinship Mentoring** is seeking adult volunteer mentors to spend at least four hours a month with a young person. All mentors are required to complete a screening process which includes an application form, personal interview, background check, and training session. Mentor applications can be found at www.rusckinship.org or by contacting their office in person at 215 Atlantic Ave in Morris, by phone at 320-585-7872 or by email at rusckinship@gmail.com.
- ☐ **West Central Communities Action** now provides Ready Ride which is a grant-funded program offering transportation services to those aged 65 and older. Drivers are volunteers. This program is also available to adults ages 18-64 who are on Medical Assistance. For more information about Ready Ride, please contact John Pryzbylski by email at john@wcmaca.org or by phone at 218-685-4486 ext. 7038 or Brenda Larson at brendal@wcmca.org or by phone on 320-304-3458 ext. 7209.
- ☐ **Stevens County Food Shelf** supplies a 5-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 welcomes people's donations of food to support our community. Monetary donations are also very helpful in purchasing food supplies. The Food Shelf is located on the corner of 7th Street and Iowa Ave and their hours are: Mondays: 2:30pm - 3:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays: 5:30pm - 6:30pm; Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30am - 11:30 am. You can reach the food shelf at 320.589.7436.

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

- April 2 In memory of Truman Carlson from Carol Day
- April 3 In memory of Joann Munsterman from Jo Solvie
- April 4 In memory of Floyd Schmidgall from Jo Solvie
- April 5 In memory of Lois Krump from Jo Solvie
- April 6 In memory of Howard K. and Helen Olson on the anniversary of their wedding
- April 9 Thanks Bob!
- April 10 In memory of Truman Carlson from Jo Solvie
- April 11 In memory of JoAnne Anderson from Jo Solvie
- April 14 In memory of Deputy Josh Owen
- April 15 In memory of Ronald Williams from Linda & Joe Holland
- April 16 In memory of Ronald Williams from Linda & Joe Holland
- April 17 In loving memory of Lenore Anderson on her granddaughter's birthday from Shannon
- April 18 In memory of Ronald Williams from Linda & Joe Holland

April 2 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given by the congregation of First Lutheran

Our missionaries are Rev. Dr. Philip J. Knutson and Lou Knutson. The Knutsons have served for many years in Southern Africa, and are based in South Africa. Philip was born and grew up in South Africa, the son of missionary parents, and Lou is a native of South Africa. You can sponsor the Knutsons for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor, of someone. Contact Rita in the church office if you need more information.



Senior Recognition Sunday

Please join us for a special service honoring our graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 21st during the 9:30am worship service.

A coffee hour in their honor will follow at 10:30am.

Those in our congregation graduation from high school this year are:

Lydia Fynboh

Madelyn Grove

Samuel Just



Senior Ministry trip to Prospect House

Take a trip with us to Battle Lake to visit Prospect House on Wednesday, May 25. Prospect House and Civil War Museum is a Georgian-style mansion built in 1882 and is filled with many artifacts and antiques from the Civil War era. We will tour the house, have lunch and visit some shops downtown. Cost of the trip is \$20 to cover travel expense. Watch for the sign up sheet coming soon!



Pentecost Sunday: Wear something Red!

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, please consider wearing something red in celebration of the "fire" of the Holy Spirit coming among us (the church). Red is associated with the gift of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost when the Spirit descended upon the first disciples, as recorded in Acts 2. Pentecost is associated with fire, cleansing, rebirth, energy, life, community and God's power and Spirit.



Don't miss Sunday, May 21

9:30am worship

Sunday school students sing during worship and special recognition of our graduating high school students!

Stay after worship!

10:30am in the church fellowship hall



*Celebrate the end
of the Sunday school year
with fun for all ages.....*

FAMILY BINGO!

*Prizes for all ages
preschool through adult*



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



Cake, ice cream & coffee served!

Any donations from coffee hour will go to the Sunday School program.

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

Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade

- ☺ Sunday, May 7: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church
- ☺ Wed., May 10: Mission Trip Meeting with parents/caregivers and students going on the trip. 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church



Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

- ☺ Wednesday, May 3: Element's Last Supper Experience at Faith Lutheran 6:00-7:00pm (rescheduled from April)

Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information www.fusion-ministry.com
Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267

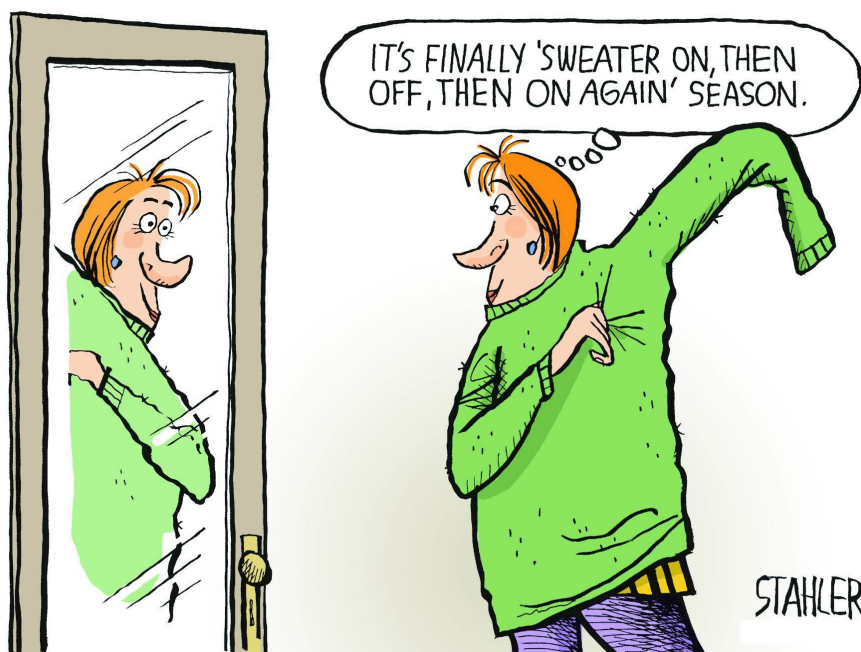
Fusion has a new address!
Fusion Ministry,
PO Box 185,
Morris MN 56267

Fusion Youth Ministry Annual Commitment

Fusion and Element youth ministries need your support. This ministry is shared with several of our local churches, including Faith Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Cyrus, Federated, and St. John's and Kongsvinger, Donnelly. It is solely supported by our churches and impacts the lives of junior and senior high youth and their families.

Here is part of a recent email sent by Pr. Emmy Swedlund, pastor at Faith Lutheran: *I want to applaud you for the Holy Experiment that is Fusion Ministry. This joint ministry was one of the things that excited me about this call at Faith in Morris. Coming together is hard work. I know there have been bumps along the way, but you should be really proud of this ministry that you have developed over the last years. It is good and faithful. Each week, I see it making a difference in 50+ lives on Wednesday nights at Element.*

First Lutheran has made our support Fusion/Element a part of our budget for 2023. Your prayers for this ministry are deeply appreciated. And, your financial support is needed and deeply appreciated. If you are able to make a gift/offering toward this ministry it will help support and strengthen our ministry to youth and families. If you do so, you may write a check to First Lutheran, with "Fusion Youth Ministry" in the memo line. Thank you!



YouthWorks Mission Trip

Dear Church Family!

I want to share with you about an exciting opportunity that Fusion is doing this summer. 20 youth and adults are going on a mission trip to Denver, CO July 8th-15th with an organization called YouthWorks! Youth: Piper Swanson, David Black Jr., Lilia Asmus, Hannah Schneider, Bryn Lonergan, Jaeydn Marquart, Hailey Mathai, Jadeyn Mau, Brenna Jergenson, Sophie Howell, Morgan Harstad, Addison Cihak, Ryla Koehler, Owen Nesvig, Micah Ulrich & Jayden Alderson. Adults: Heather & David Black, Katie Moser & Crystal Nesvig.

Our group will partner with those seeking to bring hope, and we will get the opportunity to see the strengths and challenges the city of Denver is facing. We will serve with local organizations caring for their neighbors in meaningful ways and come alongside organizations meeting the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness as well as the ongoing needs of under-resourced people in the community. We may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, or children's program. Worship while taking in a beautiful mountain view, explore the community, and hear from local residents about what it looks like to live and serve in Denver.

I would love it if you would partner with us by being in prayer for this mission trip experience!

- Pray for the 20 of us who are going – that we would be open to learning from the community we're visiting and that we grow closer as a team and closer to Jesus.
- Pray for the YouthWorks staff who are living in Denver all summer and will be leading us during the trip.
- Pray for the community members who we meet – that we could love and honor them well.

The cost of this trip is \$900 per youth. Like a "real" missionary, we have challenged the youth to raise their own support to help fund this trip. Would you consider investing in them and in the lives of the people of Denver, CO? Something to note, each youth have already given \$200 of their own money, have written support letters to family and friends and will be participating in other various fundraisers. I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us through prayer and/or with a financial gift. Whatever you decide to do, whether to pray or give generously, please let us know by filling out the attached response slip and sending it to: *Fusion Ministry, Attn: Heather Black, PO Box 185 Morris, MN 56267*. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! Heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com.

THANK YOU! – Heather Black



Thank you so much for all of the generous donations for the Mission Trip!
We are about 60% of the way to our fundraising goal!

Response Slip


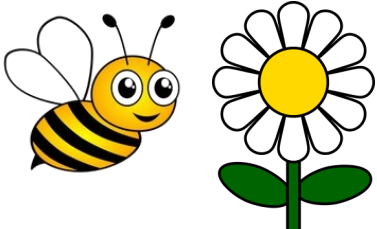
Please fill this out and send to: Fusion Ministry, Attn: Heather Black, PO Box 185 Morris, MN 56267

- Your Name _____
- I will Pray for the group before, during and after the Denver, CO mission trip.
- Please add my email _____ to the prayer update so that I can specifically pray for this trip!
- I have enclosed \$50 _____ \$100 _____ or another amount \$ _____ to invest in the life of the youth!

Please make checks payable to Fusion Ministry. All gifts are non-refundable

May 2023

All worship services are in-person, in addition to being streamed live via Facebook and YouTube.
Recorded services available on our website at www.flcmorris.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Property Committee Mtg	3 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Mi Mexico 6-7:00pm Element's Last Supper Experience at Faith Lutheran	4	5 10am-12pm Pastor at Common Cup	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
7 8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Sr. Fusion at First	8	9 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widow/Widowers at Old #1 Southside	10	11 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 10:00am Pastor at Skyview Plaza (worship) 6:30pm Worship & Music Meeting	12 10am-12pm Pastor at Common Cup	13 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
14 Mother's Day 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee 6:30-8:00pm Mission Trip meeting for students and parents	15	16 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	17	18 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	19 10am-12pm Pastor at Common Cup	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
21 Graduate Sunday 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Family Bingo during coffee hour 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts	22	23 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	24	25 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	26 10am Pastor at Legacy Living (worship) 12pm-2pm Pastor at Common Cup	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
28 8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Mission Kit Mtg in Fellowship hall during coffee hour	29 Memorial Day Church office closed	30 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	31			

Rita will be in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available by email, phone call or text messaging (320.287.2384) Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

May Worship Servants

Sunday, May 7th 9:30am Worship HC

Ushers: Steve Just family, Tim & Mady Grove
Lector: Ward Voorhees
Nursery: Kristin Grove
Acolyte: Ian Grove & Connor Siegel
Communion: Laurie Feuchtenberger (bread)
Comm Servers: Liz Harris, Sharon & Doug Ehlers
Video: Kyle Dougherty
TV slides: Tyson Grove

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 14th 9:30am Worship HC with 8:30am Sunday school

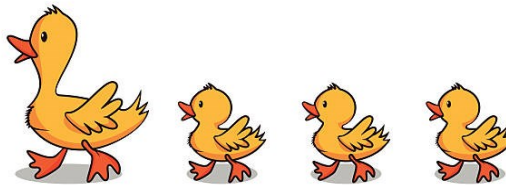
Ushers: Al Harris, Michael Bjorklund,
Matt & Cowen Mortenson
Lector: Lindy Ekola
Nursery: Jone Anderson
Acolyte: Lilly Nesvig & Giana Feuchtenberger
Communion: Judy Buro (bread)
Comm Servers: Vicki Dalager, Millie Tschetter and
Ward Voorhees
Video: Dave Jungst
TV slides: Owen Nesvig

Graduate Sunday: Sunday, May 21st 9:30am Worship Sunday school students sing in worship

Ushers: Dick Smith, Tom & Heather Schneider family
Lector: Jennie Odello
Nursery: Pam Wiese
Acolyte: Brenna Jergenson & Sawyer Fynboh
Video: Mike Odello
TV slides: Wes Odello

Sunday, May 28th 9:30am Worship HC (Blue Hymnal)

Ushers: Bob Heck, Jon Ulrich, Linda Holland
Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger
Nursery: Amy Dougherty
Acolyte: Skott & Abigail Anderson
Communion: Liz Harris (wafer)
Comm Servers: Emilie Brustuen, Tim Grove,
and Laurie Feuchtenberger
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger
TV slides: Micah Ulrich



HAPPY Birthday

May 5: Zachary Huebner
May 6: Abigail Anderson, Diane Dossdall,
Estelle Feuchtenberger,
Craig Knochenmus
May 7: Joshua Johnson, Vicki Maanum,
Jacob Staples
May 8: Ty Flower
May 9: Andrew Ulrich, Wesley Odello
May 10: Richard Hawkinson
May 13: Justin Anderson, Kevin Williamson
May 15: Kenneth Grunig
May 16: Madelyn Grove
May 17: Brady Krusemark, Gerald Thorstad
May 18: Isaac Just
May 20: Eric Smith, Charles Yerigan

May 21: Greta Hentges
May 22: Elizabeth Harris, Jacqui Hills
May 23: Carol Day, Lori Lundquist, Tammy Roth
May 24: Ryan Erp, Mary Huebner
May 26: Jared Flower, Andi VanKempen
May 27: Charli Erdahl
May 31: Ken Keller

HAPPY Anniversary!

May 9: Mark & Deb Mattheis
May 18: Judy & Dick Bluth
May 19: Matt & Natasha Mortenson
May 20: Barry & Nancy Erdahl
May 26: Wayde & Laura Peterson
May 27: Ken & Noreen Grunig
May 31: Myron & Marilyn Syverson

Our Mission.....First Lutheran WELCA

Mission is our main focus. We try to collect supplies and send kits and quilts to Lutheran World Relief www.lwr.org and Global Health Ministries, www.GHM.org.

Share and Care Quilters meet the second and fourth Thursday mornings during the school year.

Information on the mission projects we support is found under the Members tab on the website. Please consider working on these projects at home, donating items/supplies, or helping the Share and Care Quilters.

The touch point dates of May 28, June 25, July 30, and August 27 will allow small group discussions to review progress and prepare for packing. We will meeting during coffee hour (10:30am) on these dates. Bring whatever you have shopped for or made. Ask questions, work together.

April 18, 2023 First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports given to each council member. Monthly expenses still far exceeded our income. With some discussion, the next benevolence payment should be changed to \$1400.00.

Pastor's Report: A written report was given to each council member. Highlights were:

- One additional delegate is needed for the Synod Assembly; an email will be sent to the congregation.

Committee Reports:

- Mission & Evangelism: met with Diane Kittelson with the caregivers program that will be held at First Lutheran; working on Church without Walls for this fall
- Property: repair work done to boilers, discussed upcoming projects (ceiling fans, coat racks, paving parking lot)
- Education: classes cancelled due to weather, kids singing in worship on May 21
- Worship & Music: Easter breakfast donations to Music Scholarship

Communications: Someplace Safe looking for donations; will refer to Endowment Committee.

Old Business:

- Second TV screen: 75" TV to be installed in front, with the current TV moved to the back of the sanctuary. Estimated cost of \$3250. Walter Biesterfeld will be doing the installation.
- Cari will give a temple talk on campership scholarships Sunday, April 30. A motion was approved to offer three (3) \$500 scholarships for family camperships.
- Member info booklet/directory. Will be discussed with the Mission & Evangelism Committee.

New Business

- Youth Mission Trip (Fusion) donations requested. Five from First Lutheran will be going on the mission trip. A motion was made and approved to donate \$1,000.
- Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00pm. Matt to give the devotion.

MARCH'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,771.42 March Giving \$32,372.20 March Expense

\$72,074.65 Year-to-Date Giving \$84,838.16 Year-to-Date Expenses

First Lutheran Church

200 East 5th St

Morris, MN 56267

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization

**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**

Permit #83
Morris, MN

First Lutheran Church ELCA

200 East 5th Street

Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-3242

website: www.flcmorris.org

email: office@flcmorris.org

Facebook:

Morris-First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am

Broadcasted live via Facebook
and YouTube; recorded services
available on our website.

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 2:00pm

Federated: Channel 6

MediaCom: Channel 117

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor	danelbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director	heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com
Laura Wiebe, Choir Director	wieb0043@morris.umn.edu
Rita Bye, Office Manager	office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian	
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist	

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tony Feuchtenberger	President
Cari Burnett	Vice-President
Denise Odello	Treasurer
Jackie Huebner	Secretary
LeAnn Dean	
Bob Heck	
Matt Hilbrands	