

February 2023

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving. (These words are from *Sundays and Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress Publishing: 2023, for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany).*

The above is based on God's Word found in Micah 6:8, I Corinthians chapter 1; and Matthew 5: 1-11, Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount."

In Baptism, God has washed us, cleansed us, and made us God's own. When we rise with Christ out of these waters of death and new life, we begin a life-long journey of faith. Faith in God is a powerful thing. For Luther, faith was not a virtue, it was rather a plea to God for help and strength amidst the challenges and suffering in this world. Faith trusts God for all good things. Weakness is strength, through faith. Faith follows Jesus in the paths of peace-making, joy in fellowship, and acts of goodness and kindness. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things unseen" (Hebrews 11: 1).

As we surrender to God each day, God takes charge and provides in ways remarkable. This trust allows us to respond to the grace that daily is present, including in breaking bread, in our work, in our family life, and in our coming and going. God's love and grace are like the waters that hold up a canoe, a boat or even a large freighter on Lake Superior.

We are blessed by God's grace each day. We also becoming a blessing as we live in God's grace and light.

Who are the blessed ones of God? How would you answer?

Pastor Dan

Lenten Series

Lent means "spring" and as we enter into it, we also anticipate the end of winter, and the warming winds of spring. The warming breath and wind of the Holy Spirit also enlivens and awakens us to joy and life in Christ. Lent is a communal activity! Lent is a time of renewal through the power of the Holy Spirit, combined with Lenten practices of worship, prayer, fasting, fellowship, and repentance (changing our mind – looking to God). Lent can be a powerful time to renew our faith and grow in faith and faithfulness.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22 at 7:00pm

Midweek Lenten services will be on Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:00pm

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

- Jan 1 In memory of Helen Jane Morrison from Cheryl Higgins
- Jan 2 In memory of Amy Roulet from Cheryl Higgins
- Jan 3 In memory of Helen Jane Morrison from Jo Solvie
- Jan 4 In memory of Jan Rau from Emilie Brustuen
- Jan 5 In memory of Earl Molden from Emilie Brustuen
- Jan 12 In memory of Howard K. Olson on the anniversary of his birthday
- Jan 13 In memory of Dennis Neisius from Allan & Elizabeth Harris
- Jan 14 In memory of Harriet Stevenson from Allan and Elizabeth Harris
- Jan 15 In memory of Dennis Neisius from Jim & Marian Thraen
- Jan 16 In memory of Marjorie Ehlers from Emilie Brustuen
- Jan 17 In loving memory of Lenore Anderson on her birthday from Pat & Gary Smith and family

- Jan 22 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory Lenore Anderson from Pat, Gary, Chad, Ryan, Shannon, Hunter, Angie & Alexis Smith

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.



Valentine's Party

Tuesday, February 14
2:00-4:00pm
Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran

Everyone is invited!
Bring your family and friends!

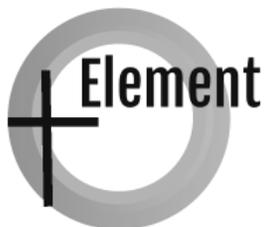
Free transit rides for Morris residents

- ☐ Volunteers Needed!** Looking for an opportunity to serve at church outside of Sunday mornings? We are looking for assistance with changing the altar paraments and baking communion bread. Paraments are changed reflecting the changing seasons of the church year. Homemade communion bread is served on the first and second Sundays of each month, plus special occasions. Training will be provided with both positions! For more information, please contact Sharon Ehlers at 320-808-4500 or the church office at 320-589-3242.
- ☐ Grace Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hours during the month of February. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in this month's service group are:

Justin & Lori Anderson	Ryan & Summer Anderson	Ray & Robi Bowman
Judy Buro	Matt & Cari Burnett	LeAnn Dean
Kellie Hentges	Linda Holland	Craig & Katie Knochenmus
Gary & Corrine Knochenmus	Matt & Natasha Mortenson	Dave Nelson
Allyn & Hannah Plattner	Chris & Bobbi Siegel	
- ☐ 2023 KMRS Radio Broadcast** available dates are: February 26, April 2, May 21, July 9, August 20, October 1, November 12 and December 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.
- ☐ Join us for Choir!** All are welcome at Choir Rehearsals each Sunday morning at 8:30am.
- ☐ Lunch Bunch** meets on Wednesday, February 1st at 11:30am at Old #1 in Morris. Join us...all are welcome!
- ☐ Newsletter Deadline** for the March newsletter is noon on Tuesday, February 21st.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, February 16th 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.
- ☐ Pews and Pianos** Anyone interested in an upright piano? We have two and they are free for anyone interested. They have some wear, but have a good sound. Please contact the church office, or someone on the Property Committee for more info. Also, we have pews that are, we believe, solid oak. A number of these are available, for a "free will" donation. They could make a nice place to sit in an entry, a basement, or, be creative. Again, let the church office know.
- ☐ Save the Date!** Glacial Ridge Conference Women of the ELCA Gathering on Tuesday, April 18 at Fron Lutheran Church in Starbuck. Light meal and meeting starting at 4:00pm. Registration fee \$10. Program open to the public; no registration fee. Program will be an exciting opportunity to learn about migrants at the border.
- ☐ 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.

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

- ☺ Sunday, February 5th: Sr. Fusion at First Lutheran 6:30-8:00pm
- ☺ Sunday, February 12th: Super Bowl Party at Nick Milbrandt's house
- ☺ Sunday, February 19th: Sr Fusion at First Lutheran 6:30-8:00pm
- ☺ Sunday, February 26th: Student and Adult Leadership Meeting at First 6:30-8:00pm



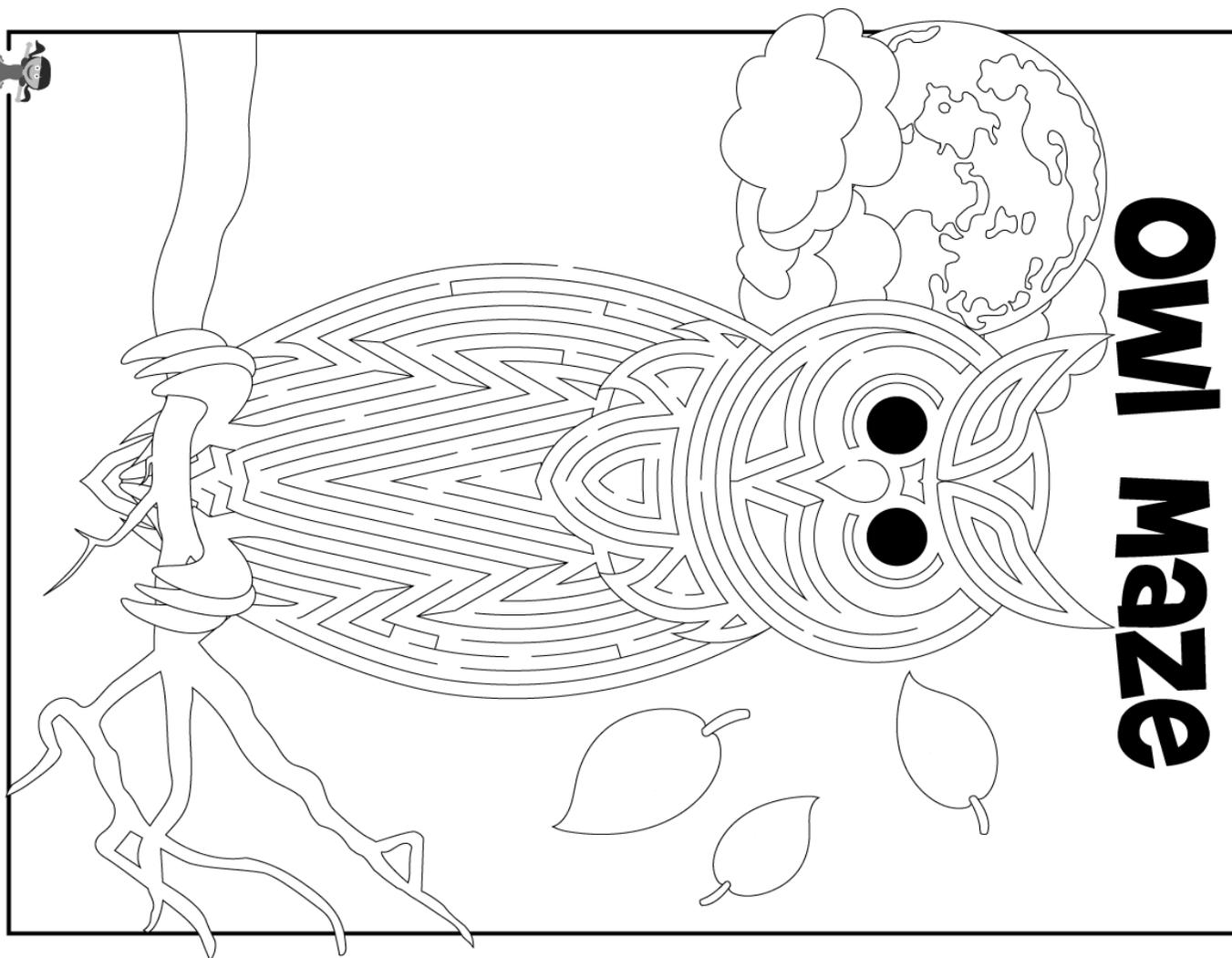
Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

- ☺ Wednesday, February 1st 6:00-7:30pm at First Lutheran
- ☺ Wednesday, February 8th 6:00-7:30pm at First Lutheran
- ☺ Wednesday, February 15th 6:00-7:30pm at First Lutheran
- ☺ Ash Wednesday Service, February 22nd 7:00pm at First Lutheran (no classes)
- ☺ No Element Classes during Lent (Feb 22—March 29)
Students are expected to participate in midweek services.

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

thank you!

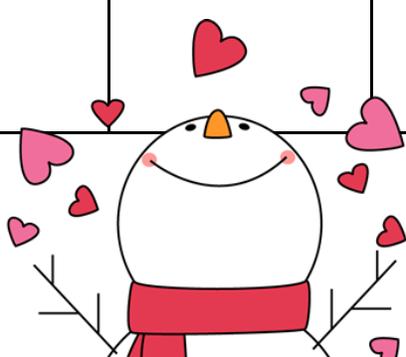
Thank you to all who prayed for me, brought my family meals, brought gifts and reached out with kind words before, during and after my surgery and recovery!
—Heather Black (and family)



February 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 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Old #1 6:00-7:30pm Element Class at First	2 3:00pm Pastor at West Wind Village (worship)	3 10am-12pm Pastor at Common Cup	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
			5 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion	6	7 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Property Committee Mtg	8 6:00-7:30pm Element Class at First
12 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour 2:00pm Sons of Norway 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion	13	14 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 2:00-4:00pm Valentine's Party at First 	15 6:00-7:30pm Element Class at First	16 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	17 10am-12pm Pastor at Common Cup	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
19 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee 10:30am Forum in Gathering Room 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion	20	21 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Council Meeting	22 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	23 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	24 10am Pastor at Legacy Living (worship) 12pm-2pm Pastor at Common Cup	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
26 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion	27	28				

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.

February Worship Servants

Sunday, Feb 5: 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 8:30am Sunday school

Ushers: Al Harris, Greg & Naomi Fynboh family

Lector: Denise Odello

Acolyte: Lilly Nesvig & Aubrey Williamson

Communion Prep: Sharon Ehlers (bread)

Communion Servers: Doug Ehlers, Cheryl Higgins, Emilie Brustuen

Nursery: Robi Bowman

Video: Mike Odello

TV slides: Jennie Odello

Sunday, Feb 12: 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just family, Lindy Ekola

Lector: Lindy Ekola

Acolyte: Sawyer Fynboh & Jaxon Hilbrands

Communion Prep: Vicki Dalager (bread)

Communion Servers: Bob Dalager, Liz Harris, Ward Voorhees

Nursery: Jone Anderson & Hannah Schneider

Video: Dave Jungst

TV slides: Brenna Jergenson

Sunday, Feb 19: 9:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday school

Ushers: Bob Heck, Linda Holland, Dennis Feuchtenberger

Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger

Acolyte: Aaden Schultz & Brayden Carlson

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Video: Kyle Dougherty

TV slides: Jennie Odello

Ash Wednesday, Feb 22: 7:00pm Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Tim & Kristin Grove family

Lector: Jennie Odello

Acolyte: Wesley Odello & Ian Grove

Communion: Liz Harris (bread)

Communion Servers: Judy Buro, Laurie Feuchtenberger, Millie Tschetter

Nursery: Mike Odello

Video: Steve Wagner

TV slides: Tyson Grove

Sunday, Feb 26: 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion Radio Broadcast Blue Hymnal

Ushers: Dick Smith, Doug Ehlers, Michael Bjorklund, Scott Staples

Lector: Sharon Ehlers

Acolyte: Giana Feuchtenberger & Dane Dybdahl

Communion Prep: Judy Buro (wafers)

Communion Servers: Sharon Ehlers, Linda Holland, Ray Bowman

Nursery: Lindy Ekola

Video: Tony Feuchtenberger & Kye Suess

TV slides: Chance Buro

HAPPY
Birthday

Feb 1: Michael Bjorklund, Justin Hanson,
Sawyer Fynboh

Feb 2: Cathy Solvie

Feb 3: Molly Krosch

Feb 4: Sheila Fahje

Feb 5: Dean Danter, Caleb Schultz

Feb 6: Holli Christians, Hugh Reimers

Feb 7: Steve Van Kempen, Kristin Grove

Feb 8: Bruce McCormack, Herb Nelson

Feb 12: Deb Mattheis

Feb 13: Lilly Nesvig

Feb 14: Jim Krosch, Cara Krosch

Feb 15: John Barry

Feb 16: Joanne Thompson, Neil Weise

Feb 18: Erica Swenson, Rochelle Van Kempen

Feb 20: Nancy Erdahl, Solomon Johnson, Wayde Peterson,
Kyle Schultz

Feb 21: Matt Hilbrands, Sam Just

Feb 22: Angie Buchanan

Feb 23: Matthew Carlson

Feb 25: Garner Swenson, Gage Wevley, Jeanne Williamson

Feb 26: Matthew Burnett

Feb 27: Kris Hutchings

Feb 28: Allen Monroe

HAPPY
Anniversary!

Feb 13: Jay & Joleen Hanson

Caregiver Forum on Sunday, February 19th at 10:30am in the Gathering Room

Join us on Sunday February 19 for a conversation about Caregiver Consultant Services, a program of Western Prairie Human Services.

The term “*family caregiver*” means an adult family member or other person who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability, or functional limitation. Caregiving can start out slowly and most family caregivers find some level of satisfaction in providing support to the person for whom they are caring. This care is not, however without a cost, more than 40% of family caregivers reported having two or more chronic diseases and 23% of caregivers find it difficult to take care of their own health, according to the National Alliance for Caregiving. Caregivers also can be fatigued by the effort involved.

Caregivers care delays placement in long-term care facilities and improves the health, safety, and quality of life for our aging friends and family. It isn't a matter of IF an elder will need help but rather WHEN and HOW they will obtain it. The Administration for Community Living estimates that a senior turning 65 today has a 70% chance of requiring long-term care in their remaining years. Most people prefer aging in the comfort of their own home, being cared for by the ones who know them the best: *their family and close friends*.

Come and also learn about what is offered by Caregiver Consultant Services. This open dialog will be facilitated by Diane Kittelson, Certified Caregiver Consultant. Diane has a Master's Degree in Health and Human Services Administration, and has been working with the aging population for over 20 years. Through personal experience Diane can relate to the challenges caregivers face on a daily basis and offers a person-centered approach to assisting caregivers.

January 2023 First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

The January meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Present: Cari Burnett, Tony Feuchtenberger, Jackie Huebner, Jason Reed, LeAnn Dean, Bob Heck and Denise Odello. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye. A devotion was given by Cari and an opening prayer by Pastor Dan.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports given to each council member.

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

Visitor: Emilie Brustuen talked with the council about a program through Western Prairie Human Services that offers caregivers a variety of services, such as coaching, support, and respite. The group is looking for a facility to use once a month. First Lutheran would be a possible site for them to use.

Committee Reports: No reports given.

Old Business:

- Survey results: discussion held on what to accomplish with the results/comments received. Some items discussed were a current congregational directory, members getting to know other members, schedule of the pastor's time (community services, visitations, etc)
- Annual Meeting: to be held on Sunday, January 29 following the worship service. Discussed possible names for the ballot.

New Business

- Benevolence: discussion was held on the budget printed in the Annual Report, and the possibility of reducing the 10% benevolence to 8%. A motion was made and seconded to send benevolence at 8% based on the 2023 projected income. Motion carried. Going forward, the change will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
- February's council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00pm. Tony to give the devotion.

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

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; also 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
Jason Reed	Secretary
LeAnn Dean	
Bob Heck	
Jackie Huebner	