

November 2024

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve



Fall Dinner and Silent Auction

First Lutheran Church, 200 E. 5th St., Morris MN

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

serving from 4:30-7:00pm

(or until food runs out)

Dine-In - Take Out - Home Delivery

We will have two separate lines: one for dine-in and another for take-out. No Pre-Sale Tickets.

Home Delivery to Morris residents only.

For home delivery orders, please call the church office by 3:00pm on November 6th at 320-589-3242.

On the Menu:

Ham, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Rye Bread, and Pumpkin Roll.

Packaged homemade lefse will be for sale (4 rounds for \$14)

Tickets: \$14 per meal

Payment options: Cash, Check or Venmo

silent
auction

Don't miss First Lutheran's on-line Silent Auction!

(hosted by Zielsdorf Auction)

Bidding opens Friday, November 1st

and runs through Monday November 11th.

Auction items can be viewed on-line and at the church.

Rich Reflections

Friends in Christ,

Thanksgiving Day is approaching, and pastors everywhere will write corny, predictable messages about how we should be count our blessings. They'll stress the importance of distinguishing between the things we *want* and the things we *need*. And this article will be no exception! 😊

During the holiday season, we tend to be a little more thoughtful, a little more generous. And, this is admirable. But what if our thankful hearts prompted us to concrete action? What if being thankful propels us on a journey to do something beyond our comfort zones?

For some, the journey to thankfulness is brief. It goes something like this: "Dear God, I am so thankful that I have so many blessings (*read: luxuries, privileges*). I sure am thankful that I don't live in _____ (*insert the name of an inner city or developing country*). God, you have been very good to me! Amen."

Obviously it's good and right to thank God. But what if our journeys of thankfulness inspire in us a heart for justice? What if our thankfulness connected us to our baptismal identity?

When we are baptized, God establishes a covenant with us to "*proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.*" We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Our faith is not passive, private. But rather, our faith is proactive, public.

A powerful promise is reinforced through our baptismal: "*You are the light of the world. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven.*" (Matthew 5:14,16). Since God has been so good to us, we are called and sent to share that goodness with others, and our church is an excellent vehicle to do so.

This holiday season, as we fill ourselves at family feasts and then struggle with the temptation of conspicuous consumerism, may we embrace the greatest blessing we have received, through our spiritual ancestors Abraham and Sarah. We are "blessed to be a blessing to all families of the earth."

What if we each committed to a cause that is bigger than ourselves? What if we walked faithfully with a nonprofit agency, ministry or volunteer organization that gave voice to a cause that is near and dear to our hearts?

The concerns are so numerous: food scarcity, mental health, elder care, homelessness, child neglect & abuse, job creation, creation care, HIV and AIDS, autism, racial justice, addictions, refugees, violence against women, peacemaking—the list is seemingly endless. But consider which one or two you are most drawn toward.

Maybe you don't feel drawn to any particular cause. If that's you, please know the Holy Spirit is an amazing guide. Through prayer, the Spirit can open your eyes, heart and mind, and direct you to a work, organization or ministry that fits with your gifts.

Everything that exists is through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave himself to us so we can give ourselves to others. And I acknowledge and thank Pr. Angela T. Khabeb for many of these thoughts.

"I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4)

May thanks(and)giving become our way of life.

Pr. Rich

BEER & HYMNS

FOR LUTHER'S BIRTHDAY

Join us at 4:00pm on Sunday, Nov 10 at Old #1 Southside for a birthday celebration for Martin Luther. Members of Faith Lutheran & Federated Church will be joining us. Invite a friend(s) and come make a joyful noise!

DID YOU KNOW?



WORSHIP BROADCASTING:

In addition to First Lutheran's worship service being broadcasted live on its own Facebook page and YouTube channel, they are also broadcasted every Tuesday at 1:30pm on the Morris Local Access Channel for those that have their cable service through MediaCom (Ch. 8).

Local worship services are also broadcasted on the radio every Sunday morning at 11:04am on the KMRS radio station (AM 1230 or FM 107.7). Eight local ELCA churches take turns sponsoring these services (First, Faith, Our Savior's, Our Redeemer's, St. John's/Konsviger, Trinity Cyrus, Fron & Inherred).

TEXTING SERVICE:

For ease of contacting a large number of people quickly, such as weather related cancellations, you might receive a text message from "1-833-362-9809". While these text messages do originate from the church office, it is a one-way communication only; meaning if you send a reply your message will not be received.

FLEECE BLANKETS FOR SOMPLACE SAFE:

Please join us as we tie fleece blankets for Someplace Safe. All ages are welcome in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 3rd and November 10th, beginning at 10am. If you can tie a knot, you have the skills to help. Thrivent funds helped to pay for the supplies.

Mitten Tree

In the spirit of the season, we are collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to help those in need in Stevens County. Need comes in all sizes, so items of any size are welcomed! Items can be store bought or home-made, but we do ask that items are new. You can place your donations on the tree in the lower Narthex. Deadline to donate is Tuesday, November 26th.



Faith Lutheran's Annual

MEATBALL Supper

Wednesday, November 13

Serving from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

MEATBALLS & GRAVY
MASHED POTATOES
CORN • COLESLAW
LEFSE • PUMPKIN DESSERT

Adults: \$15

Children 10 & Under: \$6

Preschoolers: FREE

Faith Lutheran Church
108 W 8th Street • Morris

Dine In
or Take Out

- ❑ **Thank you!** Special thanks to the Eighth Grade Fusion Group who found me on my first outdoor solo walk taken between my two knee replacement surgeries at Green River Park Wednesday evening, October 9. They were walking the neighborhood and praying for people. It was truly an encouragement. -Emilie Brustuen
- ❑ **Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall before the worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The **FAITH Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of November. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. Those in this month's Service Group are:

* Eugene & Cathy Anderson	Greg & Naomi Fynboh	Glen & Kahla Gillespie
Mark & Mark Hueber	* Dave Jungst & Lindy Ekola	Diane Nelson
Mike & Denise Odello	John & Jean Schultz	Sarah & Colby Schultz
Cathy Solvie	Scott Staples	Neil & Pam Wiese
- ❑ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wed., November 13th at 11:30am at DeToy's. Please note date is one week later than usual due to the fall dinner. All are welcome to join us!
- ❑ **Newsletter Deadline** for the December newsletter is noon on Wednesday, November 20th.
- ❑ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, November 21st at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.
- ❑ **Pastoral Visit** If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church office and a pastor will be contacted to visit you. Even though you may be asked your religious affiliation during check-in, the hospital staff can not share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.
- ❑ **Daily Grace** Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Just go to the Women of the ELCA website (www.womenoftheelca.org) and sign up for the "Daily Grace." Reflect, pray, and prepare for the day.
- ❑ **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, contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700 or Marlene at 320-589-3879.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Council Members Needed.** First Lutheran will be in need of 4 new council members in 2025. The Council's mission, led by the Holy Spirit, is to coordinated the recourses of the congregation as it develops and practices the Christian faith. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to one of our current council members.



ThankOffering Collection

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small ThankOffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a ThankOffering service.

At that first ThankOffering in 1889, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in ThankOfferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization. ThankOfferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

At First Lutheran Church, ThankOffering Collection containers are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up and collect your loose change. Money from this collection goes to support the life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. ***We will collect the offering during worship on November 24, or they can be dropped off at the church office.***

November Worship Servants

Sunday, November 3 **11am Worship** **10am Sunday school**

Ushers: Al Harris, Ward Voorhees, Kyle Dougherty

Lector: LeAnn Dean

Nursery: Robi Bowman

Acolyte: Ashlyn & Aubrey Williamson

Video: Mike Odello

TV slides: Sarah Dougherty

Sunday, November 10 **11am Worship with Holy Communion**

Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just family, Kellie Hentges

Lector: Cathy Anderson

Communion: Judy Buro (*bread*)

Comm Servers: Doug & Sharon Ehlers, Vicki Dalager

Nursery: Lindy Ekola

Acolyte: Owen & Cooper Nesvig

Video: Dave Jungst

TV slides: Lilly Nesvig

Sunday, November 17 **11am Worship** **10am Sunday school**

Ushers: Dick Smith, Michael Bjorklund, Dennis Feuchtenberger

Lector: Denise Odello

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Acolyte: Zoe Krosch & Maddy Schneider

Video: Mike Odello

TV slides: Brenna Jergenson

Sunday, November 24 **11am Worship with Holy Communion (Blue Hymnal)**

Ushers: Bob Heck, Kent & Erica Swenson

Lector: Shana Ulrich

Nursery: Amy Dougherty

Acolyte: Braeden & Zach Huebner

Communion: Linda Holland (wafers)

Comm Servers: Laurie Feuchtenberger, Cheryl Higgins, Millie Tschetter

Video: Kyle Dougherty

TV slides: Connor Siegel



Nov 1: Braeden Huebner, Jacob Just,
Marge Kleinhans, Scott Staples

Nov 2: Vicki Dalager

Nov 3: Micah Ulrich

Nov 5: Mya Krosch, Katie Monroe,
Verna Sharstrom

Nov 6: Aiden Anderson, Heidi Suess

Nov 7: Cody Beyer, Finn Nesvig

Nov 8: Chris Wagner

Nov 11: Hunter McFall-Boegeman

Nov 12: Marisa Knutson, Isabel Fynboh,
Dick Smith

Nov 13: Peggy Lussenden

Nov 14: Tahni Jungst

Nov 16: Shannon Dougherty

Nov 17: Teagan Nelson, Christopher Siegel

Nov 18: Ryan Bowman, Brad Krosch,
Robert Thompson

Nov 20: Scott Larson

Nov 21: Marilyn Smith

Nov 22: Karen Ritter

Nov 23: Ethan Heck, Laura Peterson, Shana Ulrich

Nov 24: Zackary Krosch, Gage Schultz



Nov 25: Mary Ann Quisberg, Marilyn Syverson

Nov 28: Wanda Dagen

Nov 29: Skip Maanum, Alyssa Wagner



Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday, November 3.
Set your clock back 1 hour.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:15pm: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Hancock) 9:30am Women's Glacial Ridge Conf Meeting <i>Silent Auction opens</i>	2 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran <i>Lefse Making Day</i> pre-orders can be picked up from 1-3pm
3 10am Choir Practice 10am Coffee/ Fellowship/Fleece Blanket Tying Lefse pre-order pick-up 10am Sunday school 11am Worship <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	4	5	6 7:15am: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Morris) 4:30-7pm Fall Dinner 6:30-8pm Fusion at RFC	7	8 7:15am: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Hancock)	9 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
10 10am Choir Practice 10am Coffee/ Fellowship/Fleece Blanket Tying 11am Worship HC 2:30 - 4pm Girl Scouts 4pm Beer & Hymns at Old #1	11 <i>Silent Auction closes</i>	12 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1 4:15pm Worship & Music Mtg	13 11:30am Lunch Bunch at DeToy's 6:30-8pm Element @ First 6:30-8pm Fusion Service Project	14 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	15 7:15am: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Morris & Hancock)	16 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
17 10am Choir Practice 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 10am Sunday school 11am Worship 3:30-7:30pm Fusion Progressive Dinner	18	19 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	20 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 6:30-8pm Element @ First 7pm Fusion at Terrence Tally Faith Program	21 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	22 7:15am: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Morris & Hancock)	23 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
24 10am Choir Practice 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship HC ThankOffering Collection 2:30 - 4pm Girl Scouts	25	26 11am Pastors' Text Study Deadline for Mitten Tree Donations	27 7:15am: Fusion Bible & Breakfast (Morris)	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29	30 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
Rita will be on vacation from Tuesday, Nov 26 until Monday, Dec 2						

All worship services are streamed live via Facebook (Morris-First Lutheran Church) and YouTube (First Lutheran Church - Morris MN). Recorded services available on our website at www.flcmorris.org

Rita is in the church office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm by phone call or text (320-287-2384) or email (office@flcmorris.org)

Seniors on the Move September Event

Lunch at the Barrett Inn following by "Barefoot in the Park" at the Barrett Theatre



Seniors on the Move invites their church family to join them at the Luther Crest Advent Family Retreat



DATE: December 6-8, 2024

GRADES: All ages

TIME: Friday - Sunday **OR** Saturday (*daytime only*) \$75 per person

COST: \$300 per family in a cabin **OR** \$340 per Retreat Center Room (fits 4)
(*\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit*)

There's no better place to be during Advent season than together - and there's no better place to be together than at Luther Crest! Join us with the whole family for a weekend of fun games, worships, crafts, and advent themed devotionals! Get cozy by our fireplaces, and stay together in our beautiful cabins by the lake and woods! A Friday night snack, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack, and Sunday brunch will be provided! Check in is Friday at 7:00pm and closing worship is Sunday at 11:00am! Cost includes lodging and meals.

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

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 1 | In memory of Joanie Murphy from Emilie Brustuen |
| Oct 2 | In memory of Zona Jacobson from Al and Elizabeth Harris |
| Oct 3 | In memory of Zona Jacobson from Eugene & Cathy Anderson |
| Oct 4 | In memory of Zona Jacobson from Doug & Sharon Ehlers |
| Oct 5 | In memory of Zona Jacobson from Deanna & Ron Rosen |
| Oct 8 | In honor of Eleanor Pochardt on her 100th birthday from Marlene Seip |
| Oct 8 | In memory of Arlene Fellows on her birthday from Dawn and family |
| Oct 13 | Happy Birthday Randee Hokanson from Carol Day |
| Oct 18 | In memory of J. Allan Anderson on his birthday from Kathy & Gary Wilde |
| Oct 23 | In memory of Terry Thraen on his birthday from mom and dad |
| Oct 31 | In honor of our veterans from Deanna & Ron Rosen |

You can sponsor the missionaries of the ELCA 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.

sundayschool

Upcoming Sunday School Classes
(10:00am - 10:45am)

November 3 & 17
December 1, 8 & 15
January 7 & 21



Sunday, December 15



Christmas Program



Element's Schedule: (Grades 6 - 8)

- Wed, November 6: 6:30-7:30pm Adult Leadership Team Gathering
- Wed, November 13: 6:30-8pm Element @First Lutheran Church
- Wed, November 20: 6:30-8pm Element @First Lutheran Church
- Wed, November 27: No Element

Sr. High Fusion's Schedule: (Grades 9 - 12)

- Wed., November 6: 6:30-8:00pm – Fitness, Fellowship and Faith @ RFC
- Wed., November 13: 6:30-8:00pm – Service Project - More details to come!
- Sunday, November 17: 3:30-7:30pm – Progressive Dinner - Sign up link on Fusion website
- Wed., November 20: 7:00pm – Terrence Tally Faith Program at MAHS Auditorium

Fusion BIBLE and BREAKFAST: 7:15-8:00am

- Fri., November 1: Hancock group at Alberts
- Wed., November 6: Morris group at Faith
- Fri., November 8: Hancock group at The Bridge
- Fri., November 15: Hancock at Alberts; Morris at Faith
- Fri., November 22: Hancock at Alberts; Morris at Faith
- Wed., November 27: Morris group at Faith



Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information. www.fusion-ministry.com

Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267



October Fusion Ministry Highlights

The 6th-8th Gr. Element Youth went on a prayer walk around the community. Small groups prayed outside the hospital, the school, at parks, athletic fields and in neighborhoods. Students also explored Romans 12 & Matthew 6.

The 9th-12th Gr Fusion Youth had opportunities to meet weekly for breakfast and conversation. A Bible Study night; Fitness, Fellowship & Faith Night; and Halloween Party were also shared.



The Fusion Board will soon begin advertising for the youth ministry position.

Check out Fusion-Ministry.com for the latest updates.



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia Plant (\$14.00) _____ (Quantity)

In loving memory of:

Or... In honor of:

Once again we will be having a Poinsettia Garden around our altar to decorate for Christmas. If you would like to order a plant to contribute to this garden, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, December 15th**. Your poinsettia may be in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The plants will decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season and may be picked up after the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service.

Given by:

Please note: if you wish to keep your poinsettia plant, it can be picked up after the last Christmas Eve Services. Any plants left at the church after January 3rd will be disposed of.



First Lutheran Church Council Highlights: Oct 15, 2024

Committee Reports:

- **Education:** working on creating intergenerational activities during coffee hour; bells for the students are being ordered; Christmas Program is being worked out
- **Property:** boiler is up and running; large tree in garage lot has been removed; automatic handicap door openers to be installed;
- **Mission and Evangelism:** no report
- **Worship and Music:** music scholarship awarded to Jennie Odello; discussed Thanksgiving Eve service

Old Business:

- MSP/Transition update: hoping to have MSP finalized by end of year

New Business:

- discussed possible names for council
- Employee reviews will be held in November
- approved paying the bill for the video/sound system through the Local Ministry Fund
- Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00pm with devotions given by Pastor Rich.

SEPTEMBER'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,165.03 September Income

\$21,195.17 September Expense

\$172,952.97 Year-to-Date Giving

\$176,347.25 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: 11:00am

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

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 1:30pm

MediaCom: Channel 8

STAFF

Interim Pastor Rich Fitzer	rich_fitzer@yahoo.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager	office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian	
Deb Mahoney, Accompanist	

CHURCH COUNCIL

Cari Burnett	President
Bob Heck	Vice-President
Denise Odello	Treasurer
Matt Hilbrands	Secretary
Bob Dalager	
LeAnn Dean	
J. Mark Nesvig	