

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

It seems like it was just the 4th of July, and now the fair is right around the corner. It is my hope that you have had a refreshing summer so far. Hopefully you have been able to do something that brought you a sense of rest and renewal—whether that be visiting family, spending time in nature, going on vacation or simply relaxing at home.

Jesus saw the importance of rest and renewal. For Jesus, this often occurred in prayer. Mark 1 says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Luke 6 tells us, “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God.” And Mark 6 says that after Jesus dismissed the crowds that were fed with five loaves of bread and two fish, “He went up on a mountainside to pray.”

Perhaps part of your routine for renewal this summer has included prayer or meditation. Maybe, like Jesus, you have gone to a solitary place to pray. Or maybe you have been spending time in the morning or evening meditating. Along with vacation and spending time in nature, prayer can refresh and renew us as well.

Prayer also keeps us more connected to God. As Fall approaches, and our lives become busier and more hectic, this connection is more important than ever. Find a time and space among the busyness to pray to God for your daily needs and requests. Find a time and space for the renewal that Jesus knew was so important.

God’s blessings,
Pastor Matt

The Kingdom of Heaven

In my sermon on June 14, I talked about the kingdom of heaven; I defined it as the presence and activity of God in the world. As we move through the summer, I encourage you to look for the kingdom of heaven all around you. Look for those places where you see God present and active in the world. Later this summer I’m going to ask a few of you to share your experiences with the congregation.

Pastor Matt's Office Hours and Contact Info

Cell Phone: 715-379-9002

Email: morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com

Wednesdays: 10:00am - 12:00pm at FEDERATED

Thursdays: 11:00am - 1:00pm at COMMON CUP

Fridays: 2:00 - 4:00pm at FIRST LUTHERAN

Pastor Matt will generally be in one of the church offices most afternoons, and is also available by appointment. Mondays are Pastor Matt’s day off.

Church without Walls moves to On-Going Opportunities

Mission & Evangelism Committee Moves to rebrand Church Without Walls from a one-designated Sunday of service to On-Going Opportunities. Please note the community partnerships that have welcomed services from First Lutheran groups in the past and have indicated that they would welcome future On-Going opportunities. The committee would like individuals and small groups to organize themselves to meet the needs of these and new partnerships throughout the year. If you would like assistance in organizing a date or time, you may contact a committee member; or feel free to make the connection on your own. Gather a group of friends or schedule a family event to spread love to the needs of our community! Everyone has gifts, and the gifts are different.

What is “Church Without Walls?”

Overview: God's mission has a Church. God's mission is life, life-giving.

Goals: 1. Learn from the community of Morris and the world. 2. Respond with gifts of service, resources, talents.

Specifications: We all have a network of work, friendship and family relationships. Within your network of relationships, how might the people, and resources, of First Lutheran Church best utilize their energies in service? Where can work for justice be done? Where can kindness and love be shown? Where can service be accomplished?

Efforts: You are being asked to organize into individual or group work.

LWR & Health Mission Kits Assembly: Group meets to assemble (On Site Project) Sunday School Children and Adults needed. Date TBD

Cookies for Hospitality: Group meets to bake for hospitality. (On Site Project) Date TBD

Creative Art Card Making: Group meets to create cards for others. (On Site Project) Date TBD

SomePlace Safe Thrift Store 708 Atlantic Ave Morris: Clean-up & Sorting (Off Site Project) Contact: 320-585-6614 Ask for Dee, Manager The store is open seven days a week.

Courage Cottage 409 E 1st St Morris: Music, Chalk Art, Games w/Residents & Window Washing (Off Site Project) Contact: 320-585-5133 and 320-585-5134 Ask for Dena, Director.

West Wind Village 1001 Scotts Ave Morris: (Off Site Project) Contact: Jenny Mecklenberg, Activities Director 320-589-7902

Storehouse Ministry, located at 25 Atlantic Avenue in Hancock, is an ongoing opportunity to make a difference for hunger regionally and internationally with just your service of time, 6:30-8:30 p.m., weekly on Tuesdays or in added afternoon sessions, where edible beans in two pound bags are made for shipping. Grab a volunteer shift as your schedule permits, individually, as a family event, or as a group of friends together. Submit your email to receive sign-up notifications by calling 320-491-6765, or contact a committee member. (Off Site Project)

Sharing Love and Hope 604 Irving St Alexandria MN A mission dedicated to strengthening communities by sharing God's love and hope with those in need, faithfully serving individuals and families across west-central Minnesota, from Morris to Alexandria and beyond. This project has been organized through the Seniors On the Move of First Lutheran Church, who is hoping to set up future visits, perhaps monthly on future fourth Thursdays, if there is enough interest.

Elder Visits in collaboration with UMM Students (Off-Site Project) Next dates will be 10/10/2026; 11/14/2026; 11/21/2026 and in the month of February 2027 (Dates TBD)

Build water kits for Wine to Water, <https://www.wtw.org>, each filter provides clean water to 12 people for 10 years! (On-Site Project) Date TBD

Community Meal at First Lutheran: Preparation, serving, and clean-up. (On-Site Project) Date is September 28, 2026.

Christmas Dinner at First Lutheran: Preparation, serving, and clean-up (On-Site Project) 12/25

Friendship Ministries with the DAC. To learn more about this weekly commitment, contact the church office.

Snacks for Students There are numerous students at Morris Area Elementary who cannot bring a snack to school for their snack breaktime. Morris area churches have volunteered to provide these much needed snacks for all students in the elementary school. Details provided in the newsletter.

SUMMER

FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND FUN

Who: FIRST and FEDERATED families. *Invite your friends!!*

What: Supper....Church Scavenger Hunt....Bible Trivia!

FREE meal of Walking Tacos and root beer or orange floats will be served

When: Sunday, August 23 from 5-7pm

Where: First Lutheran Church

This event is FREE! All ages invited. Prizes for scavenger hunt and trivia winners.
Sunday school registration information and schedule will also be available.

GET READY FOR AN EVENING FULL OF ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP!

School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief

Believe it or not, school supplies will be on sale soon! When you are purchasing for your school supplies for your kids, please consider purchasing extra for Lutheran World Relief.

We will hold a Packing event this fall with the help of our Sunday school students and will pack School Kits as well as Personal Care Kits and Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits. Donations of white sheets would also be appreciated, as there are used for rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries.

Listed are the items that will be put in each School Kit. **Please do not substitute any of the items, as we can only use what is listed.** Donation boxes are in the Narthex.

- ☐ Four (4) 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½". No loose-leaf paper
- ☐ One (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ☐ One (1) pencil sharpener
- ☐ One (1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ☐ Five (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secured together with a rubber band
- ☐ Five (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secured together with a rubber band
- ☐ One (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ☐ One (1) 2½" eraser

COFFEE HOUR is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **CHARITY Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of August. Those in the Charity Service Group are: Jone & Doyle Anderson, Lauren Carlson, Vicki & Bob Dalager, Barry & Nancy Erdhal, Cheryl Higgins, Brent & Jackie Huebner, Steve & Michelle Just, Dick & Suzanne Smith, Jeanne & Kevin Williamson. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, August 5 at 11:30am at Fireside in Morris. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the August newsletter is noon on Thursday, August 20.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, August 20 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

SOCIAL HOUR AT LEGACY LIVING is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm for residents and friends. First Lutheran is on the schedule to supply the treats/goodies for 2026 on September 16. Donated treats are welcome.... a batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us anytime. If interested in helping please contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700.

SENIORS ON THE MOVE We had a wonderful 4th of July party! Food, fund and glee to celebrate our marvelous country’s 250th anniversary! We will be on the move again this fall. Watch for more info! Have a great summer!

ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION The Endowment Committee recently met and distributed the following funds: \$1300 to WELCA for LWR kit supplies; \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Venezuela Earthquake; \$700 to the Feed My Starving Children Morris packing event; \$631.40 to the Stevens County Food Shelf.

PASTORAL VISITS 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 cannot share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.

SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

July 3	In memory of Marlene Nelson from Jim & Marian Thraen
July 10	In memory of Pat Mumm from Cheryl Higgins
July 11	In memory of Daivd A. Rinkenberger from Emilie Brustuen
July 12	In memory of Karleen Wernsing from Emilie Brustuen
July 13	In memory of Richard Rau from Emilie Brustuen

You can sponsor the of the ELCA for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor of someone. Please contact the church office for more information, or to sponsor at date.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The church council did not meet in July. The next council meeting will be on August 20, 2026

JUNE’S GIVING and EXPENSE			
\$14,955.75	June Giving	\$103,835.50	Year-to-Date Giving
\$27,174.54	June Expense	\$143,186.69	Year-to-Date Expenses

West Central Area Charities is holding a Feed My Starving Children food packing event at the Morris Elementary School Cafeteria on the following days/times:



Monday, Aug 31:

- 12:30-1:30pm (unload)
- 1:30-3:30pm (set up)
- 4:30-6:30pm / 7:00-9:00pm (packing)

Tuesday, Sept 1:

- 2:00-4:00pm / 5:00-7:00pm / 7:30-9:30pm (packing)

Wed., Sept 2:

- 2:00-4:00pm / 5:00-7:00pm (packing)
- 7:00-9:30pm (clean up)

For further information and to sign up, or donate, go to <https://www.fmssc.org/get-involved/volunteer>. Under MobilePack Events, look for "2608-067EA West Central Area Churches."

You can also contact Robin at 320-226-1902 or drsmith@fedtel.net. Thank you for your support!

Support the LCM 2nd Floor Free Store

As we prepare for the fall semester, we are stocking the 2nd Floor Free Store at the LCM House. This no-cost resource provides clothing, toiletries, and household essentials for students facing financial challenges or experiencing a Minnesota winter for the first time.

We are currently seeking donations of:

- **Winter wear:** coats, gloves/mittens, hats, and snow boots (new or gently used)
- **Home goods:** kitchen essentials, bedding, and small household items
- **Amazon Wishlist:** support this ministry by purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist. Learn more and find giving options at www.ummlcm.org/support-lcm.

We are planning on delivering our first donation drop on **September 13** so please have donations in by this date (however there will be more opportunities to donate throughout the year). Thank you for helping students access the essentials they need to thrive.

GLACIAL RIDGE
CONFERENCE FALL
GATHERING

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

20 26

Mission Statement: Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

OUR REDEEMERS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 10TH ST S BENSON MN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

LIGHT MEAL AT 5:00 PM
PROGRAM AT 6:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2026						1
2 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – arts & crafts for kids during worship	3	4 11am Pastors' Text Study	5 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Fireside in Morris 1pm Worship & Music Meeting	6	7	8 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
9 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following	10	11 11am Pastors' Text Study	12	13	14	15 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
16 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – arts & crafts for kids during worship	17	18 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm (at FIRST) Denomination Exploration	19	20 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 2pm Zipporah Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	21	22 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
23 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following 5-7pm Fellowship, Food & Fun Event at FIRST	24	25 11am Pastors' Text Study	26	27	28	29 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
30 9:30am Outdoor Worship at FEDERATED with potluck meal following	31 Feed My Starving Children Packing Event					

*Services are streamed live on YouTube at both FIRST or FEDERATED depending on where the service is held.
(First Lutheran Church - Morris MN) and (Federated Church of Morris)*

Recorded services available on FIRST'S website at www.flcmorris.org and on FEDERATED'S website at morrisfederated.org

*Rita is available Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm (Monday-Wednesday during the summer months),
and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00pm.*

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 9:30am Worship HC <i>Coffee/fellowship following</i>	SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 9:30am Worship HC <i>Coffee/fellowship following</i>
Ushers: Dick Smith Judy and Chance Buro	Ushers: Al Harris, Doug Ehlers, Lindy Ekola
Lector: Steve Just	Lector: Lindy Ekola
Acolytes: Zachary & Braeden Huebner	Acolytes: Ashlyn & Aubrey Williamson
Communion Prep: Kahla Gillespie	Communion Prep: Liz Harris
Communion Server: Emilie Brustuen	Communion Server: Sharon Ehlers
Video: Mike Odello	Video: Dave Jungst
TV slides: Sawyer Fynboh	TV slides: Kenzi Just
Nursery: Vicki Dalager	Nursery: Pam Wiese
Accompanist: Suzanne Smith	Accompanist: Deb Mahoney

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am Worship
with coffee/fellowship following

- † Sunday, August 2: FEDERATED
- † Sunday, August 9: FIRST
- † Sunday, August 16: FEDERATED
- † Sunday, August 23: FIRST
- † Sunday, August 30: FEDERATED

*Outdoor service with potluck
following service*

HAPPY
Anniversary!

- Aug 6 John & Diane Dosdall
- Aug 7 Gwen & Steve Rudney
- Aug 12 Chris & Bobbi Siegel
- Aug 13 Magen & Tony Feuchtenberger
- Aug 18 Ron & Deanna Rosen
- Aug 22 Rob & Peggy Jergenson
- Aug 29 Peggy & Randy Lussenden
- Aug 29 Rochelle & Jamie Van Kempen

Happy Birthday

- Aug 1 Cooper Nesvig
- Aug 2 Sarah Buchanan
- Aug 5 Wade Ehlers
- Aug 6 Mark Anderson
- Aug 7 Brenna Jergenson
- Aug 11 Dennis Ketterling
- Aug 12 Emmitt House
- Aug 13 Bentlee Burnett, Brandon Jergenson,
Suzanne Smith
- Aug 15 Bob Heck, Abram Suess
- Aug 18 Judy Buro
- Aug 19 Mary Krattenmaker, Claire Reed
- Aug 20 Summer Anderson, Delbert Crow
- Aug 23 Brenna Monroe
- Aug 28 Carol Voorhees
- Aug 30 Cathy Anderson
- Aug 31 DiAnn Mithun

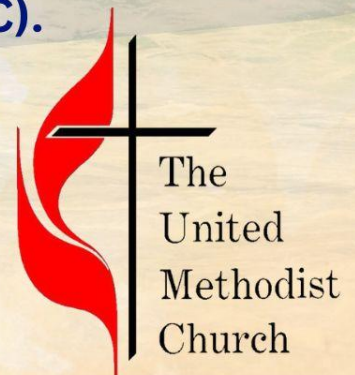
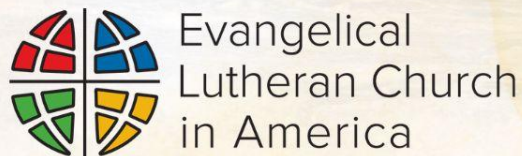


Denomination Exploration

3rd Tuesdays this Summer

———— 7:00 p.m. ————

Come and learn about the history, polity and traditions
of the United Church of Christ (UCC), Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and
United Methodist Church (UMC).



June 16

at First Lutheran | **UCC**



July 21

at Federated | **ELCA**



August 18 at First Lutheran | **UMC**



First Lutheran Church
200 East 5th St
Morris, MN 56267
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Non-Profit
Organization

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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

SEE SCHEDULE ON CALENDAR

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

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 1:30pm
MediaCom: Channel 8 or 117-2 (*digital*)

STAFF

Matt Orendorff, Pastor
Rita Bye, Office Manager
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sharon Ehlers, President
Dick Smith, Vice President
Naomi Fynboh, Treasurer
J. Mark Nesvig, Secretary
Elizabeth Harris
Nadine Heck
Allen Monroe

EMAIL

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