

July 2023

# First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve



Vacation Bible School will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris and is open to all students that have completed Kindergarten thru 6th grade

**Monday, July 17 through Thursday, July 20: 8:45am to 3:00pm**

**Theme: Holy Loved. Wholly Loved.**

Registration forms are available in the church Narthex, or registration can be done on Luther Crest website. At the list of programs, scroll down to 2023 July 16-20 Off-Site Day Camp and select Faith Morris Day Camp.

**Vacation Bible School is in need of a volunteer to be the First Lutheran representative!** This includes attending monthly meetings with the consortium of churches involved in VBS, securing First's financial contribution, and volunteering each day during the VBS experience. Please contact the church office for more information.

## WHAT is Wednesday Night Alive?



Wednesday Night Alive is time to gather together to hear stories from life that connect the messages of God's love for all people. Come for the stories – shared by speakers who know and have experienced God's powerful love in the face of life's many challenges. Come hear the message of God's mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Come for community, come for the food! All people are welcome!

**Location:** Old #1 Bar & Grill, Southside, 412 S Atlantic Ave, Morris, MN 56267

**FREE Meal at 6PM and Speaker at 7PM**

**July 5th—Richard Baker:** Richard is the director of MN Youth Alive, an organization that works with students, youth leaders and churches to share Jesus with other students across Minnesota. He loves to speak in teaching style that creates a practical application for the message.

**July 12th—Kelli Patrick:** Kelli works for MN Youth Alive in the area of student engagement. She is a fireball of a speaker and you will enjoy the enthusiasm she brings to the message.

**July 19th—Bobby Loukinen:** Bobby directs a mission's organization called AIM. He has more than 240 students traveling the world this summer sharing their faith in cross-cultural settings. Bobby is a passionate storyteller who will bring understanding to the Word of God.

**July 26th—Jessie Nelson Golnick:** Jessie is the lead youth pastor of a multi-site church in Woodbury. She has a humorous style that will keep you laughing until you cry...sometimes literally. Jessie has spoken at WNA in the past and we are privileged to have her back.



## Church Without Walls: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Registration now open!

<https://forms.gle/aBeXvFhPngaArEgBA>

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

* Eugene & Cathy Anderson	Greg & Naomi Fynboh	Glen & Kahla Gillespie
Tim & Kristin Grove	Mark & Mary Huebner	* 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 Wednesday, July 5 at 11:30am in the back room of Just Chillin' 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** last available date is 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.
- ☐ **Newsletter Deadline** for the August newsletter is noon on Monday, July 24.
- ☐ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, July 20th 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, July 11th 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.

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## *First Lutheran Women of the ELCA*

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While you are out shopping for school supplies for the next school year, please consider purchasing items to donate to Lutheran World Relief School kits. We will hold a packing event again on Sunday, September 10 with assistance from the First Lutheran Church Sunday School students. In addition to the school kits, we will be packing Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits.

### **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.

Donations of school supplies can be dropped off in the box in the church Narthex. Cash donations will also be accepted, but please leave in the church office.

Listed below 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.

- ☐ 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>July 2023</h1> 						<b>1</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>2</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>3</b> <i>*Rita vacation day</i>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> <i>*Church office closed for holiday</i> 	<b>5</b> 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Just Chillin' (back room)  6pm Wed Night Alive at Old #1	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>9</b> 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers	<b>12</b>  6pm Wed Night Alive at Old #1	<b>13</b> 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>16</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>17</b> 8:45am-3:00pm VBS at Faith Lutheran	<b>18</b> 8:45am-3:00pm VBS at Faith Lutheran 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 8:45am-3:00pm VBS at Faith Lutheran  6pm Wed Night Alive at Old #1	<b>20</b> 8:45am-3:00pm VBS at Faith Lutheran 12:30pm Seniors on the Move 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>23</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due	<b>25</b> 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	<b>26</b>  6pm Wed Night Alive at Old #1	<b>27</b> 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>31</b>	<i>During the summer months, Rita is available Monday through Wednesday from 8:00am to 4:00pm by email, phone call, or text message, and is in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. In the event of an emergency, she can be reached any day of the week on her cell phone at 320.287.2384.</i>				

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](http://www.flcmorris.org)

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## July Worship Servants

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### Sunday, July 2: 9:30am Worship

**Ushers:** Al Harris, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

**Lector:** LeAnn Dean

**Nursery:** Jone Anderson

**Acolyte:** Wes Odello & \_\_\_\_\_

**Video:** Tony Feuchtenberger

**TV slides:** Connor Siegel

### Sunday, July 9: 9:30am Worship HC

**Ushers:** Dick Smith, Tim & Tyson Grove

**Lector:** Ward Voorhees

**Communion:** Vicki Dalager (*bread*)

**Comm Servers:** Emilie Brustuen, Linda Holland, Bob Dalager

**Nursery:** Kristin Grove

**Acolyte:** Ian Grove & Sawyer Fynboh

**Video:** Steve Wagner

**TV slides:** Wes Odello

### Sunday, July 16: 9:30am Worship

**Ushers:** Bob Heck, Al & Julie Monroe

**Lector:** Dorwin Tschetter

**Nursery:** Lindy Ekola

**Acolyte:** Brenna Jergenson & Giana Feuchtenberger

**Video:** Dave Jungst

**TV slides:** Kye Suess

### Sunday, July 23: 9:30am Worship (Blue Hymnal)

**Ushers:** Dennis Feuchtenberger, Tony & Magen Feuchtenberger

**Lector:** Sharon Ehlers

**Nursery:** Michelle Just

**Acolyte:** Aubrey Williamson & Giana Feuchtenberger

**Video:** Mike Odello

**TV slides:** Jaxon Hilbrands

### Sunday, July 30: 9:30am Worship HC

**Ushers:** Al Harris, Karen Bolling, Dave Jungst

**Lector:** Steve Just

**Nursery:** Pam Wiese

**Acolyte:** Aaden Schultz & \_\_\_\_\_

**Communion:** Judy Buro (*wafer*)

**Comm Servers:** Liz Harris, Millie Tschetter, Tim Grove

**Video:** Tony Feuchtenberger

**TV slides:** Abigail Anderson

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HAPPY  
*Birthday*

July 1: Sharon Ehlers  
July 2: Justin Anderson, Cheryl Hawkinson  
July 3: Dorwin Tschetter, Al Watson  
July 4: Dolores Crow, Natalie Ketterling,  
Steven Sarlette  
July 5: Paul Grove  
July 6: Lori Anderson, Taylor Anderson,  
Reid Ketterling  
July 7: Laura Anderson  
July 8: Dennis Fuhrman, Ben Staples  
July 9: Rich Buro  
July 10: Dustin Anderson, Jacoby Burnett,  
Brek Huebner, Victor Youle  
July 11: Shelley Beyer  
July 12: Todd Staples  
July 13: Brittany Harrison, Thomas Wulff  
July 15: Rebecca Holland  
July 16: Ardell Anderson, Gordon Dalseide,  
Brian Erdahl, Jacob Ulrich  
July 17: Charles Henrich Jr., Myron Syverson  
July 18: Jennie Odello, Hannah Zehringer  
July 20: Ian Grove

July 21: Anna Grove  
July 22: Mason Williamson  
July 23: Kendra Buro, Joel Harrison  
July 26: Damien Warner  
July 27: Carole Johnson, Nikki Krosch  
July 28: Robi Bowman, Durgin Decker, Tyson Grove,  
Connor Siegel  
July 29: James Carlson, Thomas Holland  
July 30: Jon Amundson, David Nelson  
July 31: Rhonda Lair, Greg Thymain

HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

July 1: Jon & Shana Ulrich  
July 6: Cheryl & Keith Hawkinson  
July 8: Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger  
July 9: Matt & Cari Burnett  
Charles & Helen Yerigan  
July 18: Brian & Ann Erdahl  
July 20: Eugene & Cathy Anderson  
July 23: Bob & Vicki Dalager  
July 30: Ray & Jane Johnson

## *First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights: June 20, 2023*

**Treasurer's Report:** Financial reports given to each council member. Moving into the summer months, the bank balance is already at a negative. Discussed how to cover bills for the coming months (see New Business).

**Visitors:** Summer Anderson and Laurie Feuchtenberger met with the council to discuss fundraising events for Fusion. Namely the need for First Lutheran to hold fundraisers that would help cover the annual \$10,000 commitment to Fusion, but also the possibility of having additional fundraisers that would be above and beyond our first commitment. Discussion was held on getting parents of the Fusion/Element students more involved with fundraising. It was the consensus of the council to only commit to fundraising towards our annual monetary commitment at this time.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Mission & Evangelism: Church without Walls on Sept 10. Discussion on where to hold the meal following the event.
- Property: shrubs/trees in the courtyard have been trimmed.

### **Old Business:**

- The council retreat at Luther Crest was very informative. Next year's retreat should be held shortly after the annual meeting and preferably held in Morris.
- Summer worship/interim update: the Synod has not sent any interim names yet. Worship leaders are lined up until mid-August that include a couple of guest pastors for communion Sundays.

### **New Business**

- General checking account is currently at a negative balance. A motion was made, seconded and carried to pull funds from the unallocated line item dedicated checking account to cover this month's shortfall.
- To help cover the general expenses through the summer months, a motion was made, seconded and carried to pull \$50,000 from the ELCA Endowment Fund.
- Benevolence: a motion was made, seconded and carried to put a hold on benevolence payments starting with May and continuing until this fall.
- Emergency pastoral coverage: some local pastors have voiced their willingness to help in the event of a funeral or hospital visit. Rita will be the main contact person that will then contact one of those pastors.
- The council accepted Laura Wiebe's resignation letter.
- Michael and Carmen Zoughbi may be here this coming fall and would need one or two host families. Announcement to be added to the newsletter/bulletins.
- Homebound list: Jo Solvie has requested the listing of homebound members so she can organize visits. A motion was made, seconded and carried approving this.
- Rita will be on summer hours until this fall, with workdays of Monday through Wednesday. In the event of an emergency, she will still be the main contact person any day of the week.

## **MAY'S GIVING and EXPENSE**

\$14,287.25 May Giving	\$25,558.60 May Expenses
\$107,662.25 Year-to-Date Giving	\$130,716.21 Year-to-Date Expenses

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## *A Note from your Church Council Treasurer*

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As our church goes through a time of transition, I've been thinking about what a church really is. I keep going back to a song I learned in Sunday School that says "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!" Now, decades after I learned it, I really think the song had the right idea. The church isn't a building, or a person, or a particular event; the church is a community of people. Whether in worship, at work, at school, or anywhere else we spend our time, we are the church.

Summer takes us in different directions. Even as we are the church in the world, ministries are continuing here at FLC in Morris. These ministries require our time, treasure, and talents to keep going. Summer has always been a challenging season financially and this year is no different. Additionally, we came into this summer in a weak financial position. Even with the reduced costs of our current pastoral situation, our giving is not keeping up with our regular expenses. On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Church Council approved moving \$50,000 from the church endowment fund into the general fund to sustain our ministries. We took this action so that we can keep being the church through regular ministries like worship, Sunday school, youth ministry, Bible studies, etc.

On behalf of the Church Council, I am asking you to continue to be the church in all the ways that are meaningful to you. Pray for us as we make our way through this transition and as we go out into the world. Support ministries with your time, treasure, and talents. Worship in community when you can. Prayerfully consider your giving, even when you are away from home. Simply Giving provides a great opportunity to make your giving regular, and Venmo makes it easy to give even when you are unable to join in worship.

Thank you for being the church in Morris and in the world!

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## *Our Mission.....First Lutheran WELCA*

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Mission is our main focus. We try to collect supplies and send kits and quilts to Lutheran World Relief [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) and Global Health Ministries [www.GHM.org](http://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 **July 30**, and **August 27** will allow small group discussions to review progress and prepare for packing. We will meet during coffee hour (10:30am) on these dates. Bring whatever you have shopped for or made. Ask questions, work together.

### **Seniors on the Move** also known as Senior Ministry

**Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 20th and visit Waska Village in Glenwood!**

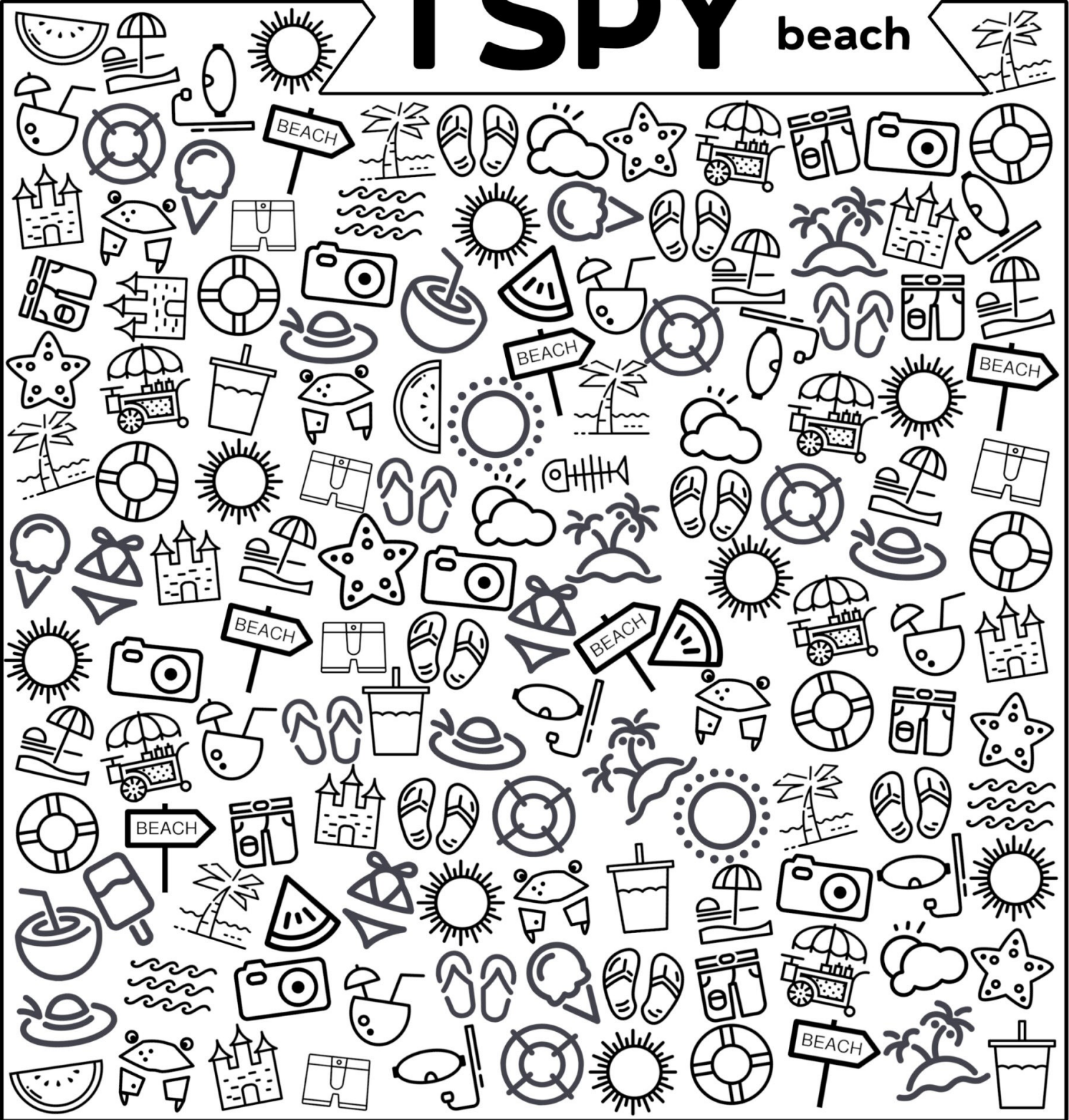
On July 20th, we will carpool from the church parking lot at 12:30pm and travel to Glenwood for lunch and browsing/shopping at Waska Village in Glenwood.

Waska Village is a "village" of 10 tiny shops, all connected by sidewalks to a larger building with bathrooms, lunch area and a central checkout. Some of the shops are: t-shirt and sweatshirt shop, baby shop, candy store, men's shop, beach shop, home décor and boutique, shoe store, toys and games, along with an ice cream shop!



# I SPY

## beach



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| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| 3 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |

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

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- June 1 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- June 2 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Cheryl Higgins
- June 3 In honor of Sharon Ehlers' retirement from Cheryl Higgins
- June 4 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Jim & Marian Thraen
- June 5 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Jeanne Anderson
- June 6 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Marlene Seip
- June 7 In memory of Arlene Fellows from James & Judy Snowberg
- June 8 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Barry & Nancy Erdahl
- June 9 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Barry & Nancy Erdahl
- June 10 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Paul & Joyce Rentz
- June 11 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Lyle & Londa Rambow
- June 12 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Cary & Nancy Bergo
- June 13 In honor of Evelyn Warnes on her birthday from Carol Day
- June 14 In memory of Thomas Jerve from Emilie Brustuen
- June 15 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Emilie Brustuen
- June 16 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Carol Day
- June 17 In memory of Arlene Fellows from Mary Krattenmaker
- June 18 In appreciation of Pastor Dan's service from Carol Day

July 9 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory of Sylvia Yarger

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.

WELCA Pie profits of \$1,100 will be donated to First Lutheran Church Youth Ministry Account in support of the Fusion and Element programs! WELCA will continue our spring pie fundraiser into 2024. You can help by freezing rhubarb for pies. If you are willing to also help with freezing purchased fruit this summer, please contact Emilie Brustuen or Sharon Ehlers.

**THANK YOU!** I want to express my sincere thanks to the congregation for the privilege and joy of being your pastor the past six years. There have been some deep challenges (think COVID) and inexpressible joys. Always a sense of community and kindness. I've often sensed the Holy Spirit as I've lived and served among us. I leave with profound gratitude. I also want to thank everyone for their prayers, kind words, and the cards and gifts. My heart is full!

**A NOTE ON STAYING AS A MEMBER OF FIRST LUTHERAN** Several people have asked me if I intend to continue to be part of First Lutheran, since I plan to continue to live in Morris. Some have assumed I would continue as a "lay" member here. While I appreciate the thoughts and welcome, I believe that it is best that I not do so. Having been your pastor for six years I think it would be difficult for people not to continue to see me as "our pastor." Also, if a pastoral emergency or death in the congregation comes up, people may turn to me. Yet, I am no longer pastor here. Besides this, the ELCA strongly recommends that pastors not continue to be involved in the congregation they have served, for a variety of reasons, including that when the new pastor comes, it can create confusion. So, while I regret that this is at the case, First Lutheran won't be my house of worship in retirement. I may show up for an event once in a while though! And, you may see me around town, as I am not moving.

Pastor Dan





Everyone wants to age in place at home as long as possible. But to do so, many older adults rely on family or friend caregivers for necessary supports. Most of us are happy to provide support and are willing to step into the family caregiver role

with-out even recognizing it. While caregivers report significant emotional and spiritual rewards from the caregiving experience, they also experience physical and emotional issues as a result of the demands of their caregiving responsibilities. When family caregivers are untrained, unsupported, and do not have opportunities to engage in meaningful self-care and rest, the experience can negatively impact their physical health and mental health.

Group respite is a program designed to benefit family caregivers as well as care receivers. It benefits care receivers with the opportunity to socialize with others in a fun, friendly, and secure setting. Caregivers can join the activities or take time for themselves. First Lutheran Church of Morris has partnered with Western Prairie Human Services to bring this much needed service to Morris.

***You are invited to join us on Thursday, July 13, at First Lutheran Church in the Gathering Room from 1:00-2:00pm or 4:00-5:00pm to learn more about group respite, who would be appropriate for it and volunteer opportunities to help with this.***

For questions or more information contact Diane Kittelson, Certified Caregiver Consultant at 320-424-0018 or [diane.kittelson@westernprairiemn.us](mailto:diane.kittelson@westernprairiemn.us)

Caregiver Support Group Locations:

Morris Public Library: 3rd Thursday each month from 10:00-11:00am

Glenwood Western Prairie Human Services: 2nd Tuesday each month from 9:00-10:00am

Elbow Lake: 4th Tuesday each month from 10:00-11:00am at United Lutheran Church, 215 10th Ave SE, Elbow Lake



Thank you to all who supported us financially for the mission Trip! We have raised all that we have needed to raise!

The 20 of us leave on July 8<sup>th</sup> and return on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please be in prayer for us as we go on this awesome adventure loving and serving the people of Denver, CO. Keep an eye on our Instagram and facebook pages for pics and updates on how the trip is going and how you can pray for our team along the way!

Thanks for being supportive of our Fusion Youth!



### Ministry Celebration

Wednesday, August 16 from 6:30-7:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church  
We want to THANK YOU for your support! Enjoy a dessert. Hear how Fusion Ministry is making a difference in the lives of students.

## First Lutheran Church

200 East 5th St

Morris, MN 56267

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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](http://www.flcmorris.org)

email: [office@flcmorris.org](mailto: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.

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#### **Televised Services:**

**Tuesdays at 2:00pm**

Federated: Channel 6

MediaCom: Channel 117

#### **STAFF**

Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director [heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com](mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com)  
Rita Bye, Office Manager [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)  
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian  
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist  
Pastor Philip & Lou Knutson, Missionary

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

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