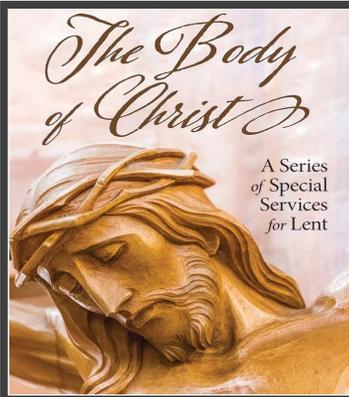


MARCH 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

March 11 & 25 at FIRST

March 4 & 18 at FEDERATED

Our Lenten Midweek services will alternate between First and Federated. A light supper will be served at 5:30pm at FEDERATED on the Wednesdays they host the service. No supper will be served at First.

Hello, First Family,

We have begun moving through the season of Lent. Have you ever thought about the joy in sacrifice that Lent provides? Most of us don't delight in sacrifice. In fact, in our daily lives, we often do our best to avoid challenges and practices that push us outside of our comfort zones.

In Christianity, there is a beautiful irony between joy and sacrifice, and we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this during Lent. In one of his Lenten messages, Pope Francis shared, "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

While giving up sweets in favor of healthy snacks for Lent is a common and noble endeavor, the goal of Lent should not only be a spiritual excuse to lose weight. In choosing acts of self-denial, we are saying "no" to things in order to get into the practice of saying "no" when inclined towards sin, ultimately deepening our faith and our relationship with the God. When we grow closer to God by denying ourselves and taking up our hardships, we say "yes" to a life of abundance with God. And therein lies the joy.

Lent is a time for repentance and spiritual preparation for Easter. And it is important to remember that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. At the same time, Lent provides us an opportunity to make God a greater part of our life, and to take our faith to new levels; to get outside of our comfort zones.

Lent is a time for every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves. It is a time to welcome God into our lives in greater ways, so that when we arrive at Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Talk about pure joy!

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt's Office Hours and Contact Info

Cell Phone: 715-379-9002

Email: morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com

Wednesdays: 10:00am - 12:00pm at COMMON CUP; 2:00 - 4:00pm at FEDERATED

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Make plans to join us on Sunday, March 22 at FIRST LUTHERAN
for a Combined Congregational Meeting & Potluck Dinner!**

We will meet in the fellowship hall following the worship service to discuss the Federated & First Collaboration Survey results. There will be copies available of the compiled survey results at the meeting for you. If you wish to read the individual copies of the submitted surveys, a copy is available in each church office. Following the discussion, we will enjoy a Potluck Dinner.

Bring your favorite dish to share!

Palm Sunday *Brunch*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Holy Week & Easter



Maundy Thursday, April 2 Worship at FIRST

First Communion for the 5th grade class

Good Friday, April 3 Worship at FEDERATED CHURCH

Hosted in partnership with First, Federated & Trinity Cyrus

Easter Sunday, April 5 Worship at both FIRST and FEDERATED

2026 CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS, DELEGATES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Church Council: Nadine Heck (2027), J. Mark Nesvig (2027), Naomi Fynboh (2028), Elizabeth Harris (2028), Al Monroe (2028), Sharon Ehlers (2029), Dick Smith (2029)

Executive Council: Sharon Ehlers, President | Dick Smith, Vice President | J. Mark Nesvig, Secretary
Naomi Fynboh, Treasurer

Audit Committee: Ryan Anderson (2027) Laurie Feuchtenberger (2028) Greg Fynboh (2029)

Endowment Committee: Ward Voorhees (2028) Cari Burnett (2028) Magen Feuchtenberger (2029)
Council member: Naomi Fynboh
2 open positions: _____

West Central Christian Homes: Board Member: Lauren Carlson (2028)
Delegates: Carol Voorhees 1 open position _____

Glacial Ridge Conference: *Annual Meeting: Sunday, March 15 at 3:00pm at Kongsvinger Lutheran Church*
Doug & Sharon Ehlers, J. Mark & Crystal Nesvig, Dick & Suzanne Smith

Synod Assembly: *Assembly to be held on Friday & Saturday, June 6 & 7 at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter*
3 open positions: _____

Gustavus Adolphus: *Annual Convention at Gustavus:* Greg & Naomi Fynboh

Luther Crest Bible Camp: *Annual Meeting at Luther Crest on a Saturday in October 2026 TBA*
Bob Heck, Steve & Michelle Just

Common Cup Board Member: Greg Fynboh (2027), Sharon Ehlers (2028), Allyn Plattner (2029)

Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (LuMin): Crystal Nesvig (2028) Naomi Fynboh (2029)

Committee Members:

Property Committee: Dennis Feuchtenberger, Greg Fynboh, Bob Heck, Robert Thompson, Dick Smith

Worship & Music: Vicki Dalager, LeAnn Dean, Nadine Heck, Liz Harris and Suzanne Smith

Mission & Evangelism: Emilie Brustuen, Sharon Ehlers, J. Mark Nesvig, Pam Wiese

Stewardship: Doug Ehlers, Steve Just, Allen Monroe

Education: Cari Burnett, Magen Feuchtenberger, Jeanne Williamson, Sharon Ehlers



STEVENS COUNTY FOOD SHELF DRIVE

Now through Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. MN March Food Share Month especially appreciates monetary donations. Make checks to FLC and in the memo line please note Stevens County Food Shelf. Monetary donations put in the offering plate at worship must be in a separate envelope marked "food shelf" or they can be mailed to or dropped off at the church office. **First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will match any money donated during this time!** In-Kind goods will be accepted at the table in the lower narthex. Remember, needs fall into categories besides food, such as household and self-care items.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

ELCA WORLD HUNGER and GLOBAL BARNYARD NOISY OFFERING "Until All Are Fed" ELCA WORLD HUNGER and GLOBAL BARNYARD NOISY OFFERING Challenge will begin at worship on **Sunday, March 22nd**. ELCA World Hunger envelopes will be available so checks can be made to First Lutheran Church and sent to ELCA from our church. GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD Boxes are available to Sunday School children as well as all adult families. All loose change, cash, and checks written to First Lutheran Church with "ELCA Good Gifts" in the memo line, will be part of the Sunday School's noisy offering challenge. They will then have funds to request animal gifts that can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. Boxes of the noisy offering will be **collected at worship on Sunday, April 12th**. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we lie out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed.

STOREHOUSE MINISTRY 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.

THANK YOU to the volunteers who joined with UMM student volunteers during their scheduled Elder Visits in the month of February. Look for the next scheduled visits to occur during the upcoming fall semester.

THANK YOU to those who assisted Sunday School students to build water filters at Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 22nd. Supporting Wine to Water, <https://www.wtw.org>, each filter provides clean water to 12 people for 10 years!

SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us on **Thursday, April 30!** We will be traveling to Alexandria to visit and help at Lois Schmidgall's program called Sharing Love & Hope, where items are packaged and sent to those in need. We will meet at First Lutheran's parking lot at 12:30pm. Watch for sign-up sheets at both First and Federated after Easter. MORE details will follow in April's Newsletter.

Our Valentine's party was enjoyed by many and was centered on LOVE (of course!) Not so much romantic as agape. We learned how we could show Jesus's love of others by sharing our time. We also enjoyed a light-hearted presentation from Pastor Matt. We learned how his life brought him to our churches.



COFFEE HOUR is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **HOPE Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of February. Those in the Charity Service Group are: Connie Anderson, Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger, Tony & Magen Feuchtenberger, Bob & Nadine Heck, Matt & Adrienne Hilbrands, Randee Hokanson, Marisa Knutson, Brad & Heather Krosch. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, March 4 at 11:30am at Pizza Hut. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the April newsletter is noon on Thursday, March 19.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, March 19th at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" will be playing at the Morris Movie Theatre until March 5. This movie is based on the true life experiences of Bart Millard, singer of the Christian band MercyMe. This movie is a heartfelt story of faith, family, and finding hope in the storm.

SHARE & CARE QUILTERS meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00am in the sewing room (lower level) to sew and put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Come and join the group! Sewing skills are NOT required as there are other talents needed.

ST. MARY'S OPEN ENROLLMENT is now open for the 2026-2027 school year for preschool (4+) through 6th grade. St. Mary's provides a Christian education with small class sizes and a close knit community experience. All families are welcome to enroll. You do not need to be a member of the Catholic Church to enroll. For more information, contact the school at (320) 589-1704 or email principal@stmarysmorris.com

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 can not share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.

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., in Morris. 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.

FOLLOW US on Facebook at "Morris-First Lutheran Church." Our worship services are live-streamed on Sundays at 9:30am. We also try to add current event photos and updates to Facebook.

SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

- Feb 1 In memory of John Solvie from his family
- Feb 2 In memory of Russ Wolff from Jo Solvie
- Feb 3 In memory of Joan Michealson from Jo Solvie
- Feb 4 In memory of Dave Jungst's mother from Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
- Feb 5 In memory of Jean Jungst from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 6 In memory of Robert Rhiengans from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 7 In memory of Belinda Synder's brother from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 8 In memory of Judy Buro's mothers from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- Feb 9 In memory of Steve Just's mother from Dough & Sharon Ehlers
- Feb 10 In memory of Jerry Hoem from Cheryl Higgins
- Feb 11 In memory of Steve Just's mother from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 12 In memory of Conor Arnold from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 13 Happy Birthday Glen Gillespie from Emilie Brustuen
- Feb 14 Happy Birthday Glen Gillespie from Marlene Seip
- Fab 17 In loving memory of Lenore Anderson on her daughter's birthday from Pat Smith

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

Snacks Needed!

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.

100-120 boxes needed! Please donated by Sunday, March 29!

Please make sure crackers/snacks are not expired as they cannot be used.

Some suggested snacks: Ritz or Club crackers, saltines, graham crackers, plain animal crackers (*not frosted*), Cheez-It, Goldfish, pretzels, granola bars, fruit/applesauce cups (*please provide spoons*)

Not recommended: cookies, fruit roll-ups, candy/candy bars, sugary cereals, perishable foods

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: FEB 10, 2026

Committee Reports:

- Worship and Music: A printed copy of the minutes were handed out.
- Mission and Evangelism: J Mark discussed the missionary for a day program and the proposed partnership with a Lutheran Seminary in Africa. There will be an adult education presentation after church on April 12th to provide more information.

Communications:

- UMM Bread n' Bowls event donation request. Motion made to donate \$250 for this years event.

Old Business:

- Survey of Congregations: discussed the survey results and the plan for the survey results meeting to be held on March 22nd after the service at First Lutheran. This will also be the kickoff for congregation members for each church to vote on whether they want to continue the collaboration with Federated beyond May 2026. Voting window will close on April 10th.
- Finalize salary for Pastor Matt.
- Common Cup Support: operating budget shortfalls the past couple of years have led to private individuals providing loans to keep the budget balanced. The constitution states that congregational dues are a potential tool to cover future shortfalls if they occur and that the church council should consider a line item in next year's budget so private individuals don't have to cover shortfalls in the future.
- Accompanist Contract: the current contract will be replaced with a general accompanist contract.

New Business:

- Council Assignments: President: Sharon Ehlers | Vice President: Dick Smith | Treasurer: Naomi Fynboh
Secretary: J. Mark Nesvig
- Council Assignments on Committees: Education-Sharon Ehlers; Property- Dick Smith; Stewardship-Allen Monroe; Mission & Evangelism-J Mark Nesvig; Worship & Music-Nadine Heck & Liz Harris; Endowment-Naomi Fynboh.
- Council Installation: Feb 22nd (during Worship)
- Council Retreat: March 7th - Hudson Inn

Treasurer's Report:

- Printed financial reports were given to all council members.

Next month's council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm. Devotions by J. Mark

JANUARY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$31,291.75 January Giving

\$19,083.85 January Expenses

\$31,291.75 Year-to-Date Giving

\$19,083.85 Year-to-Date Expenses

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with Fellowship following Sunday school held after Children's Message during service	2	3 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for at Old #1	4 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Pizza Hut 6:30pm Midweek Lent at FEDERATED light supper at 5:30	5	6 7:15am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	7 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
8 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following.	9	10 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	11 5:30pm Fusion Summer Trip Info Mtg at FAITH 6:30pm Midweek Lent at FIRST (no meal served)	12 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	13 7:15am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	14 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
15 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with Fellowship following Sunday school held after Children's Message during service	16	17 11am Pastors' Text Study	18 6:30pm Midweek Lent at FEDERATED light supper at 5:30	19 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	20 7:15am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	21 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
22 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with Congregational Mtg and Potluck dinner	23	24 11am Pastors' Text Study	25 6:30pm Midweek Lent at FIRST (no meal served)	26 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	27 7:15am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	28 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
29 PALM SUNDAY No Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST Palm Sunday Brunch to be served. Details to be announced.	30	31				

*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 and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.



*Daylight Saving time begins Sunday, March 8.
Set your clocks ahead one hour.*

MARCH WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC	WED., MARCH 11 Midweek Lenten 6:30pm	SUNDAY, MARCH 22 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC	WED., MARCH 25 Midweek Lenten 6:30pm	PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29 9:30am Worship HC
Ushers: Bob Heck Al & Julie Monroe	Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just Kenzie Just	Ushers: Al Harris Doug Ehlers Lindy Ekola	Ushers: Dick Smith Burnett Family	Ushers: Dick Smith Judy Buro Brian Erdahl
Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger		Lector: Cathy Anderson		Lector: Steve Just
Acolytes: Jacoby Burnett Lucy Feuchtenberger	Acolytes: Ashley Williamson Abram Suess	Acolytes: Zachary Huebner Braeden Huebner	Acolytes: Gage Schultz Wyatt Schultz	Acolytes: Kenzi Just Wes Odello
Communion Prep: (silver tray/wafers) Vicki Dalager		Communion Prep: (silver tray/wafers) Liz Harris		Communion Prep: (silver tray/wafers) Kahla Gillespie
Communion Server: Ward Voorhees		Communion Server: Sharon Ehlers		Communion Server: Emilie Brustuen
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger	Video: Mike Odello	Video: Dave Jungst	Video: Tony Feuchtenberger	Video: Mike Odello
TV slides: Brayden Carlson	TV slides: Zoe Krosch	TV slides: Connor Siegel	TV slides: Lucy Feuchtenberger	TV slides: Sawyer Fynboh
Nursery: Amy Dougherty	Nursery: Jone Anderson	Nursery: Pam Wiese	Nursery: Michelle Just	Nursery: Jone Anderson
Accompanist: Deb Mahoney	Accompanist: Deb Mahoney	Accompanist: Suzanne Smith	Accompanist: Jennie Odello	Accompanist: Jennie Odello

HAPPY
Birthday

- March 2: Mark Nemmers, Ashford Swenson
- March 3: Terry Dybdahl, Stan Staples
- March 5: Jeremy Heck
- March 6: Janis Waller
- March 7: Denise Odello, Lauren Peterson, Ellen Reed, Ruby Swenson
- March 8: Bob Dalager
- March 9: Tom Schneider
- March 11: Tony Schultz
- March 13: Diane Nelson
- March 14: Dani Schultz Kangas
- March 15: Deb Mahoney
- March 16: Kyle Krosch
- March 17: Jay Hanson, Allan Harris, Dale Peterson
- March 18: Gwen Rudney
- March 19: Lauren Carlson, Michael Lair, Jean Schultz
- March 21: Colby Schultz, Maela Suess, Amy Werk
- March 22: Travis Beyer
- March 23: Barry Erdahl
- March 25: Marleen Nelson
- March 26: Samantha Buro Fowler, Jaxon Hilbrands, Kyler Smith
- March 28: Blake Amundson, Mark Huebner, Heather Krosch, Nathan Smith
- March 29: Dennis Feuchtenberger
- March 31: Philip Rosen

HAPPY
Anniversary!

March 20: Bruce & Laura McCormack

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday, March 1: Federated
- Wed., March 4: Federated
- Sunday, March 8: First
- Wed., March 11: First
- Sunday, March 15: Federated
- Wed., March 18: Federated
- Sunday, March 22: First
- Wed., March 25: First
- Palm Sunday, March 29: First

SPRING GATHERING

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Saturday morning event, where we aim to make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

THEME AND THEME VERSE This Is My Father's World

Psalms 104:24 How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Fundraising Activities

Engage in various fun and meaningful activities that contribute to our cause. Event offering will go ½ to Synodical Women's Organization; ½ to If Wishes Were Horses, Morris, MN IN-KIND items/cash will go to Stevens County Food Shelf.

Live Entertainment

Experience captivating performance
by local talents.

Musicians Ken & Linda Hodgson with Lisa Winter.

Education from If Wishes Were Horses, Morris, MN, 'Empowering Dreams, One Hoof Beat at a Time.'

Delicious Food

Enjoy a delectable spread of food and refreshments at 9:30 a.m.



**9:00 AM REGISTRATION \$15 9:30 AM BRUNCH
10:00 AM FREE PROGRAM OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

200 EAST 5TH STREET
MORRIS, MN 56267

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026

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

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

EMAIL

morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com

office@flcmorris.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sharon Ehlers, President

Dick Smith, Vice President

Naomi Fynboh, Treasurer

J. Mark Nesvig, Secretary

Elizabeth Harris

Nadine Heck

Allen Monroe

HELLO
March