

First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

200 East 5th Street, Morris MN 56267
320-589-3242
www.flcmorris.org



Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

December 2020

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 9:30am

broadcasted on Facebook Live;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

3:00pm - 5:00pm - 9:00pm

(on-line viewing available 5:00pm)

Christmas Day Worship

Friday, December 25

10:00am



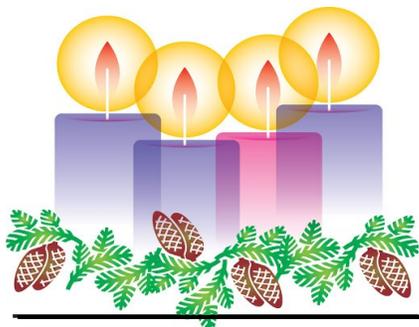
Please see notation at bottom of page concerning on-line only worship



On-line Advent Worship Services

Join us for on-line Midweek Advent service! These services will only be available on-line. The service will be broadcasted via Facebook Live at 5:00pm and our website and YouTube channel later that evening.

Themes for Advent Midweek Dec 2: Hunger
Dec 9: Thirst
Dec 16: Fulfillment



After much prayerful thought, and with the current state mandated restrictions on social gatherings, it has been decided to put the Community Christmas Meal on hold for this year. We plan to be back again next year! Wishing all of you a safe and healthy Christmas Season.

—Pam Mithun and Pat Mumm



Church Council Decision on Online Only Worship

First Lutheran's Church Council is following the protocol established which calls for on-line only worship when the Morris Area High School goes to distance learning (on-line only instruction). In light of Governor Waltz's recent order, and their own planning, Morris High School has gone to full-time distance learning for grades 7-12 with the plan to reassess their decision in mid-December.

Because of this and First Lutheran's set protocol, we will go to on-line only worship beginning Sunday, November 29. Please keep this in mind with the above Christmas Worship schedule. We are setting this worship schedule with the hopes we can once again worship in-person by Christmas time, but we may still be in the on-line worship only protocol. Please watch for updates.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear People of First Lutheran,

“We can’t control the outcome, we can only manage ourselves...” A mentor of mine once told me.... That’s true in this pandemic and a lot of situations. I wonder if we don’t need to go deeper, as God’s people... Deeper into the heart of God. Deeper into prayer, while trusting God’s promise, “I am with you, day by day... Trust me and I will help you.”

“The church is not the building.” You’ve maybe heard this said before. While we live in this strange time, it is *more true than ever*. While we have a great facility, the church is the people, *you and me!* WE are still “the church” whether or not we meet in the church building.

We started to worship in person with strict protocols in place on November 1. Some among us, even with masks and physical distancing, are not feeling ready to worship indoors. I understand your reluctance. All of us have missed the fellowship, the hugs, the handshakes, coffee hour, and the safety and comfort we felt in coming to worship. No doubt, this has been a difficult time. We do want all to be making decisions they are willing to make and live with.

In the meantime, “we” are the church! We are young and old, in every field of labor, weak or strong in faith, bold or shy, single or married, widows, divorced, of many racial and ethnic backgrounds, we are God’s people. Now, in this time, we have opportunity to live out our faith, and bear witness to God’s steadfast love every day. *Beyond the walls of the building...*

Where is God in the midst of this pandemic? I believe God is in the hospitals in the form of doctors, physical therapists, optometrists, nurses, respiratory therapists, custodians, administrators, tending to the sick, the lame, the infected, seeking their healing, managing patients next steps. God is in the schools in the form of the teachers and para-professionals risking their health, and lives, to teach our children. God is at work in the grocery store, in and through the stockers, the grocers, the delivery truck drivers, the check-out clerks, who also meet hundreds of people each day and risk their health, and lives, so we have food on our tables. God is alive and active, as the Holy Spirit among us, and in and through us, as we gather for worship, online or in person; as we live out our vocations as parent, grandparent, brother or sister, son or daughter; and in our jobs; and as we share our talents, treasure, hearts, energy for the sake of the neighbor. God is present in Word and Meal...

Where is God? On the cross, hidden in Jesus Christ, dying at the hands of cruel men, whom he in turn forgives! Taking the curse on himself, for the sake of the world! Loving us to the end, then when all hope seemed lost, being raised to new and eternal life by God. And then, promising us to be with us always: “And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 20) Christ is in hospital rooms and homes, bringing people into eternal life.

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations...” Psalm 145:13

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord...” Luke 2: 10).

God be with you! Stay safe, and keep faith, hope and love alive. God is at work in you – in and through God’s church – to work out God’s salvation in and for the world!

Pastor Dan Belgum

CHRISTMAS TOY SHOPPE & WISH TREE

The Morris Area Women of Today are going to continue to sponsor these programs this coming holiday season. Our help is needed. First Lutheran Church will set up a Christmas tree at church as a place for you to make your donations. The goal this year is to provide children birth to 18 with a gift this Christmas.

If possible they would also like to provide a stocking stuffer, a new book or puzzle, and new mittens and hats/scarves. They would also like to provide each family in need a new game to encourage family time, and a new blanket or quilt. Last year because of increased need, they ran out. We think this year's needs may be even greater.

Any type of donation is appreciated! Please make sure that all items are new; used items will not be taken.

- Homemade or store bought hats/scarves/mittens
- Any types of quilts, blankets, or tied blankets
- Toys, board games, puzzles, books
- cash (which would be used to purchase needed gifts)

If you are donating cash, please drop that off at the church office, rather than place under the tree. This years distribution will be at the Morris National Guard Armory on Saturday, December 19. Donations need to be at church by Tuesday, December 15th.

This is a great opportunity for you and your family to share the holiday spirit! Please consider helping out. There will be a tree set up at Common Cup for accepting these donations as well if that is a more convenient spot to drop things off.



Poinsettias

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 Wednesday December 9th. 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.

Poinsettia Plant (\$12.00) _____ (Quantity)

In loving memory of:

Or... In honor of:

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.

Order Deadline: Wed., December 9th

GIFT GIVING AT CHRISTMAS

Food Shelf The Food Shelf is always taking donations of food and other non-perishable items. Some items needed include soups, sugar, flour, toilet paper, paper towels and dish detergent. They also encourage cash donations, as they are able to purchase foods at significantly reduced prices. The Food Shelf supplies a five-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 is located at 701 Iowa Ave in Morris, and is open the following days/hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30-11:30am, Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm. Please mail any monetary donations, or give them a call to schedule a time to drop off any food donations.



ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS

How it works...

As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. More than 85% of your gifts directly support programmatic work. Your gifts support work in 77 countries and is tax-deductible.

Choose your gift on-line at ELCA.org/goodgifts or stop by the church office to browse through a catalog.

Some popular gifts include: Goat \$60	Chicks \$10	Piglet \$50	Honeybees \$20	Water Filter \$30
School supplies for a child \$10	Fruit-tree seedling \$10		Seeds and gardening tool \$50	
Mosquito net \$10	Health care for a child \$10		Vaccination for a child \$30	
Warm meals at a soup kitchen (feeds 10 people) \$20			Latrine \$150	
Family farm (cow, goats, chicks, pigs, tools, seeds) \$715			Stock a health clinic for 1 week \$75	



today in the town of David,
a Savior has been born to you



May the love of Christ fill your holidays with warmth and good cheer!

COUNCIL MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting November 18, 2020

The November meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met by teleconference through Zoom and was called to order by President Bob Dalager on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:32pm. Present: Peggy Jergenson, Bob Dalager, John Dossdall, Gary Wagner, Naomi Fynboh, Rheanne Kline, Eugene Anderson, Allyn Plattner and Jason Reed. Absent were: Terry Dybdahl and Tony Feuchtenberger. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye. A devotion and opening prayer was given by Pastor Dan.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from October were emailed to each council member. No corrections or additions were needed. John moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Eugene.

Treasurer's Report: Naomi had not had time to speak with Laurie at Morris & Associates about some details on the financial reports; she will do so soon. The church's expenses still exceed the income. The PPP loan forgiveness paperwork has been submitted and we are waiting for its approval.

Pastor's Report: A written report was emailed to each council member. Pastor Dan spoke about his plans for Christmas worship services; 3 services on Christmas Eve and 1 service Christmas morning.

Committee Reports

- **Property Committee:** On behalf of the Property Committee, John brought an insurance proposal to the council for review/approval. Bob Dalager will talk to Steve Wagner about some of the questions he has. John also gave the Property Committee's recommendation of having Bob Heck do some of the custodial duties along with the sidewalk snow removal at the church. No decision was made and the Executive Council will meet to discuss this further.

Old Business

- **In-person Worship Update:** we are currently seeing 20-25 people for worship on Sunday mornings. The current protocol is to go to on-line worship only if the Morris schools go to distance

learning. Discussion was held for more clarification on that protocol; no decisions were made. There are approximately 60 people intending to attend the Consecration Sunday event at the Morris Elementary Concert Hall. This event will continue as planned.

- **Employee Reviews:** Reviews for Pastor Dan and Rita have been scheduled.
- A notice will need to be mailed to the congregation about the amendment of reducing the council size from 11 to 7, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31. Bob will get the letter to Rita so it can be mailed.
- **2021 Budget:** Naomi will be working on this soon.

New Business

- **Nominating Committee:** The entire Council will seek individuals to serve on the Church Council, along with the needed delegates, board members, or committees members.
- Discussion was held about how to use a monetary memorial gift given recently. Tabled for now
- **Bishop Election Nominations:** Bishop Jon Anderson will be retiring in Sept 2021. The Synod is looking for nominations. Election will be held at the Synod Assembly this summer.
- Discussion was held about the financial commitment to Fusion and Fusion Element (confirmation). No changes were made.
- The next Council meeting is set for Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30pm through Zoom.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Bye, Recording Secretary

Approved and edited by Gary Wagner, Council Secretary



**The following proposed amendments will be voted on
at First Lutheran's Annual Meeting set to take place on Sunday, January 31, 2021**

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution for FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Be it resolved that:

The first sentence of Chapter 12, Paragraph C12.01 of the Constitution for First Lutheran Church be AMENDED so as to provide as follows:

“The voting membership of the Church Council shall consist of **seven (7)** members of the congregation.”
The remaining provisions of Chapter 12, Paragraph C12.01 of the Constitution for First Lutheran Church shall remain unchanged.

Explanation:

The current number of voting members on the Church Council is 11 members. This proposed Amendment would reduce the number of voting members on the Church Council to 7 members. There would be no other changes.

Amendment to BYLAWS

Section 1-Congregational Committee Organization, paragraph 1, subpart a. shall be amended with the inclusion of the following provisions:

“It shall be an aspiration for the Nominating Committee to include younger members of the congregation (i.e., under thirty (30) years of age) as candidates for Church Council and other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran so as to enable a younger member or members to serve as a representative for younger members of First Lutheran on the Council or on the other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran”

so as to provide as follows:

- “a. Nominating Committee- The Nominating Committee shall annually prior to the annual congregational meeting, recommend candidates for Church Council, West Central Homes, West Central Homes Board of Directors, Second Century Foundation, Audit Committee, and such other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran Church and are required to be elected at the annual meeting. It shall be an aspiration for the Nominating Committee to include younger members of the congregation (i.e., under thirty (30) years of age) as candidates for Church Council and other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran so as to enable a younger member or members to serve as a representative for younger members of First Lutheran on the Council or on the other organizations or associated bodies which have representation by First Lutheran and are required to be elected at the annual meeting. The recommended candidates shall be from among those eligible and otherwise qualified to serve in said capacity. The Nominating Committee shall make known to the Church Council its report and recommendations prior to the annual meeting.”

THIS N' THAT

Bible Study: Gather for Faith and Action

In everything we do, our faith points to the future. As we journey through Advent, four spiritual practices can help ground and steady us: SINGING, WRITING, MOVING, CONNECTING: Advent Rituals for Uncertain Times. Please join us for Women's Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm. Please email Emilie at ebrustuen@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Thank you to everyone that helped make our Fall Dinner & Silent Auction a big success! We truly appreciate all of the donations; whether it was items for the Silent Auction, food for the dinner, or your time in help preparing or packaging food.

Thank you to all that helped make Consecration Sunday, when we celebrated God's abundance and grace towards us and how we can celebrate and share!

Newsletter Deadline for the January newsletter is noon on Thursday, December 17.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Please check our website to see if worship services are in-person or on-line only.

Sunday, Dec 6

Video: Colby Schultz

Sunday, Dec 13

Video: David Jungst

Sunday, Dec 20

Ushers/Greeters: Skip Maanum & Ward Voorhees

Communion: Vicki Maanum

Video: Kyle Dougherty

Christmas Eve, Dec 24 (all Usher/Greet & set Communion)

3:00pm Barry & Nancy Erdhal, Paul & Sandy Grove

5:00pm Just family, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

Video: Tony Feuchtenberger

9:00pm Bob & Nadine Heck, Al & Julie Monroe

Christmas Day, Dec 25

10am Ushers/Greeters: Dick Smith, Dougherty Family

Sunday, Nov 29

Ushers/Greeters: Al Harris, Dorwin & Millie Tschetter

Video: Steve Wagner



- Dec 1: Erin (Harris) Holmes
- Dec 2: Mary Anderson, Mary Jo McCormack
- Dec 3: Jared House
- Dec 4: Tom Grotjohn, Britney House, Steve Wagner
- Dec 5: Noreen Grunig, Becky Tullos
- Dec 6: Gordon Lea, Robert Waller
- Dec 7: Leroy Aker, Emilie Brustuen, Jon Wiese
- Dec 8: Jackson Boever
- Dec 9: Beth Minners
- Dec 14: Owen Hentges, John Schultz, Gavin Stallman
- Dec 15: Adam Lair
- Dec 16: Pastor Dan Belgium, Tayton Flower
- Dec 17: Ryan Lussenden, Peter Boever
- Dec 18: Arnie Sharstrom
- Dec 19: Doyle Anderson, Jeri Anderson, Zona Jacobson
- Dec 21: Ameer Gibson, Beth (Holland) Erickson, Sherry Wagner
- Dec 23: Giana Feuchtenberger
- Dec 24: Anita Nelson
- Dec 25: Austin Hills
- Dec 27: Sarah Dougherty, Mick Rose
- Dec 28: Muriel Lindback, Randy Lussenden, David Minners, Mike Odello, Joan Smith
- Dec 30: Millie Tschetter
- Dec 31: Mark Mattheis

Happy Anniversary

- Dec 2: Justin & Lori Anderson
- Dec 12: J. Allen & Marvel Anderson
- Dec 14: David & Yvonne Evenson
- Dec 27: Allen & Julie Monroe
- Dec 28: Paul & Sandy Grove

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Advent Worship (on-line only)			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am On-line Worship only via Facebook Live <i>All worship services are streamed live via Facebook. The recorded service will also be available on our website and YouTube channel later in the day.</i>			Advent Worship (on-line only) Deadline to order Poinsettias			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am On-line Worship only via Facebook Live		Deadline for donating to Christmas Wish Tree/ Toy Shoppe	Advent Worship (on-line only) 7:30pm Council Meeting			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Worship Please check our website to see if the service is in-person or on-line only		7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom: Advent Rituals for Uncertain Times		Christmas Eve 3:00pm Worship 5:00pm Worship 9:00pm Worship Please check our website to see if services are in-person or on-line only	Christmas Day 10:00am Worship Please check our website to see if services are in-person or on-line only	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30am Worship Please check our website to see if the service is in-person or on-line only						

THIS N' THAT

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

Pastor Alex LaChapelle is the pastor at Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation in Kenya, Africa. We continue to provide him with needed support through our Missionary for the Day contributions. Contact the church office to sponsor a day "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone. Address of congregation is: Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation, PO Box 34089, Nairobi, Kenya 00100
Website: www.nilc-nairobi.org

- Nov 1 In memory of Mark Heck from Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
- Nov 2 In memory of Mark Heck from Marlene Seip
- Nov 3 In memory of Mark Heck from Cheryl Higgins
- Nov 4 In memory of John Wolff from Cheryl Higgins
- Nov 5 In memory of John Wolff from Jo Solvie
- Nov 6 In memory of Mark Heck from Jo Solvie
- Nov 7 In memory of Helen Heintzelman from Jo Solvie
- Nov 8 In memory of Colleen Rentz from Jo Solvie
- Nov 9 In memory of Ray Busse from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 10 In memory of John Wolff from Marlene Seip
- Nov 11 In memory of John Wolff from Jeanne Richards
- Nov 12 In memory of Mark Heck from Evelyn Warnes
- Nov 16 In loving memory of Brian VanHorn from his mother LaVonne Watson
- Nov 16 In memory of Randy Syverson from Myron & Marilyn Syverson
- Nov 23 In memory of Dewey Solvie from the Solvie & Schultz families
- Nov 25 In memory of Dale Crow's birthday from his family
- Nov 26 In honor of Isaac Nelson's birthday from Grandma and Grandpa Ehlers

Pumpkin Roll (served at Fall Dinner)

Cake:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup pumpkin
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- (2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice can be substituted for the 3 spices)
- 3/4 cup flour

Filling:

- 1 - 8oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 3 Tbsp. butter (softened)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Mix until smooth and creamy.

Mix cake ingredients together well. Line a jelly roll pan (15½ x 10½) or baker's half sheet (11½ x 16) with parchment paper, allowing ends of paper to extend beyond the pan. Spray parchment paper with non-stick spray. Pour cake mixture into pan and level mixture. Bake at 375° for 12-15 minutes or until cake springs back when touched. Remove from oven and sprinkle top with powdered sugar (this helps prevent sticking). While still hot, roll up cake in the parchment paper. Allow to cool at room temperature (cooling in refrigerator will make the cake crack when unrolling).

When cake has cooled, unroll and spread with cream cheese filling. Roll back up without the paper. Wrap in foil or plastic wrap and chill thoroughly. Dust roll with powdered sugar if desired. Makes about 12 servings. Rolls freeze well.

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Address Service Requested

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Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am
broadcasted via Facebook Live;
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STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director heather.kill14@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist
Brad Miller, Choir Director bamiller@morris.umn.edu
Rheanne Kline, Contemporary Director rheannekline@gmail.com
Pastor Alex LaChapelle, Missionary

CHURCH COUNCIL

Bob Dalager President
Eugene Anderson Vice-President
Naomi Fynboh Treasurer
Gary Wagner Secretary
John Dosdall
Terry Dybdahl
Tony Feuchtenberger
Peggy Jergenson
Rheanne Kline
Allyn Plattner
Jason Reed