

JULY 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

I hope that your summer is off to a great start! Summer can be a time of relaxation and rejuvenation, and I hope that you are able to experience that this summer. As always seems to be the case, summer is flying by, and we are already into July.

On the 4th of July we celebrate Independence Day in the United States. It is a day when we rejoice in the political and personal liberties granted to us as Americans. This year it is extra special because it is the 250th anniversary of the United States. For 250 years, the United States has been the beacon and champion of freedom around the world.

We have been graced with the freedom to worship and pray in our homes and in public. While we take our liberties for granted, others around the world live under oppression and must worship in secret. Some must hide their belief in God. But in Christ, everyone is free. Regardless of where you live today, live in the identity you have in Christ. The reality of sin is not able to stand against the reality of God and of God's presence in your life.

On the 4th of July we will celebrate our country's liberty. But today, and every day, is your day of liberty in Christ. When you're at church, when you're at home or at work, when you're with family and friends, celebrate the victory and freedom you have in Christ.

Yes, in this great country we celebrate our independence from tyranny and injustice. But in Christ, every day is Independence Day from the power of sin and death. We gain the constant victory through our dependence on Christ.

Have a very happy Independence Day!

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.

IN CONCERT
**BRENT
VERNON**
& Sam

A Special Event for the **Whole Family**
with Singer-Songwriter, Ventriloquist, and Author-Illustrator
Brent Vernon and his pal, Sam!

Federated Church
200 S Columbia Ave
Morris, MN 56267

Sunday, July 26th
6:00 p.m.

WWW.BRENTVERNON.COM

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 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. Details provided in the newsletter.

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.

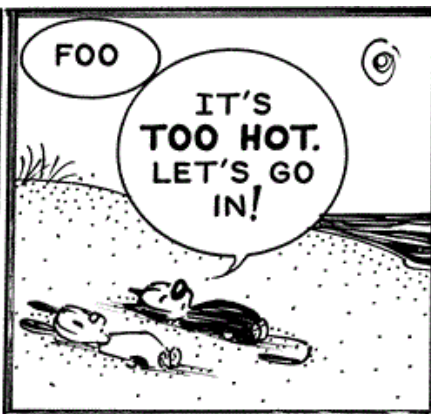
We will hold a Packing event this fall with the help of our Sunday school students and will pack School Kits as well as Personal Care Kits and Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits. Donations of white sheets would also be appreciated, as there are used for rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries.

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

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND FUN!

- ❖ June 14 was at Bumper's Clubhouse and was enjoyed by all!
- ❖ Don't miss the Brent Vernon & Sam event on July 26 at Federated Church (*see full page ad for details*)
- ❖ And finally, mark your calendars for Sunday, August 23 for a Scavenger Hunt and Game Night at First!



COFFEE HOUR is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **GRACE Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of July. Those in the Grace Service Group are: Justin & Lori Anderson, Ryan & Summer Anderson, Ray & Robi Bowman, Judy Buro, Matt & Cari Burnett, LeAnn Dean, Kellie Hentges, Linda Holland, Craig & Katie Knochenmus, Gary & Corrine Knochenmus, Dave Nelson, Allyn & Hannah Plattner and Chris & Bobbi Siegel. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, July 1 at 11:30am at Buddies in Hancock. 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, July 23.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, July 16 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.

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.

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

June 1	In memory of Marlene Nelson from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
June 2	In memory of Eleanor Pochardt from Marlene Seip
June 20	In memory of Jere Ettesvold from Jo Solvie
June 21	In memory of Fred Switzer from Jo Solvie
June 22	In memory of Joanne Switzer from Jo Solvie
June 23	In memory of Laurie Feuchtenberger's dad from Doug & Sharon Ehlers

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.

MAY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,175.28	June Giving	\$ 88,879.75	Year-to-Date Giving
\$22,133.13	June Expense	\$116,012.15	Year-to-Date Expenses

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: June 9, 2026

- Worship & Music: written report given
- Mission & Evangelism: held meeting with A, the LCM and Fusion director with discussion on the changes being implementing in LCM and his eagerness to work with our church for the improvement of both programs
- Education: family event to be held June 14th. The July event at Federated, August event TBD.
- Property: no meeting held this month
- WELCA: Will be meeting on June 28th to discuss where to use the pie money, and funeral and coffee service.

Old Business

- Collaboration committee met and reported that they will be arranging more social events and joint service projects over the next few months.
- Sharing a booth at the County fair. Federated will order supplies, and First will check on brochures. Work times will be open to both congregations.

New Business

- Pancake Breakfasts: discussion of holding a pancake breakfast once a month starting in September, to invite people and our current members to attend church. The breakfast will be from 8am to 9am with services at 9:30am. Motion made and carried to try for 9 months.
- Joint Council Meeting in August with tentative meeting for both councils will be August 20th at 6:30pm at First.
- Rita will be on vacation during the week of June 29 through July 5

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: May 12, 2026

Pastors Report

- Summer bible study on denominations. 1 per month; 2x at First, 1x at Federated.
- July 26 signer song writer Brent Vernon (ventriloquist) requesting a love offering and a place to stay (hotel room)

Committee Reports

- Worship & Music: added an additional substitute accompanist; change in offering plate process with bringing the offering forward during offering. An offering plate will be left in the back for those who want to give while exiting service.
- Mission & Evangelism: changing service outreach to a throughout the year concept. Syncing with A's efforts and Federated on year around projects.
- Education: VBS, not collaborating with Faith this year. Looking at multiple events throughout the summer, possibly once a month on Sundays from 5-7pm for all ages. June 14 event at Bumpers; July 19 an outdoor event at Federated; August 23 or 30 Scavenger Hunt.
- Property: waiting on quote from snow dog for fertilizing year, Bell tower leak, Waiting on elevator inspection with estimate to upgrade \$120k. Will the insurance coverage still be active if we don't make an upgrade. Property committee is recruiting more members- if interested contact Dick Smith.
- WELCA: made pies, donations to help cover camperships, promoting kids to attend Luther Crest for 2027

Old Business

- Updated collaboration agreement. Committee meeting May 20th. Building on what is going right.
- Revitalized Congregation Life: try planning participation out further. Paring lists to participate in service. Calling members to see if they'd help.
- Pastor mileage reimbursement: IRS rate is currently at \$.75/mile. Motion made and carried to pay IRS rate.
- Bank signature card: J Mark Nesvig, Naomi Fynboh, Sharon Ehlers, and Dick Smith will be added to the signature card. Matt Hilbrands and Al Monroe to be removed.
- Collaboration: share meeting minutes between councils.
- Federated booth at county fair: open sign up for both congregations.

New Business

- proposed outreach idea to establish a pan cake breakfast 2 x month- 8-9am / Start 2nd Sunday in Sept and continue through May. Possible Thrivent grant to fund it. Ask A to promote events on campus.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Buddies in Hancock 1pm Worship & Music Meeting	2	3 <i>Church office closed for holiday</i>	4 
<i>Rita on vacation from June 29 until Monday, July 6</i>						
5 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – arts & crafts for kids during worship	6	7 11am Pastors' Text Study	8	9	10	11 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
12 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following	13 <i>Rita out of office July 13-15</i>	14 11am Pastors' Text Study	15	16 2pm Zipporah Bible Study	17	18 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
19 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – arts & crafts for kids during worship	20	21 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm (at FEDERATED) Denomination Exploration	22	23 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	24	25 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
26 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following 6pm Brent Vernon & Sam event at FEDERATED	27	28 11am Pastors' Text Study	29	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 (Monday-Wednesday during the summer months),
 and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00pm.*

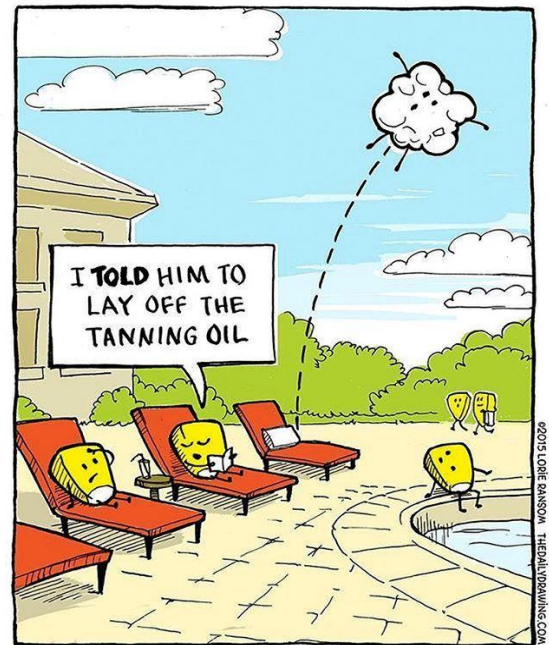
JULY WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, JULY 12 9:30am Worship HC <i>Coffee/fellowship following</i>	SUNDAY, JULY 26 9:30am Worship HC <i>Coffee/fellowship following</i>
Ushers: Bob Heck Fynboh Family	Ushers: Al Harris Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
Lector: Denise Odello	Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger
Acolytes: Zoe Krosch Lilly Nesvig	Acolytes: Ashley Williamson Aubrey Williamson
Communion Prep: Vicki Dalager	Communion Prep: Judy Buro
Communion Server: Millie Tschetter	Communion Server: Ward Voorhees
Video: Mike Odello	Video: Tony Feuchtenberger
TV slides: Owen Nesvig	TV slides: Brayden Carlson
Nursery: Pam Wiese	Nursery: Amy Dougherty
Accompanist: Deb Mahoney	Accompanist: Suzanne Smith

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am Worship
with coffee/fellowship following

- † Sunday, July 5: FEDERATED
- † Sunday, July 12: FIRST
- † Sunday, July 19: FEDERATED
- † Sunday, July 26: FIRST



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 6: Lori Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Reid Ketterling
 July 7: Laura Anderson
 July 8: Terry Erholtz, Dennis Fuhrman
 July 9: Rich Buro
 July 10: Dustin Anderson, Jacoby Burnett, Brekk Huebner, Derek McFall-Boegeman,
 July 11: Shelley Beyer
 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.
 July 18: Jennie Odello
 July 22: Mason Williamson
 July 23: Kendra Buro, Joel Harrison

July 24: Beckett Reese
 July 25: Genevieve Plattner
 July 26: Damien Warner
 July 27: Carole Johnson
 July 28: Robi Bowman, Durgin Decker, Connor Siegel
 July 29: Thomas Holland
 July 30: Jon Amundson, David Nelson
 July 31: Rhonda Lair, Greg Thymain

HAPPY Anniversary!

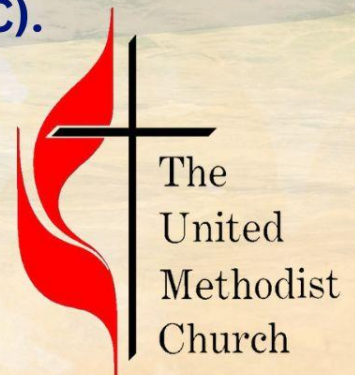
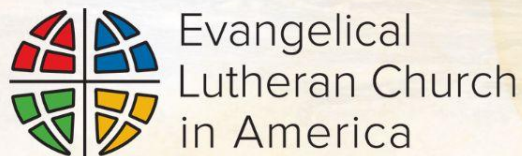
July 1: Jon & Shana Ulrich
 July 6: Cheryl & Keith Hawkinson
 July 8: Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
 July 9: Matt & Cari Burnett
 July 18: Brian & Ann Erdahl
 July 20: Eugene & Cathy Anderson
 July 23: Bob & Vicki Dalager

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
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

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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office@flcmorris.org