

SEPTEMBER 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

There is something about September that feels like a new beginning. The days are getting a little shorter, the mornings a little cooler, and before we know it, classrooms will be filled with students and teachers. Summer may be winding down, but a new season is just beginning.

As September arrives, many of us will settle back into more familiar routines. School begins. Activities resume. Calendars begin to fill up again. The pace of life picks up, and it can be easy for church to become just one more thing competing for our time and attention.

But perhaps September gives us an opportunity to think about our routines in a different way. What if this new season is also an invitation to make room for God? An invitation to return to worship, to reconnect with one another, to become involved in the life of the congregation and to look for ways we can serve our neighbors and our community.

A new school year is filled with possibilities. There will be new lessons to learn, challenges to face and opportunities to grow. The same can be true for us as a congregation. We don't know exactly what the coming months will bring, but we can enter this new season with hope and with confidence that God will be present in whatever lies ahead.

So, as we say goodbye to summer and welcome September, may we carry with us the joy and memories of the season that has passed. And may we look forward with open hearts to all that God has in store for the season ahead. May it be a season of faith, growth and hope for all of us.

God's 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 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)

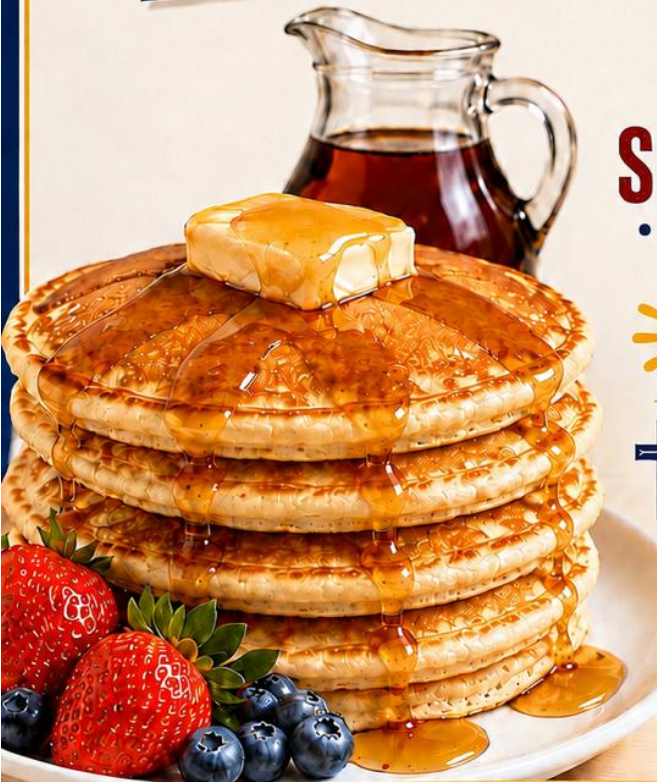
Build water kits for Wine to Water, <https://www.wtw.org>, each filter provides clean water to 12 people for 10 years! (On-Site Project) Date TBD

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.



PANCAKE Breakfast

Good Food. Great Fellowship. All Are Welcome!

JOIN US!
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
.....
SERVING BEGINS AT
8:00 AM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Morris, Minnesota

MENU INCLUDES:
 FLUFFY PANCAKES
 SAUSAGE
 COFFEE & JUICE

9:30 AM WORSHIP FOLLOWING!

Join the people of First Lutheran and Federated Church for great food, friendly conversation, and a welcoming morning of community and fellowship
No cost to attend. Free-will offering will be accepted for those who wish to give.

SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

Aug 1	In memory of Glen Gillespie's brother from Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
Aug 5	Happy Birthday Wade Ehlers from mom and dad
Aug 11	In loving memory of Brian Van Horn from his mother LaVonne Watson
Aug 17	In memory of Barbara Gens from Emilie Brustuen
Aug 18	In memory of Helen Meyer 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.

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 September. Those in the Hope Service Group are: Connie Anderson, Laurie & Dennis 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, September 2 at 11:30am at China Panda** in Morris. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

PROVIDE AN LCM SUNDAY NIGHT MEAL Each **Sunday at 6pm** the LCM at Morris hosts The Sunday Table, a dinner and dialogue program for students. While the number varies from week to week and is unknown as we are just starting the semester, we ask you to prepare for 12-18 students and include a vegetarian option if possible. Each semester we attempt to get a list of food allergies and needs and then create a set of quick options if you need extra help coming up with a meal. <https://signup.com/go/JWbJPBJ> or contact "A" Williams at A@ummlcm.org with questions!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the October newsletter is **noon on Tuesday, September 22.**

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on **Thursday, September 17 at 2:00pm** in the church fellowship hall.

SOCIAL HOUR AT LEGACY LIVING is held on the third Wednesday of each month for residents and friends. First Lutheran is on the schedule to supply the treats/goodies on **Wednesday, September 16 at 2:30pm.** 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.

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.

THANK YOU! to those who participated in our Summer Fellowship, Food and Fun events. We enjoyed "Bumpers Entertainment" in June. Thanks to Federated Church for sponsoring "Brent Vernon & Sam" in July. We wrapped up the summer with a Church Scavenger Hunt and Bible Trivia in August. Thrivent funding provided our supper. Thanks to the youth and adults who helped. And, Special thanks to the Feuchtenberger and Burnett families and C.J. at the Fireside Restaurant for donations for the evening. We are hoping to do a few Fellowship, Food and Fun events during the coming school year.

THANK YOU TO THOSE
THAT HELPED AT THE FAIR BOOTH!



2026 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

One (1) scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$200. Individuals eligible are those currently in high school grades 9-12.

If you are awarded this scholarship, you will be expected to share your musical talents through church events/organizations during the coming year. The first half (\$100) will be dispersed in October. The second half (\$100) will be awarded in May contingent on your continued participation in the music ministry at First Lutheran Church.

The deadline for submitting applications to the church office is Sunday, September 27, 2026. Applications are available in the Narthex and can be returned to the church office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2026						
		1 11am Pastors' Text Study	2 11:30am Lunch Bunch at China Panda in Morris 1pm Worship & Music Meeting	3	4	5 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
6 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – arts & crafts for kids during worship	7 <i>Church office closed for Labor Day</i>	8 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	9 11am Seniors on the Move trip to Graceville 6:30pm Fusion Kickoff and Parent Meeting at FAITH 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	10 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	11	12 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
13 RALLY SUNDAY 8:00-9:00am FREE Pancake Breakfast 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST (choir sings) fellowship following	14	15 11am Pastors' Text Study	16 6:30pm Element Kickoff and Parent Meeting at FIRST 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	17 2pm Zipporah Bible Study	18	19 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
20 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – Sunday school during worship (choir sings)	21 4:30pm Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering in Benson	22 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	23 6:30pm Element at FIRST 6:30pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	24 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	25	26 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
27 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with fellowship following Music Scholarship application deadline	28	29 11am Pastors' Text Study	30 6:30pm Element at FIRST 6:30pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED			

*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 by phone call, text messaging, or email
and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00pm.*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:00am Pancake Breakfast
8:30am Sunday school
9:30am Worship HC
Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:

Steve & Michelle Just
Michael Bjorklund

LECTOR:

Vicki Dalager

ACOLYTES:

Wyatt & Gage Schultz

COMMUNION PREP:

Judy Buro

COMMUNION SERVER:

Millie Tschetter

VIDEO:

Dave Jungst

TV SLIDES:

Brayden Carlson

NURSERY:

Robi Bowman

ACCOMPANIST:

Suzanne Smith

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30am Sunday school
9:30am Worship HC
Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:

Bob Heck
Al & Julie Monroe

LECTOR:

Denise Odello

ACOLYTES:

Zoe Krosch
Lucy Feuchtenberger

COMMUNION PREP:

Sharon Ehlers

COMMUNION SERVER:

Doug Ehlers

VIDEO:

Tony Feuchtenberger

TV SLIDES:

Connor Siegel

NURSERY:

Bobbi Siegel

ACCOMPANIST:

Deb Mahoney

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am Worship
with coffee/fellowship following

† Sunday, Sept 6: **FEDERATED**

† Sunday, Sept 13: **FIRST**

8:00-9:00am FREE Pancake Breakfast

8:30am Sunday school

† Sunday, Sept 20: **FEDERATED**

Sunday school during service

† Sunday, Sept 27: **FIRST**

8:30am Sunday school

Happy Birthday

Sept 2	Allyn Plattner
Sept 5	Jaelyn Flower, Elizabeth Harrison
Sept 6	Vincent Feuchtenberger, Kahla Gillespie, Steve Jungst, Michelle Just
Sept 8	Jason Christians
Sept 9	Gary Knochenmus
Sept 12	Benjamin Ehlers, Emily Nelson, Sarah Schultz
Sept 13	Kevin Wevley
Sept 14	Jacob Hanson, Leo Nesvig
Sept 17	Rochelle Anderson
Sept 18	Cari Burnett
Sept 19	Laura McCormack
Sept 20	Anita Neisius
Sept 22	Riley (Decker) Nohl, Mackenze Grunig, Mitchell Grunig
Sept 23	John Dossdall
Sept 24	Wyatt Schultz
Sept 25	Dale Jacobson, Jim Hills
Sept 27	Chance Buro
Sept 28	Robin McCulloch, Lori Wevley
Sept 29	Bess Boever
Sept 30	Crystal Nesvig, Kye Suess

HAPPY Anniversary!

Sept 2	Deb & Dick Mahoney
Sept 5	Allan & Elizabeth Harris
Sept 8	David Jungst & Lindy Ekola
Sept 10	Dale & Lois Peterson
Sept 12	Neil & Pam Wiese
Sept 15	Jean & John Schultz
Sept 17	Heidi & Neil Suess
Sept 21	Dorwin & Millie Tschetter Dennis & Natalie Ketterling
Sept 25	Doyle & Jone Anderson
Sept 28	Jim & Jacqui Hills

Morris Community Meal

held at First Lutheran Church
from 5:30-7:30pm on Monday, September 28

September's Community Meal will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 28 at First Lutheran Church, 200 East 5th Street, in Morris.

Volunteer shifts are available from 2:00-9:00pm on Sunday, September 27 and Monday, September 28. Volunteers will help wash and cut vegetables, prepare dishes, make desserts and set up, serve, and clean up, depending on the shift.

Sharing food is a key way to build community. Morris Community Meals are free meals served to anyone who wants to come. Regional businesses and organizations fund the meal, and students, faculty, staff, and community members cook together and share a meal. Morris Community Meal uses local foods and sustainable practices as much as possible and strives to share food from a variety of cultures. Gluten-free and vegan meals are always available. Anyone can get involved as a co-sponsor, volunteer, or attendee!

The Morris Transit (call 320-589-1000) is available on Monday for free rides to the Community Meal.

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.

Monday, Sept. 21, 2026 Fall Gathering

REGISTRATION
AT 4:30 PM \$15
LIGHT MEAL AT
5:00 PM.

PROGRAM AT
6:00 PM IS
FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC.

- PROGRAM BY LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES ON "HOMELESS YOUTH"
- THEME IS "HOPE AND COMFORT"
- THEME HYMN IS "ON EAGLES WINGS"
- BIBLE VERSE IS ISAIAH 40:31 THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.
- OFFERING IS 50% SWMN WELCA AND 50% TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE.
- IN KIND TO LSS, INFO TO FOLLOW



Our Redeemers
Lutheran Church
10th St S
Benson MN



GLACIAL RIDGE CONFERENCE



WOMEN OF ELCA

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER!

RALLY SUNDAY is September 13th with students packing kits for Lutheran World Relief starting at 8:30am. Don't miss the free pancake breakfast served that morning starting at 8:00am! Following the 9:30am worship, join us in the fellowship hall for ice cream with toppings and ice cream floats, in addition to the regular coffee hour treats.

Sunday school runs from mid-September until mid-May and is open to all Preschool - 5th graders. Sunday school will take place every Sunday at the church that hosts the worship service, with times depending on the respective church.

FEDERATED: Sunday school will meet during the 9:30am church service and focus on creating crafts related to that Sunday's Bible lessons.

FIRST: Sunday school will be from 8:30am-9:15am and will follow the Faith Source curriculum through Luther Crest Bible Camp.

A Sunday school schedule will be distributed on Rally Sunday and posted online. PLEASE CONTACT CARI BURNETT (Cari.burnett@hotmail.com) if you are willing to be on a teacher sub list or help assist with Sunday school.

Element & Fusion Schedule

September
2026

Element Welcomes Youth in Grades 6-8 Meeting
Wednesdays at 6:30pm at First Lutheran

Fusion Welcomes Youth in Grades 9-12 Meeting
Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Faith Lutheran

9/9

Fusion Kickoff & Parent Meeting

Come join us as we discuss the year ahead, play games, and enjoy getting to know each other a little better!

9/16

Element Kickoff & Parent Meeting

Students will get to know one another and spend time in both Large Group and Small Group activities. Parents will meet with "A" to look over the year ahead & answer questions

9/23

Element & Fusion Meet

Element will be examining the themes of Creation and what that means for our roles in the world. Fusion will be watching Briars in the Cotton Patch and looking at what makes a true community.

9/30

Element & Fusion Meet

Element will look at the story of Jacob and what it means to be claimed by God even when we are struggling. Fusion will be taking a field trip to the Gardens to consider the connection between nature and the church.

Watch for an email from "A" (a@ummlcm.org) with more information in the coming weeks!

SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Hello Seniors!!

Mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to join us!
Hope you all had a nice, leisurely summer because we have a full calendar for Fall!

Wednesday, September 9th

We will travel to Graceville. There are two ladies there making Heirloom jewelry out of old sterling knives, forks, jewelry and more. Bring some silver along if you like. I saw a cross made from fork tongs that was very nice. We will leave First Lutheran's parking lot at 11:00am and we will eat lunch at "Bobby Joe's" in Beardsley. (No, I'm not cooking, but heard its good food!) Then on to the old convent in Graceville, viewing their displays and workshop and learn some history about the Catholic Church there. Cost will be minimal (food, gas, and more if you buy jewelry.) Watch for sign-up sheets at both Federated and First.

Saturday, October 10th

We will connect with the University of MN-Morris students to assist them with their Elder Visit program. The students will plan an activity, and we will provide fellowship and helping hands. Let's meet at Common Cup at 12:30pm and have a bite to eat. We can then carpool to Legacy where we will meet up with the students around 2:00pm. Please be aware of notices around the churches and in bulletins as time draws closer.

Thursday, October 29th

Another fun time!! Sharing, Love & Hope with Lois Schmidgall in Alexandria.
Leaving First Lutheran parking lot at 12:30pm and of course, coffee afterward.

If that isn't enough to keep you busy, please watch for other Fall activities coming up in both churches! God bless and be with all our comings and goings!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: August 20, 2026

Old Business

- shared booth at fair went well
- worked out details of upcoming Pancake Breakfast on Sept 13

New Business

- Elevator Upgrade: Property Committee to provide elevator status to congregation. Discussion held on planning/budgeting/fundraising.
- Masonry Repair: Approved mortar repair to the bell tower.
- Hearing amplification upgrade: sound system will go directly to hearing aids and will be compatible with most brands. Donations from 2 families will cover the cost of the upgrade.
- Approved pulpit supply payment for A. Williams
- Community Meal to be held at FLC on Monday, September 28

JULY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$15,849.75 July Giving

\$17,408.01 July Expense

\$119,685.25 Year-to-Date Giving

\$160,594.70 Year-to-Date Expenses

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

FUSION & ELEMENT YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

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Email: A@UMMLCM.org