

APRIL 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

HOLY WEEK *Schedule*

**JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK AND CELEBRATE THE HOPE OF EASTER!
SHARE THIS INVITATION WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Maundy Thursday, April 2 at FIRST

6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion

The 5th grader class will take their First Communion.

Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, where he instructed them to remember him by sharing bread and wine, symbolizing his body and blood, in remembrance of his sacrifice. Later that evening, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed to God. It was in the garden that Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

Good Friday, April 3 at FEDERATED

6:30pm Worship

Surround by music, we will reflect on the story of Christ's passion and death. *Hosted in partnership with First, Federated & Trinity Cyrus.*

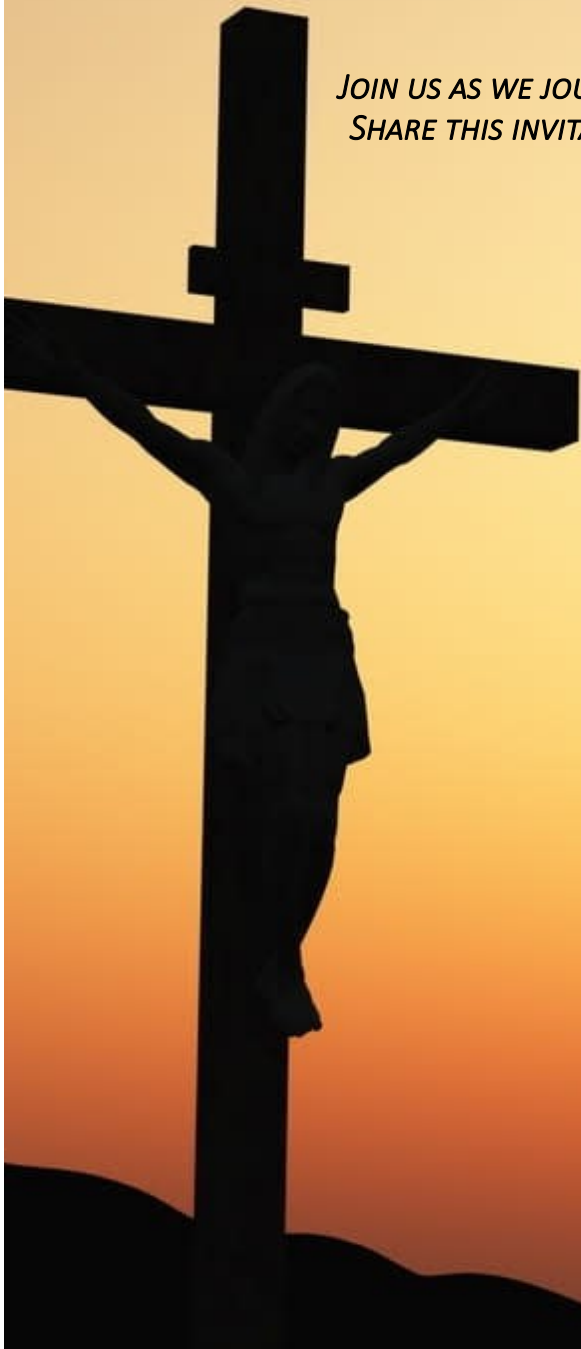
Easter Sunday, April 5

8:30am Breakfast at FEDERATED

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion at FEDERATED

11:00am Worship with Holy Communion at FIRST

Early Sunday morning, several woman went to the tomb and discovered the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty. An angel announced that Jesus was not there and had risen. Come, celebrate Christ's triumph over death! He is risen! He is risen indeed!



Hello, First Family,

Spring is officially here. Before we know it, the trees will be budding and the flowers will be blooming; signs of new life will be all around.

Over the last few weeks, we have been journeying to the cross with Jesus throughout Lent. Soon it will be Easter morning, and we will celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the season of Easter, we celebrate Jesus defeating death and bringing new life in the resurrection. In Romans 6, Paul tells us that in our baptisms we have been buried with Jesus in a death like his, so that as Jesus was raised from the dead, we may walk in newness of life.

In Jesus' death and resurrection, we have received new life; we are made new creations in him. As new creations in Jesus, we are called to live as he lived and love as he loved. We are called to follow Jesus' command to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind. And we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and help those in need.

In this season of new life—this season of Spring and resurrection and hope—the words of the old hymn *Morning Has Broken* seem fitting.

Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the signing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Let us give thanks and praise for all that is springing fresh from the Word, our resurrected Savior, Jesus.

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 COLLABORATION VOTING

A congregational vote will take place in April to decide whether or not to continue the collaboration with Federated.

Ballots will be available at church on:

Sunday, April 12 at FIRST and Sunday, April 19 at FEDERATED

If you are unable to be in church to vote on these dates, you can call the church office and request a ballot be mailed to you. You may also vote in person during church office hours between April 13 and April 24. Voting closes on April 24. The requirements of being a voting member, as listed in the church's constitution, is to be confirmed and have communed or made a contribution of time, talent or wealth during the current or preceding year.

The ballot will have two options:

1. Continue the collaboration with Federated through May 31, 2027
- OR
2. Dissolve the collaboration with Federated effective May 31, 2026

Voting "yes" means First Lutheran will continue to have the pastoral care of Pastor Matt, and will continue to pay half of his salary. It also means First Lutheran's Ministry Site Profile will not be available for viewing by pastoral candidates during the length of the collaboration agreement, since we would already have pastoral leadership in place.

The councils of both Federated and First will meet to count the votes on April 29. The vote tallies will be counted for each congregation separately. BOTH congregations must independently have a majority vote "yes" in order for the collaboration to continue. An email with the results will go out that evening.



Freshly made fruit pies FOR SALE
Saturday, April 25 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm
(pies will be freshly made that morning)

*Remaining pies will be available for sale on
Sunday, April 26 following worship that morning.*

Whole pies \$18.00 each

No pre-orders available.

Pies will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

*Pies remaining after April 26 will be frozen and sold until gone.
Funds raised from pie sales will be used by the FLC Women
to support their work of the church.*

SENIORS ON THE MOVE



Hello Seniors, Ladies and Gentleman: The time has come to visit Lois Schmidgall's Missionary Program, "Sharing Love & Hope" in Alexandria. We will leave First Lutheran parking lot at 12:30pm on **Thursday, April 30!** We will spend about 2 hours helping her mission and then treat ourselves to coffee before heading back to Morris. Sign up sheet will be at both First and Federated churches after Easter.

Glacial Ridge Conference
Women of ELCA, 2026

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

COFFEE HOUR is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **KINDNESS Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of April. Those in the Kindness Service Group are: Ryan & Laura Anderson, Kyle & Amy Dougherty, Sheila & Leroy Fahje, Jay & Joleen Hanson, Allan & Elizabeth Harris, Bruce & Laura McCormack, Allen & Julie Monroe, Jon & Shana Ulrich, Ward & Carol Voorhees. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, April 1st at 11:30am at Prime Steakhouse in Morris. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the May newsletter is noon on Thursday, April 23.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, April 1 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

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.

SOCIAL HOUR AT LEGACY LIVING is held 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 May 20 and 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 out, 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.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

ELCA WORLD HUNGER and GLOBAL BARNYARD NOISY OFFERING "Until All Are Fed" ELCA WORLD HUNGER and GLOBAL BARNYARD NOISY OFFERING Challenge began on Sunday, March 22nd. ELCA World Hunger envelopes are also 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.**

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.

SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

March 1	In memory of Robert Eul from Emilie Brustuen
March 2	In memory of Mavis Corland from Jim & Marian Thraen
March 3	Thank you to the Zipporah group for all the cards they send from Carol Day
March 4	In thanksgiving to the Sunday school students and teachers for the Valentine greeting from Carol Day
March 5	In memory of Jim Overland from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
March 6	In memory of Jim Overland from Jo Solvie
March 7	In memory of Dorothy Chizek from Jo Solvie
March 8	In memory of Janet Jensen Presley from Jo Solvie
March 9	In memory of Frank Fox from Jo Solvie
March 10	In memory of Mickey Maus from Jo Solvie
March 11	In memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti from Jo Solvie
March 19	Happy 90th Birthday to Lauren Carlson from Cheryl Higgins

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: March 10, 2026

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: discussed the potential addition of an organist/accompanist but feel those currently doing so will be able to cover the needs at First.

Mission and Evangelism: Committee did not meet this month.

Education: committee is looking at using Luther Crest's Faith Source curriculum for Sunday School for this fall. Also will be checking on the planning of Vacation Bible School.

Property: Elevator was inspected and replacement of hydraulic power unit was recommended; looking into the cost. The siding and shingles and the storage garage need replacing. Two estimates were given to the council with the approval for the work be accomplished by Frostproof.

Old Business:

- Survey of Congregations results to be discussed at the congregational meeting on March 22. Voting on the collaboration will be on April 12 and April 19, with absentee ballots by request only. Deadline for all ballots will be April 24, with results announced by the end of the month.
- Salary contract for Pastor Matt will be signed and given to each church.
- Common Cup Support: discussed budget shortfalls for the past couple of years with the possibility of adding dues to next year's budget.
- Council Assignments: Nadine will be on the Endowment Committee. Still have need for Synod Assembly delegates.

New Business:

- Quorum: discussion held on how the calculation of active members is determined
- Council Retreat was held on March 7 with Federated council. Discussion on a council meeting exchange.
- Graduate Sunday and Family Bingo scheduled for May 10.

Next month's council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00pm. Devotions by Allen.

FEBRUARY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$13,826.75 February Giving

\$26,510.09 February Expenses

\$45,118.50 Year-to-Date Giving

\$45,593.94 Year-to-Date Expenses

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Prime Steakhouse 1:00pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg 6-7pm Element Leader Mtg at FIRST	2 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship at FIRST	3 6:30pm Good Friday Worship at FEDERATED	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY No Sunday school 8:30am Breakfast at FEDERATED 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED 11:00am Worship at FIRST	6 <i>Church office closed for holiday</i>	7 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	8 6:30-8pm Element at FIRST	9 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	10	11 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
12 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with Fellowship following Collaboration voting at First	13	14 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	15 6:30-8pm Element at FIRST	16 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	17	18 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran 9am Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering at FIRST
19 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with Fellowship following (<i>Sunday school during worship</i>) Collaboration voting at Federated	20	21 11am Pastors' Text Study	22 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 6:30-8pm No Element	23 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting) 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	24 Deadline for absentee ballots	25 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran 1-3pm Pie Sale in fellowship hall
26 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST with Fellowship following	27 5:30-7pm Bread n' Bowls event at Morris Elementary	28 11am Pastors' Text Study	29 6:30-8pm Element at FIRST	30		

*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, with in office days on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00pm

APRIL WORSHIP SERVANTS

MAUNDAY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 6:30pm Worship HC	EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5 <i>No Sunday school</i> 11:00 Worship HC	SUNDAY, APRIL 12 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC	SUNDAY, APRIL 26 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship HC
<p>Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just Dennis Feuchtenberger</p> <p>Lector: Lindy Ekola</p> <p>Acolytes: Kenzie Just Jamis Burnett</p> <p>Communion Prep: <i>(silver tray/wafers)</i> Laurie Feuchtenberger</p> <p>Communion Server: Vicki Dalager</p> <p>Video: Dave Jungst</p> <p>TV slides: Brayden Carlson</p> <p>Nursery: Robi Bowman</p> <p>Accompanist: Suzanne Smith</p>	<p>Ushers: Bob Heck Al & Julie Monroe Jon Ulrich</p> <p>Lector: Allyn Plattner</p> <p>Acolytes: Zoe Krosch Lucy Feuchtenberger</p> <p>Communion Prep: <i>(silver tray/wafers)</i> Kahla Gillespie</p> <p>Communion Server: Millie Tschetter</p> <p>Video: Tony Feuchtenberger</p> <p>TV slides: Connor Siegel</p> <p>Nursery: Bobbi Siegel</p> <p>Accompanist: Suzanne Smith</p>	<p>Ushers: Al Harris Amy Dougherty Michael Bjorklund</p> <p>Lector: Sharon Ehlers</p> <p>Acolytes: Copper Nesvig Lilly Nesvig</p> <p>Communion Prep: <i>(silver tray/wafers)</i> Sharon Ehlers</p> <p>Communion Server: Doug Ehlers</p> <p>Video: _____</p> <p>TV slides: Owen Nesvig</p> <p>Nursery: Vicki Dalager</p> <p>Accompanist: Deb Mahoney</p>	<p>Ushers: Dick Smith Brian Erdahl Fynboh Family</p> <p>Lector: Ward Voorhees</p> <p>Acolytes: Wyatt Schultz Gage Schultz</p> <p>Communion Prep: <i>(silver tray/wafers)</i> Judy Buro</p> <p>Communion Server: Emilie Brustuen</p> <p>Video: Dave Jungst</p> <p>TV slides: Aaden Schultz</p> <p>Nursery: Pam Wiese</p> <p>Accompanist: Suzanne Smith</p>

HAPPY
Birthday

- April 3: David Jungst, Breaw Nesvig, Jamie VanKempen
- April 4: Nick Milbrandt, Ward Voorhees
- April 5: Del Sarlette
- April 8: Kyle Dougherty
- April 9: Skott Anderson, Lois Peterson
- April 11: Tim Grove, Allysa Peterson
- April 12: Katie Knochenmus
- April 13: Helen Yerigan
- April 14: Emma Bowman, Aaden Schultz
- April 17: Pam Wiese
- April 19: Keith Hawkinson, Nadine Heck, Kristi Krusemark
- April 20: Julie Monroe
- April 21: Brent Huebner, Christopher Just
- April 22: Kellen Erdahl
- April 24: David Denzer, Mason Dougherty, Justine Huebner
- April 25: Marlene Seip
- April 26: Carlene Sarlette
- April 30: Sandy Fuhrman, Brock Krusemark

HAPPY
Anniversary!

- April 5: Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- April 9: Brent & Jackie Huebner

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE
† Maundy Thursday, April 2: 6:30pm at FIRST
† Good Friday, April 3: 6:30pm at FEDERATED
† Easter Sunday, April 5: 9:30am at FEDERATED 11:00am at FIRST
† Sunday, April 12 at FIRST
† Sunday, April 19 at FEDERATED
† Sunday, April 26 at FIRST

ELEMENT SCHEDULE APRIL/MAY

APRIL 1
Leader meeting/get together
First Lutheran, 6-7pm

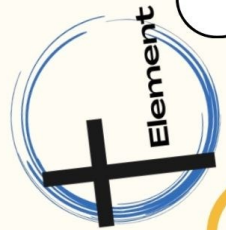
APRIL 8
Element 6:30-8pm. First Lutheran
Lutheran Life (#3 Communion:
Passover to Last Supper)

APRIL 15
Element 6:30-8pm. First Lutheran
Lutheran Life (#6 Worship: The Word)

APRIL 22
NO ELEMENT - Rest & Recharge

APRIL 29
Element 6:30-8pm. First Lutheran
The Apostles' Creed (#10 Resurrection
and Eternal Life)

MAY 6
Last Element of the season -
more details to come.



WE ARE SO EXCITED TO
SEE YOU ALL AGAIN!!!!

fusionministry.connect@gmail.com
www.fusion-ministry.com



Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, May 10

Once again, we will celebrate the end of the Sunday school year and honor our high school graduates with a Family Bingo event. Bingo prizes for all ages! This event will be sponsored by First Lutheran WELCA with funding from Thrivent. We are reaching out to you our church family to see if anyone has some Bingo Prizes

they would like to donate. It is an all ages Bingo, so we would need a variety of bingo prizes. Monetary donations towards purchasing prizes would be appreciated as well. If you'd like to donate or have questions, please contact Sharon Ehlers, 320-808-4500. More details will be included in the May newsletter.

Bread 'N Bowls Monday, April 27 serving from 5:30-7:00pm at the Morris Elementary School Cafeteria hosted by the University of Minnesota Morris office of Community Engagement

Attendees are encouraged to provide a small donation such as food or money, and in exchange they receive a locally sourced, hearty meal in homemade bowls and get to keep the bowl afterwards. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Someplace Safe, the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance, and the Stevens County Food Shelf to provide safety and advocacy services for survivors of violence, scholarships for low-income children who wish to participate in PRCA's Annual Prairie Arts Camp, and food for families living in poverty. Last year, \$1,300 was raised for local causes. This year's goal is to raise \$600 for each organization...a total of \$1,800.

First Lutheran Church
200 East 5th St
Morris, MN 56267
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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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

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