

June 2025

# First Things

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



As you know, we, along with other area churches, are in need of a pastor. Last week, our council met with the council from The Federated Church to discuss collaboration possibilities. We have decided to have shared summer services. This will begin on June 8th and continue through August. Services will alternate locations weekly. The intent of this is to give our congregations an opportunity to get to know each other and to give us an idea of what fellowship with another congregation might be like.

If this results in a positive experience and our congregation decides to move forward with further collaboration, the two councils and Paster Matt would continue discussing and prayerfully planning a path forward.

Throughout the summer, the council will also stay in contact with Faith Lutheran to gauge interest in possible collaboration.

During the next 3 months, please take the opportunity to attend the shared summer services with an open mind and an open heart. At the end of summer, we will be asking for your feedback.

Our goal is to imagine what the future of our church looks like by thoughtfully exploring collaboration opportunities with the churches in our community.

**FIRST LUTHERAN** *Sunday, June 1: 11:00am Worship*  
*Sunday, June 8: 9:30am Worship*  
*with Holy Communion*

*Sunday, June 15: 9:30am Worship* **FEDERATED CHURCH**

**FIRST LUTHERAN** *Sunday, June 22: 9:30am Worship*  
*with Holy Communion*

*Sunday, June 29: 9:30am Worship* **FEDERATED CHURCH**

*July and August worship schedule will be listed in upcoming newsletters*

Live-streaming will be available each Sunday at the scheduled church  
 First Lutheran's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstlutheranchurch-morris3272>  
 The Federated Church's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@federatedchurchofmorris5687>

# Congratulations class of 2025



## **Skott Anderson**

**Parents:**  
*Ryan & Laura Anderson*

**Future Plans:**  
*Welder at Superior Industries*



## **Sarah Dougherty**

**Parents:**  
*Kyle & Amy Dougherty*

**Future Plans:**  
*University of Minnesota Morris;  
Elementary Education*



## **Charli Erdahl**

**Parents:**  
*Brian & Ann Erdahl*

**Future Plans:**  
*Radiologic Technology;  
MN State Community &  
Technical College,  
Detroit Lakes*



## **Jaxon Hilbrands**

**Parents:**  
*Matt & Adrienne Hilbrands*

**Future Plans:**  
*South Dakota State University;  
Ag Business*



## **Isaac Just**

**Parents:**  
*Steve & Michelle Just*

**Future Plans:**  
*University of Minnesota,  
Industrial Engineering*



## **Breaw Nesvig**

**Parents:**  
*J. Mark & Crystal Nesvig*

**Future Plans:**  
*University of Minnesota Morris;  
Elementary Education*



## **Micah Ulrich**

**Parents:**  
*Jon & Shana Ulrich*

**Future Plans:**  
*North Dakota State College  
of Science, Wahpeton;  
Land Surveying and  
Civil Engineering Technology*

*Gracious God, we thank you for the journey of learning and growth that has brought these graduates to this moment. We give thanks for the support of families, teachers and mentors who have guided them along the way. We pray that as they embark on new paths, they will be filled with your love, wisdom, and courage to make a positive impact on the world. Amen.*

**Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall before the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **Kindness Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of June. Those in the Kindness Service Group are:

Ryan & Laura Anderson	Kyle & Amy Dougherty
Sheila & Leroy Fahje	Jay & Jolene Hanson
Al & Elizabeth Harris	Bruce & Laura McCormack
Allen & Julie Monroe	Jason & Selena Reed
Jon & Shana Ulrich	Ward & Carol Voorhees

Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

**Lunch Bunch** meets on Wednesday, June 4 at 11:30am at Just Chillin' (back room). Order from the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us!

**Flat Sheets Needed!** The Share & Care Quilters are in need of flat sheets for their quilts. Sizes of full, queen or king; no fitted sheets please. Sheets can be dropped off at the church office, or in the quilting room on the lower level.

**Newsletter Deadline** for the July newsletter is noon on Monday, June 23.

**Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, June 19 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

**Follow us** on Facebook and send us a friend request at "Morris-First Lutheran Church." Our worship services are live-streamed on Sundays at 11:00am. We also try to add current event photos and updates to Facebook.

**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 and their 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.

**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.

**Pastoral Visit** 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.

**Daily Grace** Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Just go to the Women of the ELCA website ([www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)) and sign up for the "Daily Grace." Reflect, pray, and prepare for the day.

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## WELCA NEWS

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### WELCA Meeting (Women of First)

A brief meeting will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, July 13 at 10:00am to make decisions of support from the recent Pie Sale Fundraiser. All are welcome to attend.

### Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Global Health Ministries Kits

We have once gain be sponsoring a packing event scheduled for the first day of Sunday school, September 7, 2025. This is a nice way to kick off the Sunday School year as the students enjoy the opportunity to help pack kits. This fall we will be packing Personal Care Kits, School kits, and Baby kits for LWR. We will also be packing Newborn kits and rolling bandages for GHM. Information for these kits can be found on their websites, <https://lwr.org> and <https://www.ghm.org>. You can also search our church website under the member tab and click on Women of First. Please consider donating items for these kits. Some easy items to donate include school supplies, as theses are often on sale starting in July and bath size bars of soap. If you like to crochet, knit, or sew, we need newborn stocking hats and receiving blankets for the newborn kits. These kits are packed for shipping in pillowcases of any color. We need white sheets donated for the rolled bandages. Fabric donations for quilts are needed and monetary donations are always appreciated as well that will be used for a shipping donation. Please check the websites for additional specific requirements. Please contact Sharon Ehlers 320-808-4500 or Emilie Brustuen 719-440-8575 if you have any questions.



## Women's Week Day Trip Wednesday, June 25: 9:00am to 4:00pm

All women...all sorts of fun! The day will begin with worship in the chapel and continues until free-time session in the afternoon. The day option includes lunch, the morning sessions with special guest speakers, morning and afternoon mini-sessions, and the afternoon presenter. The cost is \$30 per person. Week long participation is also available. Sign up deadline is Tuesday, June 17.

Together we will focus on God's presence and work in us, our spiritual formation in Christ, as individuals created by God called to live in community. Centering ourselves in scripture, we will spend time drawing on the wisdom of Christian mystics and engaging in a variety of spiritual practices to reflect on what God is doing in us, through all the stories of our lives as beloved children of God.



## Congregational Survey

How can we best serve our neighbors?

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Focus: Church without Walls event and ideas for year-round service:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

We want to reach out to the world and share Jesus' love.

Please place in the offering plate as soon as possible on a Sunday morning, or email J. Mark Nesvig at [nesvigj@yahoo.com](mailto:nesvigj@yahoo.com)

Thank you,  
Mission & Evangelism Committee

# JUNE WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 <i>11:00am: Worship</i>	SUNDAY, JUNE 8 <i>9:30am: Worship HC</i>	SUNDAY, JUNE 15 <i>9:30am: Worship</i>	SUNDAY, JUNE 22 <i>9:30am: Worship HC</i>	SUNDAY, JUNE 29 <i>9:30am: Worship</i>
<p><b><i>Ushers:</i></b> Al Harris Dave Jungst Lindy Ekola</p> <p><b><i>Lector:</i></b> Denise Odello</p> <p><b><i>Acolytes:</i></b> Wes Odello Owen Nesvig</p> <p><b><i>Video:</i></b> Mike Odello</p> <p><b><i>TV slides:</i></b> Jennie Odello</p> <p><b><i>Nursery:</i></b> Michelle Just</p> <p><b><i>Accompanist:</i></b> Jennie Odello</p>	<p><b><i>Ushers:</i></b> Steve &amp; Michelle Just Kellie Hentges</p> <p><b><i>Lector:</i></b> Vicki Dalager</p> <p><b><i>Acolytes:</i></b> Brenna Jergenson Connor Siegel</p> <p><b><i>Communion Prep:</i></b> Sharon Ehlers (<i>wafers</i>)</p> <p><b><i>Communion Servers:</i></b> Judy Buro Vicki Dalager Ward Voorhees</p> <p><b><i>Video:</i></b> Dave Jungst</p> <p><b><i>TV slides:</i></b> Grant Anderson</p> <p><b><i>Nursery:</i></b> Lindy Ekola</p> <p><b><i>Accompanist:</i></b> Deb Mahoney</p>	<p><b><i>Worship held at The Federated Church</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Ushers:</i></b> Al Harris Fynboh Family</p> <p><b><i>Lector:</i></b> Ward Voorhees</p> <p><b><i>Acolyte:</i></b> Jacoby Burnett Cooper Nesvig</p> <p><b><i>Communion Prep:</i></b> Liz Harris (<i>wafers</i>)</p> <p><b><i>Communion Servers:</i></b> Sharon &amp; Doug Ehlers Emilie Brustuen</p> <p><b><i>Video:</i></b> Tony Feuchtenberger</p> <p><b><i>TV slides:</i></b> Lilly Nesvig</p> <p><b><i>Nursery:</i></b> Jone Anderson</p> <p><b><i>Accompanist:</i></b> Deb Mahoney</p>	<p><b><i>Worship held at The Federated Church</i></b></p>

## HAPPY *Birthday*

- June 3: Deanna Rosen, Madelyn Siegel, Jon Ulrich, Everett Van Kempen
- June 4: Amy Dougherty
- June 5: Deb Decker, Gary Wagner
- June 7: Jen Buchanan, Ann Erdahl, Kent Swenson, LaVonne Watson
- June 8: Heather Schneider, Morgan Wevley
- June 10: Eric Buchanan, Marian Thraen
- June 12: Lydia Fynboh
- June 16: Denner Dougherty, Joleen Hanson
- June 20: Corrine Knochenmus, Jim Thraen, William Peterson, Zayne Plattner
- June 22: Audrey Anderson, Rebecca Nemmers
- June 23: Connie Anderson, Karli Siegel
- June 24: Sherry Anderson, Lana Burnett
- June 25: John Huebner
- June 27: Jeanne Richards

## HAPPY *Anniversary*

- June 1: Arnie & Verna Sharstrom
- June 4: Heather & Brad Krosch  
Sarah & Hunger McFall-Boegeman
- June 6: Michelle & Steve Just  
Dick & Suzanne Smith
- June 7: Katie & Craig Knochenmus
- June 10: Jim & Marian Thraen
- June 17: Adrienne & Matthew Hilbrands
- June 21: Ryan & Summer Anderson
- June 22: Jared & Britney House  
Corrine & Gary Knochenmus
- June 26: Joan Smith & Scott Larson
- June 29: Tim & Kristin Grove
- June 30: Ward & Carol Voorhees

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship at <b>FIRST</b>	2	3 11am Pastors' Text Study  2pm Worship & Music Meeting	4 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Just Chillin' (back room)	5	6	7 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
8 9:30am Worship HC at <b>FIRST</b> with coffee/ Fellowship following	9	10 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1  7pm Council Meeting	11	12 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	13	14 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
15 9:30am Worship at <b>FEDERATED</b> with fellowship following	16	17 11am Pastors' Text Study	18	19 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	20	21 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
22 9:30am Worship HC at <b>FIRST</b> with coffee/ Fellowship following	23 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	17 11am Pastors' Text Study	25	26 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	27	28 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
29 9:30am Worship at <b>FEDERATED</b> with fellowship following	30					

*All worship services are streamed live via Facebook (Morris-First Lutheran Church) and YouTube (First Lutheran Church - Morris MN). Recorded services available on our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org)*

*Rita is in the church office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm by phone call or text (320-287-2384) or email ([office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org))*

## SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

May 15	In memory of Janet Staples from her family
May 20	In loving memory of Dale Crow from his family
May 21	In memory of Robert & Betty Zierke from Emilie Brustuen
May 22	In memory of Charles "Chuck" D. Tatage from Emilie Brustuen
May 23	In memory of Sharon Anderson from Emilie Brustuen
May 24	In honor of the Sunday school bell choir from Ward & Carol Voorhees
May 26	In honor of our veterans
May 30	In honor Luke Nelson's birthday from grandma & grandpa Ehlers
May 25	ELCA Lutheran Worship radio broadcast given by the congregation of First Lutheran

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.

## CHUCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: May 13, 2025

### Committee Reports:

- **Education:** no report
- **Property:** boiler system has been turned off
- **Mission and Evangelism:** no report
- **Worship and Music:** written minutes were given out to the council

### Old Business:

- A 5-month CD has been finalized with National Bank of Commerce in Morris
- council decided to revert back to taking an offering during the service
- The Call Committee will meet on Sunday, June 1, with installation of the call committee during worship service
- The council will meet with Federated Church council members on Sunday, May 18 after the worship service

### New Business:

- Allen will present the graduating seniors with their gift during the service on May 18.
- Pulpit Supply for June will be discussed with Pastor Matt Orendorf.
- Council approved Rita's request for reduced hours during the summer months
- Next council meeting on Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00pm. Devotions to be given by Allen.

### Treasurer's Report:

The year-to-date deficit is approximately \$3300. Naomi will speak prior to the worship service about keeping up with giving throughout the summer months.

## Special Council Meeting - Monday, May 19

A special council meeting was held to discuss and approve a shared summer worship plan between First Lutheran and The Federated Church. Communications will also continue with Faith Lutheran Church.

### **APRIL'S GIVING and EXPENSE**

\$21,846.75 April Giving

\$15,895.20 April Expense

\$74,384.39 Year-to-Date Giving

\$77,717.02 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](http://www.flcmorris.org)  
email: [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)  
Facebook: Morris-First Lutheran Church

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**Worship Schedule**

**SEE SCHEDULE ON CALENDAR**

Broadcasted live via Facebook and  
YouTube; recorded services  
available on our website.

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**Televised Services:**

Tuesdays at 1:30pm  
MediaCom: Channel 8 or 117-2 (*digital*)

**STAFF**

Pastor  
Rita Bye, Office Manager [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)  
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian  
Deb Mahoney, Accompanist

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Allen Monroe President  
J. Mark Nesvig Vice-President  
Naomi Fynboh Treasurer  
Matt Hilbrands Secretary  
Bob Dalager  
Elizabeth Harris  
Bob Heck