NOVEMBER 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

As November arrives, we find ourselves entering a season when we are reminded to give thanks. Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to pause, gather with family and friends and reflect on the blessings in our lives. But gratitude is something worth practicing throughout the year, not just on one day in November.

Sometimes, it is easy to recognize the things for which we are thankful. We give thanks for family and friends, for good health, for the food on our tables. Other times, life feels more complicated. We may be carrying worries, facing uncertainty or grieving something we have lost. In those moments, giving thanks can feel a little harder.

The good news is that gratitude doesn't require us to pretend everything is perfect. We can acknowledge the challenges we face while still looking for signs of God's goodness around us. Sometimes those signs are found in the big moments of life. Other times, they appear in much smaller ways: a conversation with a friend, a beautiful fall day or the simple reassurance that we are not alone.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded to give thanks to God, not because life is always easy, but because God's love and faithfulness remain with us through every season. In Psalm 107 we hear these words, “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.”

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, I encourage you to take a little time to reflect on those things for which you are thankful. And as you give thanks, look for opportunities to share that gratitude with others.

May this November be a time of renewed gratitude for the blessings we have received from God, and a reminder of the love that surrounds us every day.

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.



Proceeds from the Fall Dinner benefit the Stevens County Food Shelf, Salvation Army & Lutheran World Hunger. Silent Auction proceeds go towards the Fusion Youth Ministry.

COFFEE HOUR SERVERS Peace Service Group is in charge of the coffee hours during the month of November. Those in the Peace Service Group are: Emilie Brustuen, Sharon & Doug Ehlers, Mark & Mary Huebner, Dave Jungst & Lindy Ekola, Diane Nelson, Mike & Denise Odello, John & Jean Schultz, Sarah & Colby Schultz, Cathy Solvie, Scott Staples and Neil & Pam Wiese

THANKOFFERING COLLECTION Thank Offering Collection containers and donation envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up and collect your loose change. Money from this collection goes to support the life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. We will collect the offerings at church on November 22, or they can be dropped off at the church office.

FOOD SHELF DRIVE During the month of November, First and Federated will hold a food drive in support of the Stevens County Food Shelf in Morris. Donations can be dropped off at either church. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make your check payable to the church and write 'Food Shelf' in the memo line.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the December newsletter is noon on Thursday, November 19.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY will not meet during the months of November and December. Starting in January they will begin meeting on Fridays. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.

LUNCH BUNCH will not meet in November. Details for December coming soon!

FAITH LUTHERAN MEATBALL SUPPER on Wednesday, November 11 serving from 4:30-7:00pm. On the menu: meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw, lefse and pumpkin dessert. Adults $15, children 10 & under $6, Preschoolers eat for free. Takeout available. Church address: 108 West 8th Str., Morris.

OLIVEWOOD CARVINGS FOR SALE Payment options are: Venmo@FirstLutheranChurch-MorrisMN, cash, or a check payable to The Olivewood Project. Carvings are available throughout the year by calling the church office or contacting a committee member. Items located in the glass case of the Gathering Room (upper level) are available. If you are interested in donating to purchase Olivewood carvings as gifts for Sunday School Children, a fundraiser is being supported by a Thrivent Grant. Your donations towards this effort would be appreciated greatly. Please contact the office or a committee member.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS: Lutheran World Relief: PO Box 17061, Baltimore MD 21298-9832) or online lwr.org | Lutheran Disaster Response (envelopes on narthex table) | ELCA World Hunger (envelopes on narthex table) | Bread for the World. Learn more at bread.org

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Luther Crest Bible Camp Early Bird registration for the 2027 camping year begins on November 1st. First Lutheran has a scholarship fund which is available to youth and families from our congregation who would like to attend Bible Camp. We will provide up to $250 for each individual youth who would like to go to camp. If you are interested, please let Rita know at the church office or contact a member of church council.

PROVIDERS NEEDED FOR 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!

THANK YOU for the generous contributions already made to the *2nd Floor Free Store* at UMMLCM. The next donation drop is scheduled on Sunday, November 22nd. As you look at your fall/winter closets, please remember the need for gently used warm boots, coats, etc. along with other essentials necessary to manage life both off and on campus.

THANK YOU church family for coming to "my banquet!" You helped make my 90th birthday celebrations a wonderful memory. God bless you all. Your sister in Christ, Jo Solvie

ELEVATOR UPDATE

First Lutheran's elevator is currently operating without any major issues. Minor repairs and servicing have been completed over the years, however it was installed in 1991 and availability of replacement parts is becoming a challenge as most of the electrical and mechanical components for this older model are no longer manufactured. (ie. circuit boards).

Elevator Rehabilitation
The cost to rehabilitate our elevator will be around $125,000. Work would include: Replace controller, circuit boards, pump unit, all fixtures, door operators, traveling cable, wiring (everything other than cab and the doors), new disconnect (electrician's work). This upgrade would provide FLC with a serviceable elevator for another 30 years. With the significant rehabilitation cost associated with the elevator the property committee recommends that the church start taking actions now (financially) to help lessen the financial impact in the future.

Replacement Plan – Target Date – 2031
The Property Committee believes the elevator will continue to be serviceable for the next 5 years, although they do feel this would be the maximum timeframe we should wait before taking action on the *rehabilitation. If we are able to shorten this timeframe it would reduce the risk of not being able to repair the elevator if a major breakdown occur before then.*

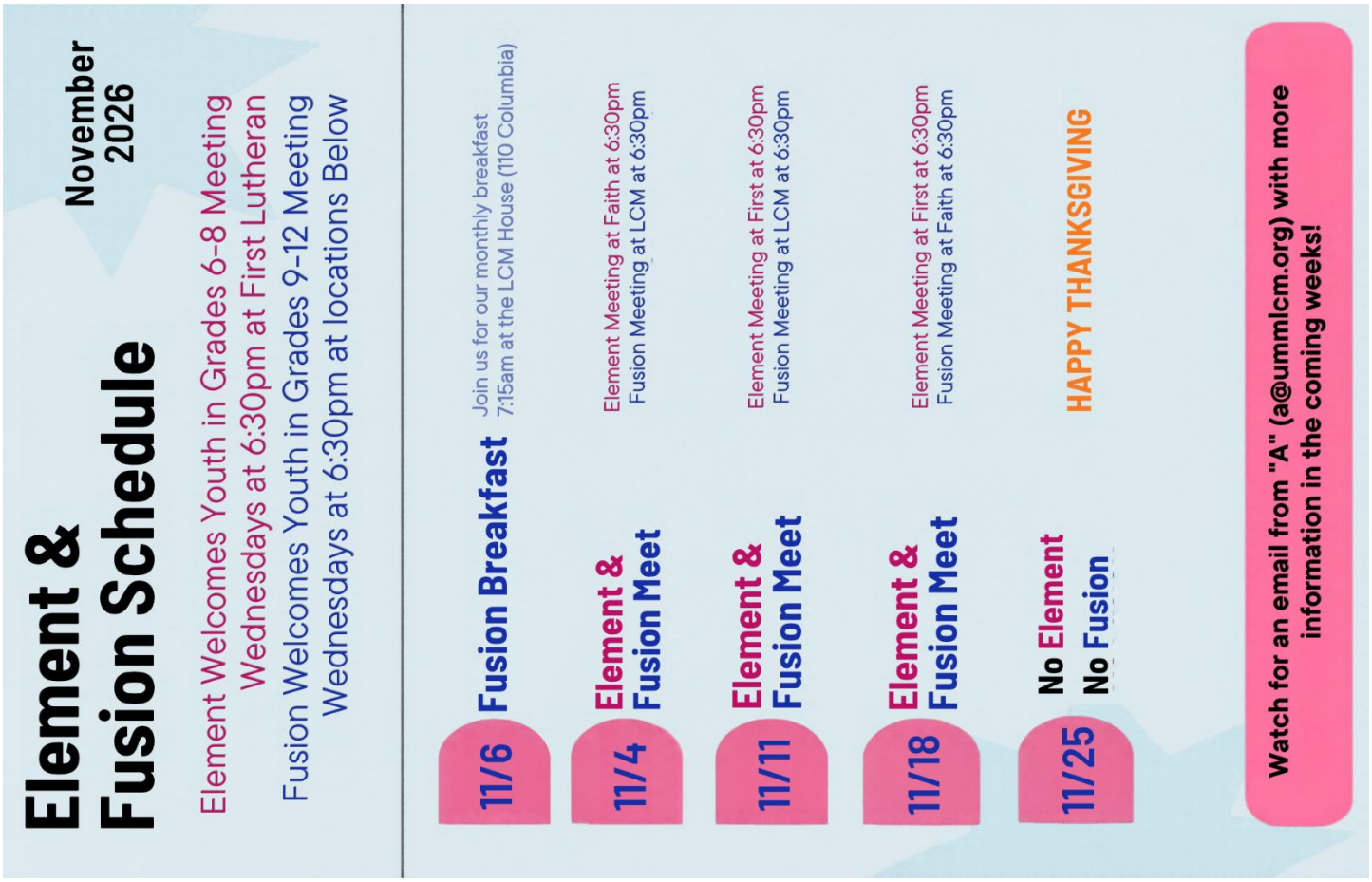
This gives us time to establish/execute a fundraising plan on potential sources of funding, which would likely use a combination of the following: sale of parking lot north west of FLC, use $50k currently in a Certificate of Deposit, set aside an allotment annually in the church budget to supplement the total cost, and fund raising events.

HEAD START TEMPORARY LOCATION AT FLC

In early October, Head Start reached out to First Lutheran looking for a temporary location for their classroom. Because of water leaks/roof issues, Head Start had to suspend their classroom operations. This impacted 18 preschoolers and their families. Their director and teachers visited a couple of locations in Morris and decided that our church would be the most viable choice. This was approved by our church council at our October meeting. Council members saw this as an opportunity to help young children and families in our community. Council members reached out to our quilters (who decided before this request to take a break this fall); Sunday School teachers; and Fusion leaders. All were supportive of the decision.
Beginning on Monday, October 19th, Head Start is using the lower classroom area, lower-level Women's Bathroom, and outside courtyard area. Head Start will be using our facility, free of charge, Monday through Thursday from 7am to 4pm. Thank you to our church members and staff who assisted with this transition in a timely manner, whether it was moving items from the downstairs classroom, cleaning, or working with inspections, etc.

Again, this is a temporary relocation. The exact timeline is unknown because of an uncertain time frame of roof repair needed at their prior location, but their plan to return to their regular classroom space as soon as possible. We please ask for your patience and support in helping to make these families and children feel welcome at First Lutheran. Historically, First Lutheran Church used to host kindergarten classes in our lower level. Past member, Sylvia Yarger was one of the teachers, and we have current members who attended Kindergarten here.

If you are unfamiliar with Head Start, it is a federally and state funded program that is administered locally through West Central Minnesota Communities Action out of Elbow Lake, Minnesota. Head Start promotes school readiness of young children from low-income families in our community.



SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Saturday, November 7: Annie at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

1 ticket remains! Cost is $80 and includes transportation, dinner & show ticket and tip. Drinks & dessert not included. Show Time is at 1:00pm. We will leave the church parking lot at 8am and return around 8pm. This event is hosted by Seniors on the Move, but all are welcome!

Saturday, November 14 (West Wind Village)
Saturday, November 21 (Skyview)

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 each location where we will meet up with the students around 1:30pm.

CHRISTMAS TOY SHOPPE & WISH TREE COLLECTIONS

In the spirit of the season, the Mission & Evangelism Committee invites you to donate to the 2026 Christmas Toy Shoppe and Wish Tree Collections. The Morris Area Women of Today sponsor this project and last year served 156 families, including 426 children, birth to age 18. In addition to a nice gift, each child receives stocking stuffers, hats and mittens. Each family also receives a game to promote family night and at least one quilt or blanket. A collection of new toys or games (in its original package) along with all sizes of hats, mittens, or scarves are appreciated. We do ask that all items are new. If the game/toy requires batteries, please include them with the gift. You can place your donations next to the collection tree in the lower Narthex. Monetary donations are also appreciated with checks made payable to: Morris Unity Fund and mailed to Women of Today, PO Box 82, Morris MN 56267. Please put "Christmas Toy Shoppe" in the memo line. ***Sunday, December 13 is the deadline for donations to be dropped off at church.***

Brown Bag

BIBLE STUDY

Come Grow in God's Word!

Wednesdays | 12:00 PM

BRING YOUR LUNCH AND YOUR CURIOUSITY AS WE STUDY THE PARABABLES OF JESUS

~~10/14 First Lutheran~~
~~10/28 Federated~~
11/4 First Lutheran
11/11 Federated
11/18 First Lutheran

~~10/14 Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)~~
~~10/28 Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)~~
11/7 Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
11/14 Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-30)
11/21 Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)

Thanksgiving Worship

at Federated Church

Tuesday, November 24 at 6:30pm



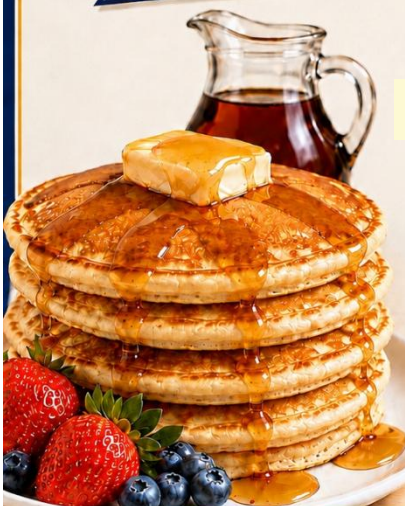
FUSION FUNDRAISER



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO OUR FUSION YOUTH!
Any amount you are able to give is greatly appreciated.
Checks should be made out and dropped off at your home church.
Please make note of 'Fusion Fundraiser' in the memo line.
THANK YOU!

PANCAKE Breakfast

Good Food. Great Fellowship. All Are Welcome!



JOIN US!
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 8

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.

CHRISTMAS SALE

BUY $50 IN GIFT CARDS RECEIVE FREE $5 GIFT CARD

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27TH THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Common Cup Coffeehouse

Donations for Women of Today "Christmas Toy Shoppe" Accepted here

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS and SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOV 1 (FEDERATED)
9:30am Worship
Sunday school during service
coffee/fellowship following

SUNDAY, NOV 8 (FIRST)
8:00am: Pancake Breakfast
8:30am Sunday school
9:30am Worship
coffee/fellowship following

SUNDAY, NOV 15 (FEDERATED)
9:30am Worship
Sunday school during service
coffee/fellowship following

SUNDAY, NOV 22 (FIRST)
8:30am Sunday school
9:30am Worship
coffee/fellowship following

WED., NOV 25 (FEDERATED)
6:30pm Thanksgiving Service

SUNDAY, NOV 29 (FIRST)
No Sunday school
9:30am Worship
coffee/fellowship following

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

USHERS:
Steve Just
Dennis Feuchtenberger
Jon Ulrich

LECTOR:
Shana Ulrich

ACOLYTES:
Ashlyn Williamson
Kenzie Just

COMMUNION PREP:
Kahla Gillespie

COMMUNION SERVER:
Laurie Feuchtenberger

VIDEO:
Tony Feuchtenberger

TV SLIDES:
Aubrey Williamson

NURSERY:
Amy Dougherty

ACCOMPANIST:
Deb Mahoney

SUNDAY, NOV 22
8:30am Sunday school
9:30am Worship HC
Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:
Bob Heck
Doug & Sharon Ehlers

LECTOR:
Allyn Plattner

ACOLYTES:
Zoe Krosch
Wes Odello

COMMUNION PREP:
Judy Buro

COMMUNION SERVER:
Millie Tschetter

VIDEO:
Mike Odello

TV SLIDES:
Brenna Jergenson

NURSERY:
Pam Wiese

ACCOMPANIST:
Suzanne Smith

SUNDAY, NOV 29
No Sunday school
9:30am Worship
Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:
Al Harris
Ward Voorhees
Lindy Ekola

LECTOR:
Vicki Dalager

ACOLYTES:
Zachary & Braeden Huebner

No communion

VIDEO:
Dave Jungst

TV SLIDES:
Abigail Anderson

NURSERY:
Jone Anderson

ACCOMPANIST:
Suzanne Smith



Nov 1: Braeden Heubner, Jacob Just, Marge Kleinhans, Scott Staples
Nov 2: Vicki Dalager
Nov 3: Micah Ulrich
Nov 5: Mya Krosch, Katie Monroe, Verna Sharstrom
Nov 6: Heidi Suess
Nov 7: Cody Beyer, Finn Nesvig
Nov 11: Hunter McFall-Boegemann
Nov 12: Marisa Knutson, Isabel Fynboh, Dick Smith
Nov 13: Peggy Lussenden
Nov 14: Tahni Jungst
Nov 16: Shannon Dougherty
Nov 17: Christopher Siegel
Nov 18: Ryan Bowman, Brad Krsoch, Robert Thompson
Nov 20: Scott Larson
Nov 21: Marilyn Smith
Nov 23: Ethan Heck, Laura Peterson, Shana Ulrich
Nov 25: Mary Ann Quisberg, Marilyn Syverson
Nov 28: Wanda Dagen



Daylight Saving Time ends November 1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Day **9:30am** Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following; Sunday school during worship	2	3 **11am** Pastors' Text Study **6pm** Mission & Evang. Mtg	4 **12pm** Brown Bag Bible Study at FIRST **4:30-7:00pm** Fall Dinner & Silent Auction **6:30pm** Element at FAITH Fusion at LCM	5	6 **7:15am** Fusion Breakfast at LCM House	7 **8am** (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study **8:00am** Sr. on the Move to 'Annie' at Chanhassen
8 **8:00-9:30am** Pancake Breakfast **8:30am** Sunday school **9:30am** Worship at FIRST (choir sings) fellowship following	9 **1pm** Worship & Music Meeting	10 **11am** Pastors' Text Study **7pm** Council Meeting	11 **12pm** Brown Bag Bible Study at FEDERATED **6:30pm** Element at FIRST Fusion at LCM **7pm** Choir practice at FEDERATED	12	13	14 **8am** (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study **12:30pm** Sr. on the Move Elder Visit
15 **9:30am** Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – Sunday school during worship (choir sings)	16	17 **11am** Pastors' Text Study	18 **12pm** Brown Bag Bible Study at FIRST **6:30pm** Element at FIRST Fusion at FAITH **7pm** Choir practice at FEDERATED	19 **12pm** Newsletter Articles Due	20	21 **8am** (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study **12:30pm** Sr. on the Move Elder Visit
22 **8:30am** Sunday school **9:30am** Worship at FIRST with fellowship following	23	24 **11am** Pastors' Text Study **6:30pm** Thanksgiving Service at FEDERATED	25 *No Element or Fusion*	26 **Thanksgiving Day** *Church office closed*	27 *Church office closed*	28 **8am** (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
29 **No Sunday school** **9:30am** Worship at FIRST with following worship	30	FOOD DRIVE FOR STEVENS COUNTY FOOD SHELF DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF NOVEMBER # November 2026				

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.

MISSIONARY FOR THE DAY

Sept 25 In honor of Dale Jacobson's 90th birthday from his family
Oct 1 In memory of Barbara Winters from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 2 In memory of Renee Dahlen from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 3 In memory of Irene Henkelman from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 4 In memory of Jenny Rasool from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 5 In memory of Karen Richmond from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 6 In memory of George William Sagissor IV from Emilie Brustuen
Oct 7 In memory of Naomi Fynboh's mother from Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
Oct 9 In loving memory of Candace Altonen on her 75th birthday from Carol Day
Oct 11 Happy Birthday Jo Solvie from Carol Day
Oct 11 Happy Birthday Jo Solvie from Marian & Jim Thraen
Oct 11 Happy Birthday Jo Solvie from Marlene Seip
Oct 11 Happy Birthday Jo Solvie from Cheryl Higgins
Oct 13 Happy Birthday Randee Hokanson from Carol Day
Oct 14 In memory of Uncle Rusty from Cheryl Higgins
Oct 15 In memory of Cheryl Higgins' uncle Rusty from Jo Solvie
Oct 16 In memory of Renee Dahlen from Bernice Erdahl
Oct 21 In memory of Dennis Feuchtenberger's sister Holly

You can sponsor a Missionary for the Day 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 a date.

COUNCIL MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS: Oct 13, 2026

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Matt highlighted his continuing education, Brown Bag Bible study, pastoral coverage at Herman UMC, and confirmation students making their stoles for the Affirmation of Baptism service.

OLD BUSINESS

- update on elevator upgrade/communications to congregation
- masonry repair completed – bill to be paid from the building fund account
- no update on hearing amplification (Bluetooth)
- fall dinner update: volunteers are signing up

NEW BUSINESS

- Head Start using church building on temporary basis on Mondays through Thursdays. They will also be using the courtyard for outside activities.
- Campership Scholarships: $250 scholarship per camper will be available for those attending Bible camp
- Shared Church directory list: a simple list of names & numbers will be shared between First & Federated
- Annual Meeting: January 24, 2027 with February 14th as backup
- committee members departing their posts in December the need to start the recruitment process now.
- ae Google calendar is being shared between both churches and committee leads and pastor to keep both church's activities synced up.
- Staff evaluation will be conducted by the Executive Council in November
- Next council meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 10 with J. Mark giving the devotion.

SEPTEMBER'S GIVING and EXPENSE

$14,807.75	Sept Giving	$150,653.00	Year-to-Date Giving
$18,763.04	Sept Expense	$199,952.42	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
Deb Mahoney, Accompanist
Suzanne Smith, Accompanist

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

"A" Williams
Phone: 602-373-6185
Email: A@UMMLCM.org