

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

In his preaching and teaching, Jesus often used metaphors and figurative language in order to help the people relate to what he was saying. When speaking of the mission field in Matthew 9, Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

The concept of harvest is very important to the Jewish people. The Feast of the Tabernacles is a Jewish holiday held in the fall to celebrate the harvest, as well as the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. This year it is from Monday, October 6—Monday, October 13. The Feast of the Tabernacles is one of three Pilgrimage Festivals—a festival whereby the Jews traditionally traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem—along with Passover and the Feast of Weeks.

We can relate to the concept of harvest as well. It is the time of year once again where the farmers are working hard in their fields to gather the crops that will provide for so many. As the farmers labor in their fields this harvest season, Jesus calls us to labor as well. He tells us that the mission field is ripe for harvest. There are so many ways to do this work. We can harvest God's mission field here in Morris by loving our neighbors as ourselves, by sharing our faith, by helping and caring for those in need.

While harvest occurs just once a year, we are called to harvest the mission field all year long. And while we celebrate a harvest season just once a year, we experience the spirit of harvest all of the time. We experience harvest when we receive love from family, when we enjoy time with friends, when we earn a paycheck, when we feel close to God. And the harvests we experience daily do not belong to us, but to God, because God is the Lord of the harvest.

God's blessings,
Pastor Matt

	Sunday, October 5 FEDERATED CHURCH	8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion
	Sunday, October 12 FIRST LUTHERAN	8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion
	Sunday, OCTOBER 19 FEDERATED CHURCH	8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship
	Reformation Sunday, October 26 FIRST LUTHERAN	8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion
	Sunday, NOVEMBER 2 FEDERATED CHURCH	8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Pastor Matt's Office Hours and Contact Info

Cell Phone: 715-379-9002

Email: morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com

Wednesdays: 10:00am - 12:00pm at COMMON CUP; 2:00 - 4:00pm at FIRST LUTHERAN

Fridays: 2:00 - 4:00pm at FEDERATED CHURCH

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.

First Lutheran silent auction

Don't miss First Lutheran's on-line Silent Auction! (hosted by Zielsdorf Auction)
Bidding opens Saturday, November 1st and runs through Monday November 10th.

Auction items can be viewed on-line and at the church starting on November 1st.

Bidding will be on-line through the Zielsdorf Auction website.

If you are unable to bid on-line, please contact the church office (320.589.3242)
for instructions on how to place a max bid.

Please consider donating a basket for the Silent Auction! We have so many talented and creative individuals in our congregation so let's see what fun and interesting items you can come up with! Some ideas would be: sports tickets, movie tickets, meat bundles, a hunting/fishing outing, dessert/cookie/bread of the month (could even be purchased at Willie's and delivered once a month!), yard work, house cleaning, a home cooked meal, cake decorating lessons, sewing lessons, musical lessons, themed baskets, or repurposed furniture! Do you have a home based business? This would be a great advertising/product introduction!

Please bring your baskets/items to the church by Sunday, October 12!

The FLC Lefse making day will be held the morning of Saturday, November 1st.
Watch for the sign-up sheets to help out!



Lefse for Sale!

Stock up for Thanksgiving and Christmas...it freezes well!

4 rounds for \$15

Submit your orders to the church office by Sunday, October 26.

Lefse will be available for pickup Saturday, November 1 from 1:00-3:00pm
and on Sunday, November 2 from 10am to 11am. Late pickups will be frozen.

Checks can be made payable to: First Lutheran Church

Number of packages _____

Name _____ Phone #: _____

First/Federated Collaboration Committee

Allen Monroe
J. Mark Nesvig
Naomi Fynboh
Matt Hilbrands

Pam Gades
Paul Watzke
Katia Brundage
Lee Johnstson

Fall Pancake Coffee Hour! We will be serving up fall-flavored pancakes, coffee and fellowship on Sunday, October 12 following the worship service at First. Proceeds to go towards the annual Fall Dinner.

Coffee Hour is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **CHARITY Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of October. Those in the Charity Service Group are: Jone & Doyle Anderson, Lauren Carlson, Bob & Vicki Dalager, Barry & Nancy Erdahl, Cheryl Higgins, Brent & Jackie Huebner, Steve & Michelle Just, Dick & Suzanne Smith, & Kevin & Jeanne Williamson. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Music Scholarship The Music & Worship is again offering a music scholarship this fall. One scholarship in the amount of \$200 will be awarded. Applications are available in the church Narthex. Deadline to apply is Sunday, October 5.

Let's Sing! The joint Federated/First Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00pm at Federated Church. For more information, please contact Alisande at 320-287-1726.

Lunch Bunch meets on Wednesday, October 1 at 11:30am at Common Cup. Order from the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us!

Newsletter Deadline for the November newsletter is noon on Thursday, October 23.

Zipporah Bible Study meets on Thursday, October 16th at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

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.

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 January 21, 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.

Follow us on Facebook and send us a friend request 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.

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.

Appreciation Event for all Sunday school Teachers & Children's Ministry Leaders

Sunday, October 26th at 3:00pm
at the Hancock Community Center

All Sunday school, Wednesday/Saturday Children's Ministries, VBS, and Children's Music Leaders from the 23 Lutheran churches in our Glacial Ridge Conference, are invited to gather at the Hancock Community Center. They will be treated to a catered meal and some fun surprises, while also having an opportunity to learn from one another's joys and challenges of sharing the gospel with our children in this day and age. Mark this date on your calendars and watch for more information coming in October.

Presented by The Glacial Ridge Conference Executive Board.



ELEMENT SCHEDULE (Grades 6-8)

- Wed., October 1: No Element; rest and renew at home
- Wed., October 8: 6:30-8:00pm at FIRST LUTHERAN: Prayer walk night!
- Wed., October 15: No Element; MEA break
- Wed., October 22: 6:30 - 8:00pm: at FIRST LUTHERAN
- Wed., October 29: 6:30 - 8:00pm: at FIRST LUTHERAN
- Wed., November 5: 6:30 - 8:00pm: at FIRST LUTHERAN

FUSION

ADGENDA

OCTOBER | 25

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Check out the events this month:

1st

Bon Fire - 6:30-8pm at Faith Lutheran Church

8th

Scavenger Hunt - 6:30-8pm at Faith Lutheran Church

12th

Service Project In Alexandria at Sharing Love & Hope - & ZORBAZ

22nd

HUMAN BINO - 6:30-8pm at Faith Lutheran Church

29th

Pumpkin Carving - 6:30-8pm at Faith Lutheran Church

3rd, 10th
and 24th

Morris Bible and Breakfast at Faith Lutheran Church 7:15-8am

10th 24th
and 31st

Hancock Bible and Breakfast at Alberts 7:15-8am

Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information at www.fusion-ministry.com Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267 Email: fusionministry.connect@gmail.com

HAPPY OCTOBER!



ThankOffering Collection

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thank Offering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a ThankOffering service.

At that first ThankOffering in 1889, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in ThankOfferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization. ThankOfferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

At First Lutheran Church, ThankOffering Collection containers 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 offering at church on November 23, or they can be dropped off at the church office.

Women of First News

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF & GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES KIT PACKING. On September 7, our Sunday School students packed 30 newborn kits for Global Health Ministries, 64 Personal Care Kits and 40 School kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our First Lutheran Church Endowment funds are used to purchase supplies for kits. Thank you to those who donated school kit items and newborn kit supplies. Dental Depot and Morris Dental donated toothbrushes and The Homestead gave us a discount on towels and combs for the personal care kits. The Sunday School students also assembled Water filtration kits provided through the Thrivent Cause program and we assembled some additional birthday bags for the Stevens County Food Shelf.

Those who attended the lunch following our Church Without Walls morning activities donated \$140 towards shipping the kits packed. That amount along with endowment money not spent on kit supplies was divided and we were able to send \$128 to Global Health Ministries and \$128 to Lutheran World Relief. If you want to learn more about Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries, you can check out the information list on our church's website. Click on the "Members" tab and then "Women of First" in the drop down tab. Thank you to all of our Sunday School families for their help with these projects and to all who donated towards our efforts!

Church without Walls 2025



OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

Sunday, Oct 12 8:30am Sunday school 9:30: Worship HC	Sunday, Oct 26 8:30am Sunday school 9:30: Worship HC
Ushers: Dick Smith Judy & Chance Buro	Ushers: Al Harris Doug & Sharon Ehlers
Lector: Cathy Anderson	Lector: LeAnn Dean
Acolytes: Ashley Williamson Aubrey Williamson	Acolytes: Jacoby Burnett Lucy Feuchtenberger
Communion Prep: (silver tray/wafers) Vicki Dalager	Communion Prep: (silver tray/wafers) Kahla Gillespie
Communion Servers: Emilie Brustuen	Communion Servers: Sharon Ehlers
Video: Mike Odello	Video: Dave Jungst
TV slides: Grant Anderson	TV slides: Giana Feuchtenberger
Nursery: Amy Dougherty	Nursery: Jones Anderson
Accompanist: Deb Mahoney	Accompanist: Jennie Odello

HAPPY
Birthday

Oct 1: Tony Feuchtenberger
Oct 2: Lindy Ekola
Oct 3: Jackie Thymian
Oct 4: Bobbi Siegel
Oct 5: Judy Bluth, Leroy Fahje
Oct 6: Peter Sarlette
Oct 8: Eleanor Pochardt
Oct 9: Greg Fynboh
Oct 10: Laurie Feuchtenberger,
Mark McCormack
Oct 11: Jo Solvie
Oct 13: Randee Hokanson
Oct 14: Brady Jergenson
Oct 15: Magen Feuchtenberger
Oct 19: Kellie Hentges, Hunter Ketterling
Oct 20: Sally Utech
Oct 21: Corrie Erdahl, MacKenzie Just,
Dick Mahoney
Oct 23: Joe Holland
Oct 24: Eugene Anderson
Oct 25: LeAnn Dean, Lucy Feuchtenberger,
Rob Jergenson
Oct 26: Naomi Fynboh
Oct 27: Ryan H. Anderson, Bryce Jergenson
Oct 28: Mark Smith, Jill Van Kempen
Oct 30: Arora Nemmers

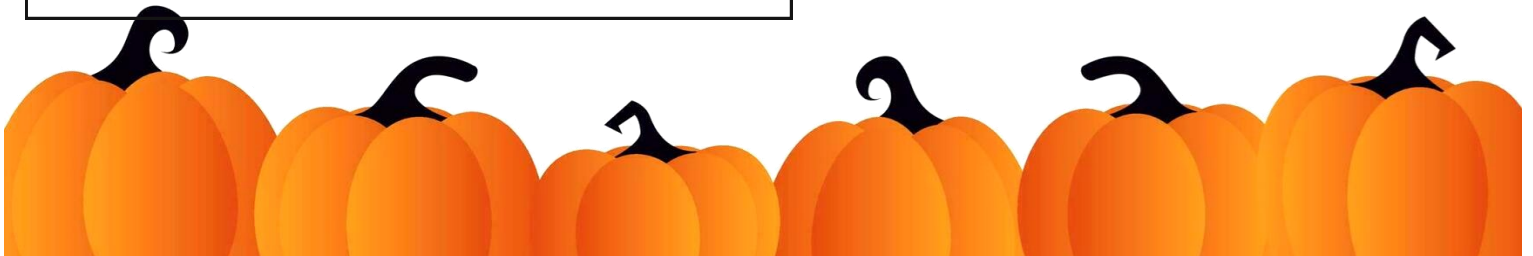
SUPPORT MISSIONARY for the DAY

Sept 12 Happy Birthday Ben Ehlers & Emily Nelson
from mom and dad
Sept 19 In memory of Maggie Larson
from Bernice Erdahl
Sept 28 In loving memory of Helen Rose Olson
Sept 29 In loving memory of John Solvie from his family

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.

HAPPY
Anniversary

Oct 3: Ryan & Laura Anderson
Oct 7: Leroy & Sheila Fahje
Bob & Nadine Heck
Oct 10: Kevin & Lori Wevley
Oct 12: Herb & Marlene Nelson
Oct 23: Glen & Kahla Gillespie
Oct 25: Colby & Sarah Schultz



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10am Worship & Music Mtg at Common Cup 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Common Cup No Element 6:30-8:00pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	2	3 7:15-8:00am Fusion Breakfast (Morris only)	4 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
5 8:30am Sunday school at Federated 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with Fellowship following Music Scholarship deadline	6	7 11am Pastors' Text Study	8 6:30-8:00pm Element at FIRST 6:30-8:00pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	9	10 7:15-8:00am Fusion Breakfast (Morris & Hancock)	11 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
12 8:30am Sunday school at First 9:30am Worship at FIRST 10:30am Pancake Coffee Hour!! 3:00-8:00pm Fusion Service Project in Alexandria Auction Items Needed!	13	14 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1 7pm Council Meeting	15 No Element 6:30-8:00pm Fusion FAITH 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	16 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	17	18 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
19 8:30am Sunday school at Federated 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with Fellowship following	20	21 11am Pastors' Text Study	22 6:30-8:00pm Element at FIRST 6:30-8:00pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	23 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	24 7:15-8:00am Fusion Breakfast (Morris & Hancock)	25 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:30am Sunday school at First 9:30am Worship at FIRST fellowship following Lefse order deadline	27	28 11am Pastors' Text Study	29 6:30-8:00pm Element at FIRST 6:30-8:00pm Fusion at FAITH 7pm Joint Choir at Federated	30	31 7:15-8:00am Fusion Breakfast (Hancock only)	

*All worship services at FIRST are streamed live via Facebook (Morris-First Lutheran Church)
 Services are also streamed live on YouTube at both FIRST and FEDERATED
 (First Lutheran Church - Morris MN) and (Federated Church of Morris)*

Recorded services available on our website at www.flcmorris.org

Rita is available Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm and is in church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. In the event of an emergency, she can be reached by phone call or text (320-287-2384) any day of the week.

Fall Dinner and Silent Auction

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

serving from 4:30-7:00pm

(or until food runs out)

Dine-In - Take Out - Home Delivery
on the menu:

Ham, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Glazed Carrots, Rye Bread, and Pumpkin Roll.

Packaged homemade lefse will be for sale (4 rounds for \$15)

Tickets: \$15 per meal

Payment options: Cash, Check or Venmo



CHUCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: SEPT 9, 2025

Committee Reports:

- Education: Sunday school will be held at both churches at 8:30am.
- Property: estimate of approximately \$2500 to have the Elm trees treated for Dutch Elm Disease; possible cost sharing with the City of Morris

Communications:

- A request to have each committee update their purpose statement was brought up. It will be tabled for now.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Sharing of worship services with Federated Church, with additional pastoral duties, will continue for the next 9 months.
- Discussion on Ministry Site Profile
- Discussion of Stewardship Drive this fall

Treasurer's Report:

Printed financial reports were given to all council members. Still haven't received the VBS billing.

Next month's council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00pm.

AUGUST'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,525.17 August giving

\$17,388.14 August Expenses

\$150,684.94 Year-to-Date Giving

\$162,155.44 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 morrisfederatedpastor@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL

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