

First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

200 East 5th Street, Morris MN 56267

320-589-3242

www.flcmorris.org

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve



August 2021

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30am

in-person worship and
broadcasted live on Facebook;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel

“The Earth is the Lord’s and All That is In It” Psalm 24: 1

We are in a drought, and it *really* is impacting the western United States, and also Minnesota. Fields and orchards, lawns and gardens, trees and shrubs, lakes and creeks are all “thirsty”! Crops are stressed. Portland, Oregon, recently had unprecedented temperatures of 115 degrees. In an article in *The Atlantic* (June 29, 2021) Robinson Meyer wrote: The Portland Streetcar is 20 years old, making it relatively sprightly for infrastructure in the United States. Yet it was built for a different geological epoch. On Sunday, while Portland suffered through what was then its hottest day ever, the system started to melt. As the temperature reached 112 degrees Fahrenheit, a power cable on a major bridge warped, twisted around some metal hardware, and scorched. Farther north, the temperature in the town of Lytton, British Columbia, yesterday reached 117 degrees Fahrenheit, or 47.5 degrees Celsius—the hottest temperature ever measured anywhere in Canada.”

In Europe, severe flooding led to at least 165 deaths in Germany; and 31 deaths in Belgium. A recent article on that flooding read: “Europe’s Deadly Floods Leave Scientists Stunned.”

I don’t like to report this, but as Christians, we can’t ignore it. This month, I am taking a one hour per week seminar entitled: “Mere Science and Christian Faith.” Today, our presenter, Pr. Greg Cootsona, a Presbyterian pastor and university religion teacher, invited a scientist, Dr. Rick Lindroth, professor of ecology (the study of living systems) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who specializes in global change ecology in forest ecosystems, to present. Rick is *also* an active Christian, serving in his local church.

Today’s topic was climate change and our response as people of faith. Here are *Key Principles of Creation Care Theology*: The purpose of creation is to bring glory and praise to God. 2. Redemption (restoration) extends not only to human beings but to the full created order. 3. Humans are charged to care for and steward the earth. 4. Love and care for people cannot be separated from love and care for the earth.

Dr. Lindroth noted that 96-98 percent of climate scientists, *based on the data*, are convinced that our human activities are fueling climate change (and climate “warming”). He noted that climate change: Is real. It’s caused by us. It’s bad. It’s going to get worse. There’s hope, if we act now.

Climate change is warming things around the world. Heat waves are directly related, and, increased number and intensity of major floods, tornados, and cyclones, are related to some degree. The ten hottest years in history have all occurred since 2000.

While we cannot stop climate change, the professor noted, and while we will be living with these changes for generations, *we can lessen its impact by changes we make*. We still need to make changes to mitigate the worse catastrophic impacts.

As people of faith, we care about what happens in the world. We are stewards of creation, as well as part of creation! What is one thing you and I can do this year to help protect the earth and its creatures? What is one thing you and I can do to lessen our impact on climate change? Here are four suggestions: CONNECT (with creation): We care for the things we love. For example: Vacations that help you learn more about creation. (I like BWCA trips, and hiking all over creation). 2. LEARN: Keep learning, by reading, UTube videos, etc. 3. TALK: Talk about this issue with friends, associates at work, your family. This does make a difference! 4. ACT: Individually, and corporately.

It is important that together, we make changes on the individual level, and on the corporate level to mitigate climate change. Psalm 24 declares: “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

God has graciously given us minds, wills and hearts, *and guidance*, that we may be good stewards of the earth. Prayer: *Lord, in your mercy, help us to steward well and live in greater harmony with your beautiful and astonishing creation. Amen.*

Footnote in history: St. Francis of Assisi. Francis was born in Italy in either 1181 or 1182, and died October 3, 1226. He is one of the most important and venerated religious figures in history. Francis is known as the Patron saint of animals and the environment.

Pastor Dan Belgum

School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief

Believe it or not, school supplies will be on sale soon! When you are purchasing for your school supplies for your kids, please consider purchasing extra for Lutheran World Relief.

Donations of school supplies can be dropped off in the box in the church Narthex. Cash donations will also be accepted, but please leave in the church office.

Listed below are the items that will be put in each School Kit. **Please do not substitute any of the items, as we can only use what is listed.**

- Four (4) 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½". No loose leaf paper.
- One (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One (1) pencil sharpener
- One (1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secured together with a rubber band
- Five (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secured together with a rubber band
- One (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One (1) 2½" eraser

LUTHER'S EATERY PIES

Pre-orders are being taken for fresh baked pies!

First Lutheran bakers will be baking fresh fruit pies to be served at Luther's Eatery Saturday, September 11. In addition to enjoying pie and hamburgers at Prairie Pioneer Day at the fairgrounds, you can also pre-order fruit pies to take home and eat or freeze. Rhubarb, Cherry, Peach, Apple, and Blueberry pies will be baked on Friday, September 10 and will be available for pick up later that day. Cost is \$15.00 per pie.

The deadline to pre-order is Wednesday, September 1st. Orders must be received by noon!

Order forms will be available in the church Narthex. This fundraiser event is being supported with Thrivent Action funds and will benefit First Lutheran WELCA Lutheran World Relief efforts and First Lutheran youth.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

_____Rhubarb

_____Cherry

_____Peach

_____Apple

_____Blueberry

Total pies _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Make checks payable to "First Lutheran WELCA"

FIRST THINGS

Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

- July 1 In memory of Mack Mattson from Allan & Elizabeth Harris
July 2 In memory of Mack Mattson from Barry & Nancy Erdahl
July 3 In memory of Brent Rosen from Barry & Nancy Erdahl
July 4 In memory of Mack Mattson from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
July 5 In honor of Bernice Erdahl from Deb & Dick Mahoney
July 6 Congratulations to Linda Holland on her retirement from Bernice Erdahl
July 7 In memory of Mack Mattson from Cheryl Higgins
July 8 In memory of Helen Busch from Cheryl Higgins
July 9 Congratulations to Linda Holland on her retirement from Marlene Seip
July 10 In honor of Bernice Erdahl's birthday from Marlene Seip
July 11 In memory of Mack Mattson from Allan & Elizabeth Harris
July 12 In honor of Bernice Erdahl's birthday from Brian & Ann Erdahl
July 13 In memory of Mack Mattson from Emilie Brustuen
July 14 In memory of Jim's sister Dorothy Sturges from Jim & Marian Thraen
July 15 In memory of our friend Rich Lanners from Jim & Marian Thraen
July 16 Happy Birthday Brain Erdahl from Bernice Erdahl
July 17 In memory of Mack Mattson from Jim & Marian Thraen
July 18 Happy Anniversary Brian & Ann Erdahl from Bernice Erdahl
July 18 In memory of Janet Staples from her family
July 19 In memory of Greg Staples from Robert Staples and family
July 24 In memory of Janet Staples from her family
July 25 In memory of Kenny Lindor from Carole Johnson
July 26 In memory of Kenny Lindor
- July 18 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory of Sylvia Yarger
Aug 22 ELCA Lutheran Worship Hour radio broadcast (KMRS) given in memory of Chuck Seip

Coffee Hour is once again being served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings. The **Hope Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hours during the month of August. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in the Hope Service Group are:

Connie Anderson	Dolores Crow	John & Diane Dossdall
Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger	Tony & Magen Feuchtenberger	Bob & Nadine Heck
Matt & Adrienne Hilbrands	Randee Hokanson	Marisa Knutson
Mary Alyce Krattenmaker	Cody & Molly Krosch	Jim & Jackie Krosch
Skip & Vicki Maanum	Jeanne Richards	Gary Wagner
LaVonne Watson		

Newsletter Deadline for the September newsletter is noon on Tuesday, August 24.

Burgers, Beverages & Blessings each Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Fireside in Morris. All are welcome and invited!!

Gatherings for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch at noon (12:00pm) on Sunday, August 8th at the Old #1 Southside. This venue allows for social distancing. Order lunch off the menu and enjoy an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones who are also experiencing life as a widow/widower. No need to RSVP. For questions call Rose at Pedersen Funeral Home 320-589-3220.

2021 KMRS Radio Broadcast dates are: October 24 and November 21. Help support the ELCA Worship Hour by sponsoring a broadcast (\$65) in memory or in honor of a loved one. Contact the church office for more information.

2021 Food Distribution Tuesday, August 10 at Morris Area High School, with registration beginning at 3:00pm. If you eat, you are eligible! We are making the food drop as safe as possible. You will remain in your vehicle at all time. There will be someone to direct parking with curbside food registration and delivery. Please respect the parking limitations and not crowd other vehicles. We will not be liable for any damages or accidents. **Donations:** If you would like to contribute funds to help make the Food Distribution possible, make checks payable to Stevens County Food Shelf Food Drop Program, 701 Iowa Ave., Morris MN 56267. **Volunteers** are also needed on August 9 beginning at 1:00pm to bag items, and on Tuesday, August 10th beginning at 2:00pm for the distribution of items.

Donate with Venmo! You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe and easy way to transfer money) Check out and download the app on your smart phone (available for Android and Apple) or check out their website at www.venmo.com.

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: 2:30-3:30pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30-11:30am, Thursdays: 5:30-6:30pm. You can reach the food shelf at 320.589.7436.

Soap Drive—Lutheran World Relief Commercially wrapped soap needed! This soap is used over-seas for schools, hospitals, clinics, households and refugee camps. This is an ongoing drive, so please continue to donate. A collection basket is located on the table in the lower Narthex area.

Baby Blanket Ministry There is a need for more baby blankets for our baptismal baby blanket ministry. Blankets can be sewn or crocheted, and are needed for both boys and girls (gender neutral blankets work great too!) Blankets can be dropped off at the church office.

The InterFaith Youth Core (IFYC) is a national nonprofit organization that helps college faculty and students develop the skills and knowledge of interfaith leadership. This year, the IFYC decided to partner with colleges to develop the Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors program and train a cohort of vaccine ambassadors. Concordia College – Moorhead was chosen as one of the colleges to participate in the in this program and a cohort of 20 students was developed, and I was selected to be one of them. In May, the IFYC held a five-hour training conference where we were instructed on details about the vaccine, how to use asset mapping, and how to listen during conversations. My task now is to promote the COVID-19 vaccine in my community and help answer questions anyone may have. Through my biology, genetics, and religion courses at Concordia, as well as my training through the IFYC, I feel I am equipped to answer questions people have and have conversations about hesitancy with the vaccine. If you have any questions or would like to simply talk about the COVID-19 vaccine, you can call me at (320) 349-0510 or email me at morgankirwin@gmail.com.

Harvest Festival Mark your calendar now for First Lutheran's "Fall Harvest Festival" on Sunday, October 3, 2021 at Carole Johnson's rural home (21474 430th Ave., Morris). Worship at 9:30 a.m. outside, there, followed by, from 10:00am to 12 noon, apple picking, apple pressing and tasting. Wine making demonstration. Free will donations accepted for cider, to benefit Fusion Youth Ministry. A tent will be set up to be prepared for any weather. Bring your own lawn chair and containers for Apple cider! Children and adults, and guests are welcome!

THIS N' THAT

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Worship services are currently being held in-person. In the event that worship services are changed to "on-line only," an announcement will be made, along with posting the information on our website. Those scheduled for Video and TV slides will need to help as scheduled, whether it is in-person or on-line only.

Sunday, August 1 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Barry & Nancy Erdahl, Vicki Dalager
Communion: Vicki Dalager
Acolyte: Jazlynn & Jaxon Hilbrands
Lector: Bob Dalager
Video: Mike Odello
TV slides: Steve Wagner

Sunday, August 8 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Steve & Michelle Just, Scott Staples
Acolyte: Isaac & Sam Just
Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger
Video: Dave Jungst
TV slides: Ward Voorhees

Sunday, August 15 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Bob Heck, Chet & Millie Tschetter
Communion: Emilie Brustuen
Acolyte: Skott Anderson & Owen Hentges
Lector: Chet Tschetter
Video: Steve Wagner
TV slides: Judy Buro

Sunday, August 22 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Doug & Sharon Ehlers
Acolyte: Isabel & Lydia Fynboh
Lector: Elizabeth Harris
Video: Tony Feuchenberger
TV slides: Steve Just

Sunday, August 29 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Dick Smith, Linda Holland & Karen Bolling
Acolyte: Sarah & Shannon Dougherty
Lector: Mike Odello
Video: Kyle Dougherty
TV slides: Ward Voorhees

HAPPY *Birthday*

- Aug 2 Sarah Buchanan
Aug 4 Dane Dybdahl, Richard Ross
Aug 5 Wade Ehlers
Aug 6 Mark Anderson
Aug 7 Brenna Jergenson
Aug 11 Dennis Ketterling, Hannah Schneider
Aug 12 Brienna Dybdahl, Emmitt House, Madilyn Schneider
Aug 13 Bentlee Burnett, Brandon Jergenson, Kasey Morris, Suzanne Smith
Aug 15 Bob Heck, Abram Suess
Aug 18 Judy Buro
Aug 19 Michael Dalager, Mary Alyce Krattenmaker, Claire Reed
Aug 20 Summer Anderson, Delbert Crow
Aug 23 Brenna Monroe
Aug 24 Jill Dybdahl
Aug 26 Russell Anderson
Aug 28 Carol Voorhees
Aug 30 Cathy Anderson, Cody Krosch
Aug 31 DiAnn Mithun

Happy Anniversary

- Aug 7 Gwen & Steve Rudney
Aug 12 Chris & Bobbi Siegel
Aug 13 Magen & Tony Feuchtenberger
Aug 16 Heather & Tom Schneider
Aug 18 Ron & Deanna Rosen
Aug 22 Rob & Peggy Jergenson
Aug 29 Peggy & Randy Lussenden



Lunch Bunch

meets the first Wednesday of each month. Please join us on Wed., August 4th at Buddies Bar & Grill in Hancock at 11:30am. All are welcome! Call a friend and ride together!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	2 7:34am-4:00pm 4-H Event (Fellowship Hall & Lower Level)	3 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	4 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Buddies Bar & Grill in Hancock 6:30pm BBB	5 3:00pm Pastor at West Wind Village Worship	6	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Luth.
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour in honor of Skip & Vicki Maanum 12:00am Gatherings for Widows & Widowers at Old #1	9	10 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 3:00pm Food Distribution at Morris Area High School	11 6:30pm BBB	12 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 10:00am Pastor at Skyview Court Worship 10:45am Pastor at Skyview Plaza Worship	13	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Luth
15 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	16	17 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	18 6:30pm BBB	19 7:00pm Fusion Board Meeting	20	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Luth
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	23	24 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due	25 6:30pm BBB	26 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	27	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Luth
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	30	31 Sept 1: Deadline to pre-order pies!				

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Report on the 2021 Southwest Minnesota Synod Assembly, ELCA , June 6, 11, 12

The assembly convened virtually this year on Zoom videoconferencing platform. The virtual mode of presentation via Zoom and Election Runner caused many of us old dogs to learn new tricks. However, in the end, the process went smoothly and the organizing committee is due great accolades for the great job they did in conducting the worship, business meetings and election of a new bishop at the assembly while adapting to the virtual process. The assembly was streamed from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. Each delegate was required to have access to his/her own email address to legally vote. The week before the assembly, virtual forums offered on different days allowed delegates to learn about the synod's finances and to practice session the voting process.

The largest order of business was the election of the new bishop. The process began months ago with The pre-identification of those pastors who would consider acceptance of the position. Seven pre-identified persons were found. Interviews were done by the committee and were available via internet to voting delegates to preview ahead of time so as to become familiar with each pre-identified persons (PIPs) strengths, ideals, and views for the future for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and specifically, our synod (Southwestern Minnesota Synod).

In Assembly, the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director of Global Mission, led the process. Nominations were made for each of the pre-identified persons, and also led to many more candidates being named "from the floor" on top of the seven PIPs. A prayer was offered before each ballot. Five ballots (or, votes) were needed, each ballot moving forward with fewer candidates, those receiving most votes, before the new bishop was elected. On the fifth ballot, on Saturday morning, June 12th, The Rev. Dee Pederson was elected to a six-year term. Pastor Pederson has currently been serving as Director of Evangelical Mission with the SWMN Synod, ELCA. She will begin her term as bishop on September 1, 2021.

Other items of business were to approve the budget for the years 2022-2023 and to approve the Compensation and Benefits Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, and Non-Rostered Lay Church Staff. Reports were heard from our Bible camps (Green Lake Lutheran, and Luther Crest), from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota, Lutheran Social Services, Portico Benefits, and other organizations, as well as a word from our churchwide office, from Rev. Padilla. Bishop Anderson was recognized for 18 years of faithful service and outstanding leadership as our Bishop from 2003 to 2021. He was also "roasted" by the synod staff.

A few take away thoughts from the speakers with reference to the well-being of the church:

- We should embrace the future!
- We need to consciously look to the future of the church.
- We need to move forward with the newly learned things and keep only the best of what we had before.

Next year's Southwest Minnesota Synod Assembly will be June 10 and 11, 2022 at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as delegates from First Lutheran at Synod Assembly.

Eugene and Cathy Anderson, and Pastor Dan Belgium

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Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am
broadcasted via Facebook Live;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 2:00pm
Federated: Channel 6
MediaCom: Channel 117

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director heather.kill14@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist
Pastor Alex LaChapelle, Missionary

CHURCH COUNCIL

Eugene Anderson President
Tony Feuchtenberger Vice-President
Allyn Plattner Treasurer
Jason Reed Secretary
Peggy Jergenson
John Dosedall
Jackie Huebner