

A Pastor's Ramblings...

Easter is 50-day reflection on and celebration of hope in God's promised future, which intersects with the present. Hope is often a tenacious and elemental thing. Our loving and gracious God gives us hope each new day. Easter is good news for all of humanity. It is God's gift of new life and hope. Jesus's resurrection from death breaks the cords of death and opens up the gates into eternity. It is the victory of our God; who keeps coming into the world to bring life. Hope comes stealing into our hearts and lives, as God's Word keeps doing its work. In Hebrews, we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." That leads me to birding. Okay, maybe a surprising segue. But, hear me out, there are many parallels, I believe, between birding and living the Christian life.

Paying Attention: One of the things I've learned as a "birder" (someone who enjoys, looks for and studies birds) is that you have to be present in the moment and pay close attention to your surroundings, and to the songs and other features of birds. This will help you identify a bird. Honesty means you want to be sure of your ID, and it takes study. So, in our lives of faith, it is important to pay attention to others when they are talking. To give them our full attention. This takes some effort. Non-judgmental listening, with a sympathetic ear, is a gift to another. To spouse, or co-worker, or friend. True listening, paying attention to the other, is an act of respect and kindness. It says: You matter to me.

Being open to the adventure: Birding is an adventure, and I love to go afield to hike, look and observe. Binoculars help. A spirit of adventure makes this all the more interesting and even exciting. So, the life of faith is also an adventure. We are invited to follow God's cues, be open to the adventure of trusting God, allowing him to guide us. We venture into each new day, hopefully trusting God who is with us, above us, and hidden in our neighbor.

Delighting in new sightings: Seeing a new bird is always a thrill for a birder. On a morning walk today, I spotted a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a bird I've only seen twice before. Each time I've seen one, it has raised the small red crest on it's head, which it does when excited, or agitated. I spent a full two minutes watching this acrobatic, tiny bird, as it flitted from limb to limb of a spruce tree, near the sidewalk. It was a joy to see it and was a "new sighting" for this year. Have you ever read something in the Bible, or heard a sermon, or prayed a prayer, or been with family, or in a study and had an 'aha' moment. Eureka! A new insight or discovery. We learn, we grow, we find delight in new insights, in renewed faith, in new friendships.

Going for a walk is a tried and true way for seeing birds, and it's also a good way to allow God's creation to brighten our day. I often find that taking a walk is like a breath of fresh air. It opens up my mind and heart – much like those two men walking on the Road to Emmaus, to whom the risen Christ appeared. He opened the Scriptures to them, and when the broke bread together, they recognized him. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' We can be surprised by what we see, think, feel, or whom (or what) we meet, on a walk.

Joy in old friends returned: Seeing the Wood Ducks, Swans and Robins return in the spring is like seeing old friends again. So, we have "old friends" whom we cherish. We may not see them often, but we know they will always be our friends. Christ is the friend who is more than just a friend, he is also Lord and Savior.

Hope in the future: Just as a birder has hopes for birds they'll see as spring and summer unfolds, so, those of us in the Jesus Movement are captives of hope. We can look forward to life because God's good news is come. The resurrection of Jesus breaks into our lives – our despair, our brokenness, our sense that things are not right in the world, and turns our mourning into dancing, our hopelessness into hopefulness, our gray to blue sky and sunlight.

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Dan

□ **Coffee Hour** is 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 May. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in the Hope Service Group are:

* Connie Anderson Tony & Magen Feuchtenberger Randee Hokanson Jim & Jackie Krosch John & Diane Dosdall Bob & Nadine Heck Marisa Knutson * Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger Matt & Adrianne Hilbrands Cody & Molly Krosch

- Lunch Bunch meets on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30am at Mi Mexico in Morris. Join us...all are welcome!
- **Newsletter Deadline** for the June newsletter is noon on Thursday, May 19.
- □ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, May 19th at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Need to drop something off for the Zipporah group? They now have a church mailbox (located in the church office waiting area).
- Gatherings for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch at noon (12:00pm) on Sunday, May 1st at Common Cup 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. Listen to KKOK/KMRS for any changes.
- □ 2022 KMRS Radio Broadcast available dates are: October 2, November 27 and December 24. 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.
- 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.venco.com.
- □ **Reminder!** If you or someone you know is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or home-bound and would like a pastoral visit or Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Dan at 320.894.3577 or the church office at 320.589.3242. Hospital and nursing home staff can not contact the Pastor or church office unless you specifically request them to.
- □ RUSC Kinship Mentoring is seeking adult volunteer mentors to spend at least four hours a month with a young person. All mentors are required to complete a screening process which includes an application form, personal interview, brackground check, and training session. Mentor applications can be found at www.rusckinship.org or by contacting their office in person at 215 Atlantic Ave in Morris, by phone at 320-585-7872 or by email at rusckinship@gmail.com.
- **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 our Facebook page.



Choir Director We would like to reignite the Choir at First Lutheran. If you feel called to serve as Choir Director of First Lutheran, please contact the church office or Pastor Dan.

Senior Care Coordinator If you like working with seniors and are open to visiting people in their homes and care centers, please contact Pastor Dan. This is a paid position for one who has the gifts and interest.

- □ West Central Communities Action now provides Ready Ride which is a grant-funded program offering transportation services to those aged 65 and older. Drivers are volunteers. This program is also available to adults ages 18-64 who are on Medical Assistance. For more information about Ready Ride, please contact John Pryzbylski by email at john@wcmaca.org or by phone at 218-685-4486 ext. 7038 or Brenda Larson at brendal@wcmca.org or by phone on 320-304-3458 ext. 7209.
- 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.
- □ Luther Crest Bible Camp's Online Auction will be held Tuesday through Thursday, August 23-26, 2022. In addition to quilts, they will have craft and woodworking categories and an Art category to include paintings and pottery.

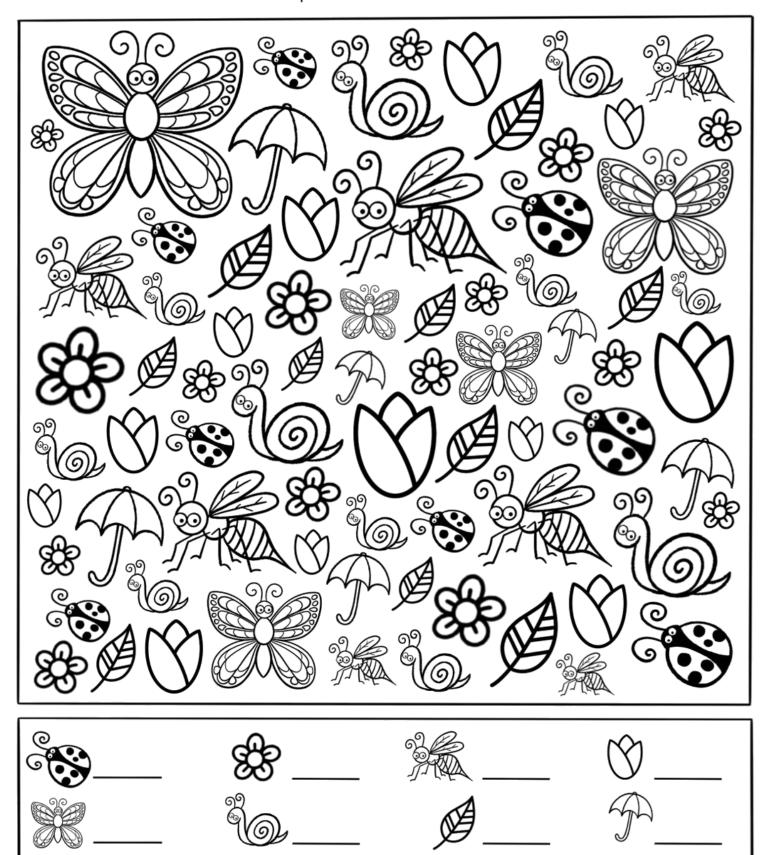
Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

- April 1 Welcome Kruse Sulo Kangas from Jo Solvie
- April 2 In memory of Bruce Anderson on his birthday from dad, Allan Anderson
- April 3 In memory of Sid Lipscomb from Jo Solvie
- April 4 In honor of Alois Rau's 90th birthday from Emilie Brustuen
- April 5 In memory of Warren Huebner from Joan Smith
- April 6 In memory of Howard K. and Helen Olson on the anniversary of their wedding day
- April 7 In memory of Joyce Schoo from Jim & Marian Thraen
- April 14 In memory of Bucky Maase from Jo Solvie
- April 15 In memory of Bonnie Ludwig from Jo Solvie
- April 17 In loving memory of Lenora Anderson on her granddaughter Shannon's birthday
- April 18 In memory of Marvel Anderson on her daughter Kathy's birthday from dad
- April 22 In memory of Marvel Anderson on her daughter Robin's birthday from dad
- April 23 In memory of Irene Henjum from Arlene Fellows
- April 24 In memory of Irene Henjum from Deb & Dick Mahoney
- April 25 In memory of Irene Henjum from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- April 26 In memory of Marian's brother, Jim LaMaack, from Jim & Marian Thraen
- April 27 In memory of Irene Henjum from Al & Liz Harris

Our missionaries are Rev. Dr. Philip J. Knutson and Lou Knutson. The Knutsons have served for many years in Southern Africa, and are based in South Africa. Philip was born and grew up in South Africa, the son of missionary parents, and Lou is a native of South Africa. You can sponsor the Knutsons for \$15 per day. Contact Rita in the church office if you need more information. You may give this in memory, or in honor, of someone. Thank you for your support of our missionaries!

Spring Ispy ୨

Find and count each of the pictures below. Then fill in the numbers at the bottom.





Senior Recognition Sunday

Please join us for a special service honoring our graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 15th during the 9:30am worship service. A coffee hour in their honor will follow at 10:30am. Those in our congregation graduation from high school this year are:

> Durgin Decker Shannon Dougherty Brienna Dybdahl Corrie Erdahl Isabel Fynboh Jazlynn Hilbrands Brandon Jergenson

Reid Ketterling Brady Krusemark Ethan Lebrija Olivia Lebrija Grace Mortenson Madelyn Siegel



Family Camperships!

First Lutheran's Generous Gift fund is offering two families a full campership at Luther Crest or Green Lake Bible Camp for family camp in 2022. All camp fees would be paid in full by these funds for either a 5-day camp, or a weekend camp. These two camperships are first-come, first-served. Contact Pastor Dan or Rita at the church office for more information!

Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade

- Sunday, May 1: Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8:00pm at FIRST
- Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day! No Sr. High Fusion. Go celebrate your mom or someone who is a mother figure in your life!
- Wed., May 11: Mission Trip Training Meeting
- Sunday, May 15: Sr. High Fusion. We will be doing the Escape Room in Alexandria.

Contact Heather for more information.



Youth in 6th-8th Grade

• Wed., May 4th: Last Element of the school year.

Details will be communicated via email and the remind app.

Wed., May 11: Mission Trip Training Meeting

Sometimes plans change, so please check out Fusion's updated website for more information. <u>www.fusion-ministry.com</u> Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267



Dear Church Family!

We are going on a mission trip!! I want to share with you about an exciting opportunity that Fusion is doing this summer. 17 youth and adults are going on a mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Rutherford County, NC July 17th-23rd with an organization called YouthWorks! Here are the youth and adults who are signed up to go! Youth: Piper Swanson, Sarah Dougherty, Micah Ulrich, Jason Christians, Isaac Just, David Black Jr., Truett Richards, Evan Oberg, Lilia Asmus, Hannah Schneider, Bryn Lonergan, Wesley Richards & Jayden Marquart. Adults: Heather & David Black, Pastor Chris Richards & Amy Dougherty.

On this trip our group will experience the great beauty of both people and nature in the scenic small towns that surround the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. By participating in children's ministry, completing work projects and supporting local ministries, we'll make connections with the people of the area while addressing some significant needs. We may serve at a food pantry, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, or by assisting with youth programming at a local YMCA. We may also serve through community beautification projects, gardening, painting, yard work or assisting with simple work projects and minor home repair projects. YouthWorks has served the Blue Ridge community since 2006 but recently moved the site to Spindale in Rutherford County, NC. in summer 2021.

Would you be willing to partner with us by praying? Prayer is so essential to the success of this trip. I would love it if you would partner with us by being in prayer for this mission trip experience! Specifically, in these areas:

- Pray for the 17 of us who are going that we would be open to learning from the community we're visiting and that we grow closer as a team and closer to Jesus.
- Pray for the YouthWorks staff who are living in the Blue Ridge Mountains all summer and will be leading us during the trip.
- Pray for the community members who we meet that we could love and honor them well.

Would you also consider partnering with us financially? The cost of this trip is \$800 per person. Like a "real" missionary, we have challenged the youth to raise their own support to help fund this trip. Would you consider investing them and in the lives of the people of Rutherford County, NC? Something to note, each youth have already given \$200 of their own money, have written support letters to family and friends and will be participating in other various fundraisers.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter! I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us through prayer and/ or with a financial gift. Whatever you decide to do, whether to pray or give generously, please let us know by filling out the attached response slip. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! Heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com

THANK YOU! – Heather Black

Cut & Return-----Cut & Return------Cut & Return-------Cut & Response Slip Please fill this out and send to:

Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Attn: Fusion Ministry, Heather Black, Cyrus, MN 56323

Your Name			
I will pray for the group	before, dur	ing and after the Blue Ridge, NC	mission trip.
Please add my cell numberspecifically pray for this trip!			to the prayer update so that I can
I have enclosed \$50	\$100	or another amount \$	to invest in the life of the youth!
Pleas	e make che	cks payable to Fusion Ministry. 🗸	All gifts are non-refundable.

May Worship Servants

Sunday, May 1: 9:30am Worship HC 10am Sunday school

Ushers: Al Harris, Paul Grove, Linda Holland Nursery: Jone Anderson Communion: Sandy Grove (silver tray) Video: Kyle Dougherty

Lector: Amy Dougherty *Acolyte:* Connor Siegel & Sawyer Fynboh

Comm Servers: Liz Harris, Jim & Jackie Krosch *TV slides:* Brayden Carlson

Sunday, May 8: 9:30am Worship HC Mother's Day

Ushers: Steve Just family, Michael Bjorklund Nursery: Lindy Ekola Communion: Sharon Ehlers (silver tray) Video: Dave Jungst *Lector:* Dorwin Tschetter *Acolyte:* Skott & Abigail Anderson *Comm Servers:* Doug Ehlers, Millie Tschetter, Ward Voorhees *TV slides:* Dane Dybdahl

Sunday, May 15: 9:30am Worship 10am Sunday school (Graduate Sunday)

Ushers: Dick Smith, Tim Grove, Jon Ulrich *Nursery:* Kristin Grove *Video:* Steve Wagner *Lector:* Allyn Plattner *Acolyte:* Tyson Grove & Micah Ulrich *TV slides:* Ian Grove

Sunday, May 22: 9:30am Worship HC (Blue Hymnal)

Ushers: Bob Heck, Tom & Heather Schneider family Nursery: Bobbi Siegel Communion: Judy Buro (silver tray) Video: Tony Feuchtenberger

Lector: Ray Bowman *Acolyte:* Brenna Jergenson & Giana Feuchtenberger *Comm Servers:* Ray & Robi Bowman, Emilie Brustuen *TV slides:* Chance Buro

Sunday, May 29: 9:30am Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger *Nursery:* Pam Wiese *Video:* Mike Odello

Birthday

- May 5: Zachary Huebner May 6: Abigail Anderson, Diane Dosdall, Estelle Feuchtenberger, Craig Knochenmus
- May 7: Joshua Johnson, Vicki Maanum, Jacob Staples
- May 8: Ty Flower
- May 9: Andrew Ulrich, Wesley Odello
- May 10: Richard Hawkinson
- May 11: Gunner Stallman
- May 12: Grady Stallman
- May 13: Justin Anderson, Kevin Williamson
- May 15: Kenneth Grunig
- May 16: Madelyn Grove
- May 17: Brady Krusemark, Gerald Thorstad
- May 18: Isaac Just

Lector: Denise Odello *Acolyte:* Grant Anderson & Jennie Odello *TV slides:* Aaden Schultz

- May 20: Eric Smith, Charles Yerigan
- May 21: Greta Hentges
- May 22: Elizabeth Harris, Jacqui Hills
- May 23: Carol Day, Lori Lundquist, Tammy Roth
- May 24: Ryan Erp, Mary Huebner
- May 26: Andi VanKempen
- May 27: Charli Erdahl
- May 29: Corey Ask
- May 31: Ken Keller

- May 9: Mark & Deb Mattheis
- May 18: Judy & Dick Bluth
- May 19: Matt & Natasha Mortenson
- May 20: Barry & Nancy Erdahl
- May 26: Wayde & Laura Peterson
- May 27: Ken & Noreen Grunig
- May 31: Myron & Marilyn Syverson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
May 2022 All worship services are in-person, in addition to being streamed live via Facebook and YouTube. Recorded services available on our website at <u>www.flcmorris.org</u> **Holy Communion served on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.									
1 9:30am Worship HC 10-11am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour 12pm Gatherings for Widows & Widowers at Common Cup 3-4pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm Sr. Fusion at FIRST	2 6:00pm Girl Scouts	3 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	4 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Mi Mexico 6pm Element Classes at FIRST (last class) 6pm BBB	5 3pm Pastor at West Wind Village Worship 6pm Property Committee Mtg	6 3pm Mission & Evang. Meeting	7 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran			
8 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am Worship HC No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour	9	 10 11am Pastor's Text Study 6:30pm Worship & Music Meeting 	11 6pm BBB 6:30-8:00pm Fusion Mission Trip Meeting	12 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 10am Pastor at Skyview Plaza Worship	13	14 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran Church Council Retreat at Luther Crest with Council Mtg			
 15 9:30am Worship Senior Recognition 10am Sunday school (last class until fall) 10:30am Coffee Hour 3-4pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion (Escape Room—Alex) 	16 6pm Girl Scouts	17 11am Pastor's Text Study 6:30pm Sons of Norway	18 6pm BBB	19 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	20	21 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran Women of Today Babysitting Clinic at First			
22 9:30am Worship HC (Blue Hymnal) 10:30am Coffee Hour	23	24 11am Pastor's Text Study	25 6pm BBB	26 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	27	18 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran			
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	30 MEMORIAL DAY Church office closed for Holiday	31							

Rita will be in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00am to 12:00pm, but is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm by email, phone, or text message (320.287.2384)

First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting - Tuesday, April 17, 2022

The April meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met on Tuesday, April 17, 2022, and was called to order by President Tony Feuchtenberger at 7:02pm. Present: Tony Feuchtenberger, Jackie Huebner, Jason Reed, Cari Burnett, LeAnn Dean and Denise Odello. Absent: Bob Heck. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye. A devotion and opening prayer was given by Tony.

- <u>Secretary's Report</u>: The minutes from the March council meeting were reviewed by each council member. A correction on the trip to Africa, the date should be listed as 2023 not 2024. Minutes approved as printed with the one correction.
- <u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Financial reports were reviewed by each member. Tony spoken on some of the reports. Employee Retention credits have been received.

Pastor's Report: A written report was given to each council member. Pastor spoke on a few highlights including: Holy Week services; Senior Ministry and Choir Direction positions; Element classes resuming, with last class on May 4; installation of church council on Sunday, May 1; BBB starting again in May; Gradate Sunday on Sunday, May 15; Council Retreat at Luther Crest; Community Garden meeting on Sunday, May 1.

Committee Reports:

- Mission & Evangelism Committee: Pastor spoken on some of the highlights from their last meeting: ELCA Aid to Ukraine, Campus connection ad, Community Garden meeting on May 1st
- Worship & Music Committee: met this month and have chosen hymns for the upcoming services
- Youth/Education Committee: has not met recently but will try to have a meeting within the next month
- Property Committee: waiting for quotes to repair and paint sanctuary ceiling and repairs to the front entryway doors, lightbulbs in the sanctuary have been replaced and others cleaned.

Old Business

- Pew cushions could possibly arrive in 2-3 weeks. Discussion held on what to do with the old cushions. Pastor Dan will contact the Synod office to see if there is a congregation in need of them.
- Treasurer position: Denise Odello has accepted the Council Treasurer position.

New Business

- Installation of the Church Council will be held at the Sunday, May 1st worship service.
- Council Retreat: a 1-day retreat at Luther Crest on either May 7 or May 14; pastor will confirm date.
- Bank Signature Card: a new signature card will need to be signed at Riverwood.
- Benevolence: discussion was held on the approved increase in benevolence sent each month. The increased amount of \$2700.00 started in April, with the previous 3 months at the lower amount of \$2000.00. A motion was approved to send \$2100.00 as a catch-up for those 3 months
- Streaming Equipment Donation: a \$500 donation was received specifically for the equipment that allows the church to stream worship services. Discussion held, but no decisions made at this time.
- Community Garden: a meeting is set for Sunday, May 1st to discuss having a Community Garden again.
- Bread n' Bowls: a request was made by the UMM for the church to provide fruit at the upcoming Bread n' Bowls Event. A motion was approved to purchase \$75 worth of fruit for the event.
- Devotions at May's Council Meeting will be given by Cari.
- Next Council meeting to be on Friday, May 14 during the Council Retreat, or a back-up date of Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Bye, Recording Secretary

Approved/edited by Jason Reed, Council Secretary

First Lutheran Church 200 East 5th St

Morris, MN 56267 Address Service Requested

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

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

Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director Rita Bye, Office Manager Wyatt Vavra, Custodian Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist Pastor Philip & Lou Knutson, Missionary

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danbelgumblad@gmail.com heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com office@flcmorris.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tony Feuchtenberger President Denise Odello Treasurer Jason Reed Secretary LeAnn Dean **Bob Heck** Jackie Huebner

Cari Burnett Vice-President