

OCTOBER 2026

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ. Empowered to Serve.

Hello, First Family,

There is something about October that invites us to slow down and notice the changing world around us. The mornings become cooler, the days get shorter and the leaves begin to turn. Summer has given way to fall, and with it comes a different rhythm of life.

Fall is a season of gathering in. The work of planting and growing has been taking place for months, much of it quietly and out of sight. Now comes the time to bring in what has grown.

There is something beautiful about that rhythm. Scripture often uses the language of planting and harvest to speak about our lives of faith. We may not always see the results of what we do. A kind word, a helping hand or simply taking the time to be present for someone may seem like a small thing. Yet, like a seed planted in the ground, we never know what God might do with it.

As we move through this season of harvest, perhaps it is also a good time to consider what has been growing in our own lives and in the life of our congregation. What seeds of kindness, generosity and hope have been planted? Where have we seen signs of God's presence and grace? And what might God be inviting us to plant for the season ahead?

October reminds us that every season has its own gifts. There is beauty in the changing leaves, joy in gathering with family and friends, satisfaction in a harvest brought in from the fields and gratitude for all that has been given to us.

May this season give us time to notice those gifts and to give thanks. And as we enjoy the beauty and activities of fall, may we also remember that God is at work in every season of our lives—planting, growing, gathering and making all things new.

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.



Don't miss First Lutheran's on-line Silent Auction!

Bidding opens Saturday, October 31 and runs through Monday, November 9

Auction items can be viewed on-line and at the church starting on October 31.

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 11!



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 25.

*Lefse will be available for pickup Saturday, October 31 from 1:00-3:00pm
and on Sunday, November 1st from 10am to 11am. Late pickups will be frozen.*

Checks can be made payable to: First Lutheran Church

Number of packages _____

Name _____ Phone #: _____

Lefse making day is the morning of Saturday, October 31. Watch for the sign-up sheets to help out!



First Lutheran Church
200 East 5th Street, Morris MN

Fall Dinner and Silent Auction

Wed., November 4, 2026
serving from 4:30-7:00pm
(or until food runs out)

On the Menu: \$15 per meal

- Ham
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Glazed Carrots
- Rye Bread
- Pumpkin Roll

Payment Options

Check | Cash | Venmo

Dine In - Take Out - Delivery

Two separate lines: one for dine-in and another for take-out.
No pre-sale tickets for dining in. Home delivery to Morris residents only.
For home delivery, please contact the church office by 3:00pm on
November 4th at 320-589-3242. Silent Auction bidding instructions will
be posted on our website at www.flcmorris.org

Homemade Lefse for Sale: 4 rounds for \$15

Pre-packaged homemade lefse for sale the night of the dinner.

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.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEAN UP This annual service project on Highway 9 will be conducted on Sunday, October 4 at 11:30am. We will meet at the Stevens County Highway Department garage located at 21157 480th Ave, Morris (just north of McDonald's). Subject to weather conditions.

JO SOLVIE 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Sunday, October 11 at 10:30am in the church fellowship hall (following the worship service). Join us for cake and coffee as we wish Jo a very happy 90th birthday!

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, October 7 at 11:30am at Common Cup in Morris. Order off the menu; pay your own way. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

FEDERATED'S ANNUAL FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE Saturday, October 24 from 9am-2pm. Everyone is welcome to bring donations starting on October 18 to Federated Church

PROVIDE AN 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!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the November newsletter is noon on Thursday, October 22.

ZIPPORAH BIBLE STUDY meets on Thursday, October 22 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.

PASTORAL VISITS 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 cannot share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS watch for more information coming soon about ways to form groups for upcoming Church without Walls efforts and projects. Some will be connected with fall & winter Seniors on the Move, while others will be scheduled at times to encourage families of all ages to help.

SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to join us!

Saturday, October 10: Elder Visit Program

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 Legacy where we will meet up with the students around 2:00pm. Please be aware of notices around the churches and in bulletins as time draws closer.

Thursday, October 29: Sharing, Love & Hope in Alexandria.

Leaving First Lutheran parking lot at 12:30pm and of course, coffee afterward.

Saturday, November 7: Annie at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 – LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

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!

Dear Friends and Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am very sorry that I will not be able to come to the United States again this season because of the difficult situation in our region and the continued uncertainty surrounding travel. The American Embassy has issued warnings regarding travel to the Middle East, and unfortunately, our visas to travel to the United States have also been placed on hold.

I must honestly say that I feel deeply saddened and disappointed by the policies and decisions that are affecting so many innocent people. We understand that governments must make decisions for security reasons, but behind every decision are real people, real families, and real lives. We pray that the leaders of all nations will look beyond politics and remember the human beings who are suffering because of these circumstances. Here in Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land, the situation is extremely difficult. Tourism, which is the lifeline for so many families, has almost completely disappeared. Christian families, in particular, are facing an increasingly uncertain future.

The number of Christians living in the West Bank has already declined dramatically—from approximately 45,000 in the past to fewer than 34,000 today. If this situation continues, more Christian families will feel forced to leave their homeland in search of safety and a better future. This is heartbreaking for us.

Bethlehem is the place where our Lord Jesus Christ was born. Jerusalem is where He gave His life for all of us. We do not want to see the places where our Lord walked, lived, prayed, and was born become places where Christians can no longer remain. We want Christianity to continue to have a living presence in the Holy Land. We want our children and grandchildren to be able to remain in the land of their ancestors, worship God freely, pray in the churches, and continue sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the world. That is why I continue to encourage our dear brothers and sisters to **come and visit the Holy Land**. Your visit is not simply a vacation or a pilgrimage—it is also a way of standing with the Christian families who remain here.

We are preparing special seven-day and nine-day pilgrimages, including the opportunity to visit Jordan and the Jordan River, and then continue to the Holy Land before returning through Jordan. There are also special celebrations and events coming in the region, making this an especially meaningful time to visit. If you are interested in learning more about these trips, please contact me. I would be very happy to share the details and help arrange a meaningful pilgrimage for you, your church, or your group.

I also want to remind you about the **Olivewood Project**. Our brothers and sisters who carve the olivewood pieces in Bethlehem are struggling greatly because there are so few tourists and so little opportunity to sell their work.

We still have many beautiful olivewood pieces available in the United States. If your church would like to support the carvers, I can ask our friends to ship a box of olivewood items to your church for a Christmas event or sale. You can display and sell the pieces, and the money raised will go directly toward supporting the families and carvers who depend on this work.

We have pieces available in **Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and West Virginia**, and we would be happy to help arrange a box for your church. This is more than selling a piece of olivewood. **Every cross, every Nativity, every carving represents a family in Bethlehem. When you purchase one, you are helping a Christian family remain in the Holy Land. You are helping keep the Christian presence alive in the birthplace of our Lord.**

Please keep Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Holy Land, and all the Christian families in your prayers. And please pray for peace—not only peace between governments and nations, but peace in the hearts of people, peace for families, and peace for all who live in this land. Even though I cannot be with you in the United States this season, my heart is with all of you. We remain united in Christ, in prayer, and in hope. May God bless you, your families, and your churches. May He protect the Christians of the Holy Land and give us strength to continue our mission.

With love, prayers, and blessings from Bethlehem,
Michael & Carmen Zoughbi

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday school students pack Lutheran World Relief Kits

On September 13, our Sunday School students packed 64 Personal Care Kits and 50 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. Dental Depot and Morris Dental donated toothbrushes and The Homestead gave us a discount on towels and combs for the personal care kits.

If you want to learn more about Lutheran World Relief, 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 our Sunday School families for their help with these projects.

Element/Fusion Schedule:

Wed., October 7 at 6:30pm: Element at FIRST: Moses and the Wilderness School
Fusion at FAITH: Briars in the Cotton Patch, part 2
Wed., October 14 at 6:30pm: Movie Night at FIRST for Element and Fusion
Wed., October 21 at 6:30pm: Element at FIRST: Joshua & Risky Business
Fusion at FAITH: Re-Creation Night
Wed., October 28 at 6:30pm: Element at FIRST: Jeremiah & Voice of the Prophets
Fusion at FAITH: Table Fellowship Dinner



Join us on Halloween to help hand out treats. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Donations of treats to hand out will be accepted throughout October.

If you want, you are welcome to dress up in your favorite costume and bring your own decorations.

Contact Sara Bullock or Katia Brundage for more info.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for fellowship, delicious pancakes, and stay for the worship service at 9:30 a.m



**Sunday,
October 18**



**Serving begins
at 8:00 A.M.**



FEDERATED CHURCH

Morris, MN (across from MAS)

Join the people of First Lutheran and Federated Church for great food, friendly conversation, and a welcoming morning of community and fellowship. All Are Welcome!

No Cost to attend. Free-will offering will be accepted for those who wish to give.

Brown Bag

BIBLE STUDY

Come Grow in
God's Word!

Wednesdays | 12:00 PM

**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND YOUR
CURIOSITY 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)

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
 8:30am Sunday school
 9:30am Worship HC
 Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:
 Al Harris
 Judy Buro
 Amy Dougherty

LECTOR:
 LeAnn Dean

ACOLYTES:
 Cooper & Owen Nesvig

COMMUNION PREP:
 Liz Harris

COMMUNION SERVER:
 Vicki Dalager

VIDEO:
 Dave Jungst

TV SLIDES:
 Lilly Nesvig

NURSERY:
 Pam Wiese

ACCOMPANIST:
 Deb Mahoney

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
 8:30am Sunday school
 9:30am Worship HC
 Coffee/fellowship following

USHERS:
 Dick Smith
 Brian Erdahl
 Greg & Naomi Fynboh

LECTOR:
 Ward Voorhees

ACOLYTES:
 Jamis & Jacoby Burnett

COMMUNION PREP:
 Laurie Feuchtenberger

COMMUNION SERVER:
 Ward Voorhees

VIDEO:
 Mike Odello

TV SLIDES:
 Wes Odello

NURSERY:
 Bobbi Siegel

ACCOMPANIST:
 Suzanne Smith

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am Worship
 with coffee/fellowship following

† **Sunday, October 4: FEDERATED**

Sunday school during service

† **Sunday, October 11: FIRST**

8:30am Sunday school

† **Sunday, October 18: FEDERATED**

Sunday school during service

† **Sunday, October 25: FIRST**

8:30am Sunday school

Happy Birthday

Oct 1: Tony Feuchtenberger
 Oct 2: Lindy Ekola
 Oct 3: Jackie Thymian
 Oct 4: Bobbi Siegel
 Oct 5: Leroy Fahje
 Oct 6: Peter Sarlette
 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 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

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
 Oct 31: Mick & Deb Rose



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 2026				1	2	3 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
4 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following; Sunday school during worship	5	6 11am Pastors' Text Study 6pm Mission & Evang. Mtg	7 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Common Cup 1pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:30pm Element at FIRST Fusion at FAITH 7pm Choir Practice at FEDERATED	8 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting)	9 <i>Deadline to sign up for Chanhassen Theatre Trip</i>	10 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study 2pm Elder Visit Program with UMM students & Seniors on the Move
11 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST (choir sings) fellowship following <i>90th Birthday Celebration for Jo Solvie during coffee hour</i>	12	13 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	14 12pm Brown Bag Bible Study at FIRST 6:30pm Element Movie Night at FIRST 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	15 2pm Zipporah Bible Study	16	17 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study
18 8:00am Pancake Breakfast at FEDERATED 9:30am Worship at FEDERATED with fellowship following – Sunday school during worship (choir sings)	19	20 11am Pastors' Text Study	21 6:30pm Element at FIRST Fusion at FAITH 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	22 9am-12pm Share & Care (quilting) 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	23	24 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study 9am-2pm FEDERATED'S Annual Fall Rummage & Bake Sale
25 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship at FIRST (choir sings) fellowship following <i>Lefse orders due</i>	26	27 11am Pastors' Text Study	28 12pm Brown Bag Bible Study at FEDERATED 6:30pm Element at FIRST Fusion at FAITH 7pm Choir practice at FEDERATED	29 12:30pm Seniors on the Move to Sharing, Love & Hope in Alexandria	30	31 8am (at FAITH) Men's Bible Study 4pm-6pm Trick or Treat at FEDERATED Lefse baking for fall dinner

*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.*

THANKOFFERING COLLECTION

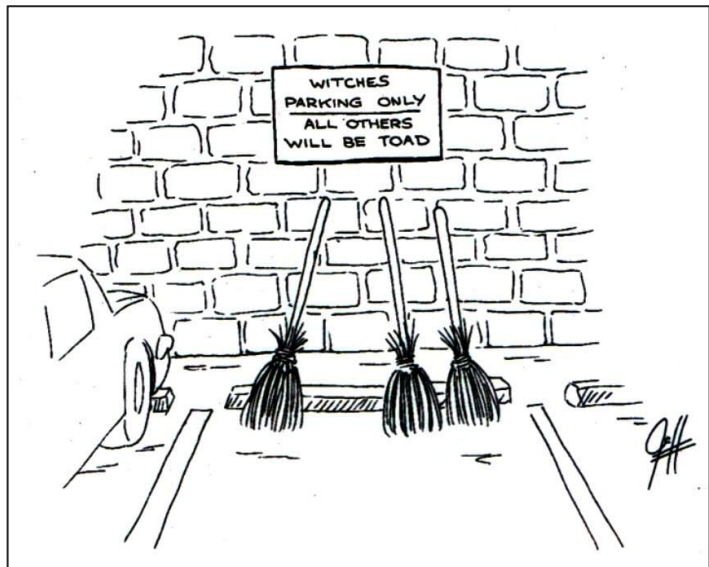
Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thank Offering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an 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 22, or they can be dropped off at the church office.**

MISSIONARY FOR THE DAY

- Sept 1 In memory of Ray Messner from Jim & Marian Thraen
- Sept 12 In memory of Todd Waller from Janis, Kathy, Ben & Jakob
- Sept 12 Happy Birthday Ben Ehlers and Emily Nelson from mom and dad
- Sept 22 In honor of our veterans
- Sept 23 In honor of our worship servants for all that they do
- Sept 28 In memory of Robert Waller from Janis, Kathy, Ben & Jakob
- Sept 28 In loving memory of Helen Rose Olson
- Sept 29 In loving memory of John Solvie from his family

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 at date.



August's GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,160.00	August Giving	\$135,845.25	Year-to-Date Giving
\$18,462.08	August Expense	\$181,183.38	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