

FIRST NEWS

A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2023

January 2023 Time with Tom

I am not one to make New Year's resolutions, but I thought I would talk about this as a way of thinking about repentance and reconciliation. Have you ever tried to make a New Year's resolution and keep it for longer than the first week of the new year? If repentance is turning or changing, then the resolution to do something new works well in this understanding. If we resolve to be faithful or to fulfill the calling of God to be faithful, we may have a chance to continue that resolution throughout the year.

First, we need to understand what that might mean. What is God calling us to do as faithful followers of Jesus Christ? What do we know about Jesus, God incarnate, Emmanuel 'God with us' in the child born that we celebrate on Christmas, who brings salvation to all who believe. We know that Jesus can give us a refreshing look at life when we turn our lives over to the knowledge of salvation. We can find the grace of God to be confusing and yet wonderful. The revelation of a gift of reconciliation and forgiveness from the God of all creation may be too much for us to take in all at once. We may need some time to absorb the wonder of his love. In the words of a Christmas song, "I am so glad each Christmas Eve" *"the night of Jesus' birth, a little child in Bethlehem he was a king indeed. He came down from heaven above to help a world in need. I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too; he loves me every day, I know so well is true."* These lines tell the story only in part but they remind us of the kind of God who created all things. This is the kind of God who is willing to come down to be with us and to become one of us just to help us find our way back to him. He becomes one of us so we will not be afraid of him. He comes to be with us to share the great gift of grace. This is the gift we are not worthy or deserving. God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that the world could be saved through him. God does not want to condemn the world because he loves the world.

This Christmas season, which begins on Christmas day, can be a great time to make a New Year's resolution to be faithful in all we do, to bring the love of God to all people. The celebration of Christmas each year gives us an opportunity to renew our faith, and sometimes resolution's work. God is good, all the time; and all the time, God is good. This year let it be resolved that we will turn our lives to the one who gave his life to save us from all evil and from death, bringing us to himself in love. The love of God is salvation, live in Christ, this is a resolution we can keep. Amen. *Agree with one another; live in peace and the God of Love and peace will be with you. 2nd Cor. 13:11*

Pastor Tom Evenson

Our mission: First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ; **equip** persons with a faith that works in real life; and **send** us in service into the world in

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon. - Thur. 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Fri. 8 AM - 12 PM
320-693-2487
Email: firstoffice@hutchtel.net
WEBSITE:
www.firstlitchfield.org

Council Highlights

**“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Council Minutes

Tuesday, December 20th, 2022

Our Mission: FLC exists to welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ, equip persons with a faith that works in real life, and send us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.

Council Membership:

2023: Betty Allen, Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemmingway

2024: Dennis Gartner, Joe Berube, Gordon Burdick, Chuck Fenton

2025: Meredith Elj, Andy Miller, Mike Langmo, Corey Cervin

*All members present with the exception of Amy Nelson and Joe Berube

*Additions to the agenda:

~None

*Devotions: Dennis Gartner

*Secretary report was approved

*Treasurer report was approved

***Pastor Tom reported:

~The MST team leaders decided to work with the Endowment team to invest the overage of funds raised by the MST groups. The funds will be put in a short-term investment until it is decided how to best use the funds.

~The grief support team will begin meeting in January on Sunday afternoons. Date and time to be determined.

~Pastor Tom continues to work with Amy Nelson and Heidi Thoma as they assist with worship. They both appear to be enjoying the opportunity to lead.

~The process of calling an Associate Pastor continues to evolve. A couple of interviews have been completed. Our original Synod Contact, Steve Cook has retired. His plan to retire was shared with the committee before the process began. Naomi Mahler will be Pastor Cook’s replacement in helping us through this process.

~Pastor Tom has discovered a need in the community that involves transportation outside of the normal hours of the CCT bus operation. He is researching the possibility of restarting the First Restorers club to work on automobiles that could be used or sold to a person or family in need. He would welcome any conversations if you are interested in learning more.

Team Reports:

*Evangelism / Social Ministries:

~The Tis the Season gathering was a success.

~The team also discussed and submitted their proposed budget for 2023.

*Christian Education/Youth Team

~The team is planning a January youth activity.

~The team also discussed and submitted their proposed budget for 2023.

~Discussed a time change to 10:00 AM start for Sunday School beginning January 8th. Parents will be notified.

*Church Property:

~The team discussed the proposed 2023 budget. A few minor items were changed. Also needed to confirm an increase in staff wages before submitting the budget.

~A discussion took place regarding the three roof top heating and cooling units that service the Chilstrom Hall area. Two of the three units were not operating. AEM Mechanical was able to get one of them working after searching and waiting for parts. The third unit has more extensive problems including a bad heat chamber. The units are approximately 25 years old. Discussion centered around researching the options for these units. Should they continue to be repaired or are they at the end of their life expectancy. Dick Farmer will discuss this with AEM Mechanical and report back as soon as possible.

~It was also asked that the team have a discussion regarding adding an entry way (or vestibule) to the West entry into Chilstrom Hall to alleviate the cold that comes through the doors. This addition could also help alleviate the water and ice issues that are a problem in the spring.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council 2023

PRESIDENT:

Corey Cervin

VICE PRESIDENT:

Karla Kadelbach

SECRETARY:

Dennis Gartner

TREASURER:

Andy Miller

TEAM

REPRESENTATIVES:

Christian Education/ Youth & Family:

Joe Berube

Abby Hemmingway

Amy Nelson

Stewardship & Finance:

Betty Allen

Karla Kadelbach

Andy Miller

Mike Langmo

Social Ministry/ Evangelism:

Betty Allen

Joe Berube

Meredith Elj

Abby Hemmingway

Amy Nelson

Endowment/Memorial:

Corey Cervin

Chuck Fenton

Property:

Dennis Gartner

Chuck Fenton

Gordon Burdick

Worship & Music:

Gordon Burdick

Meredith Elj

Mike Langmo

Personnel:

Corey Cervin

Church Council

- ~Some items needing attention in the kitchen were also discussed to include cabinet repair and kitchen countertop replacement. Jim Alsleben will work on the cabinets. Countertops to be determined at a later date.
- ~Replacing the carpet in the old gathering hall (lower level Sunday school area) was also discussed.
- ~Jim Alsleben will continue to add items to our tracking sheet as needed.

*Endowment:

~The Endowment team approved donations to the Meeker County Food Shelf for \$1,000 and Meeker Area Ministries for \$1,000. A \$250 gift was approved for the Synod.

*Worship & Music:

(Worship & Music Old Business)

~Tour of Churches was held on December 4th. This event was not well attended. Only 12 to 15 people visited our facility. Seven area churches participated.

~The team discussed and submitted a proposed budget for 2023.

(Worship & Music New Business)

~The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday January 29th after service. The Council is planning a chili cook-off and silent auction. MST 2024 group will help with this event.

~The existing worship schedule was discussed in detail. A motion was made and seconded to propose to the council to change to one service on Sunday mornings. The service will be at 9:00 AM with fellowship and Sunday school after the service. Traditional and Non-traditional services would alternate weeks as they are able. If the council has no objection, the new schedule would begin on Sunday January 1st. The motion passed.

*COUNCIL FOLLOW UP: The council had no objection to the change to the Sunday service schedule and alternating Traditional and Non-traditional services.

*Personnel Team:

~The team corresponded via email. The discussion centered around the annual increase in salaries (or wages) for staff. The Synod recommendation set forth for 2023 was a 5% minimum increase. It was noted that the increase last year in 2022 was 1.4%. The personnel team implied via email the 5% increase would be acceptable to propose to the council.

*Council Old Business:

~Preliminary team budgets were again discussed. The teams are asked to submit their proposed budgets as soon as possible. They were also asked to submit their year-end summary reports as soon as possible.

~An update from the call committee was briefly discussed and was aligned with Pastor Tom's earlier report.

*Council New Business:

~Conversations continued regarding the planning of the Annual meeting.

~FINAL team reports and budgets are requested to be submitted as soon as possible.

~Annual meeting is scheduled for January 29th.

~A motion was made and seconded that the council host a chili cook-off and a silent auction after the annual meeting. The motion passed.

~Donations of auction items or special talents will be requested for the silent auction. Anyone is welcome to participate in the chili cook-off. It is not limited to members of our First Lutheran Church. Coop members are encouraged to participate.

~It was presented to the council that a special meeting of the Executive team took place on December 8th to discuss the issue with the heating and cooling rooftop units servicing Chilstrom Hall. Dick Farmer also attended this meeting representing the Property team.

~At the Executive team meeting, a discussion regarding repairing the units (if possible) vs replacing one or all three of the units took place. It was determined that the repair option still left us vulnerable. How long will they last and at what cost? Can we get parts when we need them? An estimate was submitted from AEM Mechanical to Dick Farmer from the Property Team. The estimate was for the replacement of all three of the units at a cost of \$52,885.87. A verbal estimate of \$25,000.00 to replace one unit was also given. A crane to remove the existing units and lift the new units into place was part of the estimated costs. Whether one unit or all three are replaced, the crane is still needed. It was also discussed that there may need to be electrical work upgraded or changed to accommodate the new units. An allowance of \$10,000.00 to cover the electrical and incidental costs was also discussed at the Executive team meeting.

~Council's response and action: A motion was made and seconded to proceed with placing a line item on the annual budget not to exceed a cost of \$65,000.000 to cover the replacement of all three roof top units. The motion passed.

Continued on pg. 4.....

Finance

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Nov. 2022: \$35,628
Expenses for the month of Nov. 2022: \$32,342

Year to Date:

Income as of November 2022: \$361,802
Expenses as of November 2022: \$338,874

Council continued.

~A discussion took place regarding the Personnel team recommendation of a 5% increase for staff members.

~Some members of the council felt the 2022 increase of 1.4% fell short of where it should have been.

~A 6.5% increase for 2023 was proposed vs the 5% that the Personnel team implied.

~A motion to increase salaries (or wages) by 6.5% for all staff members was made and seconded. Motion passed.

*Prayer requests were taken

*Closing prayer was heard and the meeting was adjourned

***Dates to remember:

*Coop services continue virtually on Sundays at 8:30 AM

*New Year's Day service Sunday January 1st at 9:00 AM ***

*In person services Sundays at 9:00 AM / CHANGED from two services BEGINNING JANUARY 1st

*Wednesday evening services, Supper 6:00, Worship 6:30, Bible Study 7:00

*Executive Team meeting Tuesday January 3rd at 6:30 PM

*Team meetings Tuesday January 3rd at 7:00 PM

*150th Anniversary Candlelight service Sunday January 15th at 4:00 PM / Pastor Christa Forsythe will preside with a potluck meal after the service

*Council meeting Tuesday January 17th at 7:00 PM

*Annual meeting Sunday January 29th at 10:15 AM (following worship at 9:00 a.m.) / Chili Cook-off and silent auction to follow.

Submitted as un-approved minutes by Dennis Gartner



GIFTS, MEMORIALS & THANKS

A gift was given in memory of Reuben Hoyer, who would have been 85 on December 19th, by Lisa Hoyer.

A gift was given to the General fund in honor of Sarah Jones for her Ordination by Mark and Judy Hulterstrum.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of Josie Hansen, Lylie Miller's mom, by Jerry and Lana Johnson.

Thank you to the Bell Ringers who helped at Family Fare on Saturday, November 26th ringing for the Salvation Army Red Kettle. Jim Asmus, Elaine Lenhard, Lisa and Maggie Gaulrapp, Natalie Berglund, Alexis Engelke, Pastor Tom and Kim Evenson, Claire Gabrielson, Chloe Kowalczyk, Katelyn Guggemos, Kala Ziegler, Kierra Lease, Owen Rick, Brooks Dengerud, Jailyn Mickelson, Maddie Fluck and others who were there. Thank you for taking time to volunteer and to support our community.

Thank you to Pastor Tom and the December Serving group, for the wonderful service and meal for our mother. Josie Hansen's daughters, Lylie Miller and Judy (Ted) Fruth.



March 25- April 2, 2023

*Costa Rica Mission Trip 2023:
Roblealto*

Important Dates:

- Begin individual fundraising immediately (monetary and prayers!)
- Apply for or locate passport – a copy needs to accompany the deposit (all items due December 2022). If you do not have a passport, please let me know you are in the process of applying.
- December 2022 – **passport copy, \$500 deposit. Please submit all of the items together to the FLC church office**
- January 2023: \$500 due to the FLC church office
- February 2023: \$500 due to the FLC church office
- March 2023: **balance due to FLC church office**
- **Please make note of the above dates on your calendar to turn in funds. These dates are very important in the planning and payment schedules for airline tickets and sending funds to Roblealto.**

When dropping off funds or documents at church, put in an envelope and enclose a note indicate: MST Costa Rica 2023. Do not put funds in the offering plate. If you are mailing the funds, please allow enough time to arrive by the requested date and send to:

First Lutheran Church
ATTN: Costa Rica Mission Trip
703 S. Sibley Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355

Approximate Cost: \$2250

Cost includes: airfare, travel insurance, baggage fees, food/lodging at Roblealto, lodging/transfers between airport and Roblealto, Roblealto donation & farewell party, and 1-2 day free-time excursion.

Not included in cost: Incidental meals when not at Roblealto, personal expenses (i.e souvenirs), and minimal tipping are not included in the cost of the trip and are the responsibility of individual team members.

Team Meetings and Fundraisers:

Attendance at team meetings is very important to team building and to receive updates on the projects. Please make attendance a priority at all team meetings.

January 2023: trip planning & information
(Sunday Jan 8th 12:00 FLC Chilstrom Hall)

March 2023: packing party
(Friday March 24th 6:00 FLC Chilstrom Hall)

Did I mention finding more information and pictures on facebook (Roblealto Association) and the web (www.roblealto.org) and about LaPaz (www.waterfallgardens.com) and Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin | Adventure Tours Costa Rica (guachipelin.com)?!

Additional Questions/Concerns:
Kris Cervin 612-597-7004
lusi0003@umn.edu



MST-USA

MST-USA is excited to announce that our 2023 mission trip will take us to Nashville, TN. This July, 15 youth and 3 adult chaperones will partner with YouthWorks and the Nashville community to meet ongoing needs in their area. This may include serving at a food pantry, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen or other local initiatives.

We'd like to thank all of you that have already supported our many fundraisers. Each MST-USA youth is responsible for covering the costs of their trip. So we appreciate all of your support - both financial and through prayer. And we'll be introducing our group to you in upcoming newsletters...here are a few of them!

Raigan Miller, 9th grade
(Parents are Sara and Andy Miller) "I'm looking forward to going on the MST USA 2023 mission trip to Nashville, TN because I'm excited to help people in new places, meet new people and learn new things."



Matt Defries, 9th grade
(Parents are Ernie and Jackie Defries) "I'm really excited and looking forward to the MST USA trip to Nashville because I like to travel and am excited to spend time with friends and help people."



TJ Christensen, 11th grade
(Parents are Martha Christensen and Tait Christensen)
"I'm going on the MST USA trip to grow in my relationship with God."



Thanks & Blanks



All occasions 2 All occasions 1



MSA USA 2023 is selling Handcrafted Greeting Card boxes. Each box contains 30 unique, hand-crafted cards with colored envelopes to match. The charming organizer boxes include dividers and high quality cards for a wide variety of occasions! Based on your box selection, some of the cards included are: retirement, birthday, thank you, just to say hello, thinking of you, with love, anniversary, blank cards and more!

Boxes available include All Occasion boxes (2 varieties), Thanks & Blanks, Happy Birthday box for Kids, and the Holiday Box (which contains 50 cards for the same price!!).

Greeting card boxes are available to order through the church office, or with any MST USA youth. The sale will run from Sunday, Jan 8 - Jan 29 and boxes should arrive mid-February.

Please contact Martha Christensen (320) 981-0354 with any questions.

COMING SOON... Papa Murphy's Pizzas in February, ButterBraids in March.
THANK YOU for your continued support of MST USA 2023!!

Dear friends,

Warm greetings.

This past weekend over 1000 people gathered in Karonga on the northern tip of Lake Malawi to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) by local lay leaders in 1982. One of the lay leaders became the first bishop of the church, now the presiding bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Bvumbwe. With strong leadership, evangelism and diakonal outreach in rural and urban communities the church has quickly grown to over 200,000 members.



The church assembly voted in August 2018 to divide the church into three dioceses. The Karonga Diocese is now the first of the three. On November 26, 2022 Rev. Alick Msuku was installed as the first diocesan bishop with Rev. Peter Vinkumbo as assistant to the bishop. Presiding Bishop Bvumbwe was assisted by Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe Bishop K. Sibanda, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Bishop N. Myaka, and Bishop S. /Keib of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia.



Lake Malawi runs along most of the eastern border of the country and is 350 miles long, 47 miles wide and 2,300 feet at its deepest point making it the third largest lake in Africa and the ninth largest in the world. Referring to Lake Malawi in his sermon Presiding Bishop Bvumbwe referred to Jesus' words to the disciples in Mark 4:35, "Let us go across to the other side" as a word of encouragement to the leadership and members of the new Karonga diocese.

I was privileged to be able to attend the celebration and bishop's installation and to bring greetings on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin which is the ELCA Companion synod relating to the ELCM.

The two-day event was filled with singing and dancing, with many choirs writing and recording original songs and choreography especially for the occasion. The celebration ended with the presentation of gifts by parishes to the new diocesan bishop, the assistant to the bishop and their spouses.

The ELCM plans to establish the second diocese in Blantyre in the southern part of the country in 2023.



Thank you for your prayers, support and participation in God's Mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

ELCA Regional Representative - Southern Africa

November 30, 2022

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>
Please visit my [fundraising page](#). (Note: This fundraising page is set up for individuals' gifts only.)
If you are donating on behalf of a congregation or organization, please visit ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving for online giving.

Churchwide



January

Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 1, 2023 *New Years Day

9:00 a.m. Healing Service w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

No Sunday School

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

Sunday, January 8, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

Sunday, January 15, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

4:00 p.m. Candle Light Worship Service

Potluck supper following

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

No Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting

Chili Cook-off (following the meeting)



Special dates:

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2023*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2023*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 8, 2023*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 16, 2023*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2023*



On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidity. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."

Local Cable Public Access TV Schedule:

Sun.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation	COOP
Mon.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation	COOP
Tue.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation	Sun. FLC
Wed.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation	Sun. COOP
Thu.	11 a.m. Encore Pres.	Sun. Trinity G.C.
Thu.	3 p.m. Encore Presentation	Sun. FLC
Fri.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation	Sun. Zion

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, January 21, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Holy Word Theater, FLC

Movie: TBD....

Please join us for a good movie
and popcorn.

Please bring your own beverage.

January 2023 Calendar

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP/Radio 9:00 a.m. Healing Worship Service With Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee No Sunday School	2 Church Office Closed	3 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. Worship at Meeker Manor 5:30 a.m. Worship Team Mtg. 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel 6:30 p.m. Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Team Meetings	4 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Comm. in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel	5 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	6	7 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
8 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service With Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 3:00 p.m. Grief Support Gathering 6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting	9	10 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	11 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Sr. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle, Lana Johnson's Home	12 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	13 9:30 a.m. Christian Women's Meeting	14 8:00 a.m. Men's Group
15 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service With Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Kick-off for 150 th Anniversary – Candle Light Worship Service, Pastor Christa Forsythe Potluck supper following service	16 9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle	17 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 9:00 a.m. Martha Circle 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel 7:00 p.m. Church Council	18 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Sr. Choir Rehearsal	19 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio No WELCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	20	21 11:00 a.m. Baby Shower, for Jaden Deitchman 5:00 p.m. Movie Night Holy Word Theater
22 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service With Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	23	24 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	25 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel	26 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	27	28 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
29 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service With Communion No Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting Chili Cook-Off following meeting in Chilstrom Hall	30	31 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 South Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 320-693-2487 ***NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME** 9:00 a.m.			

Serving Group & Birthdays

JANUARY 2023 SERVING GROUP	
Chairs	Jenny Defries
Chuck & Karen Eberhard	Steve & Julie Dengerud
Corey & Kris Cervin	Douglas & Mary Desens
Gary & Kathy Cervin	Brad & Krista DeWolf
Martha Christensen/Jon Nelson	Charles & Alison DeWolf
Tait Christensen	Will & Kim Dolan
Carolyn Christensen	Mike & Dawn Doty
Clinton & Shelly Christians	Carol Dragt
Jim & Holly Cottington	
Wendy Danzeisen	
Ali and Steven LaVine	
LaVerne Decker	
Ernest & Jackie Defries	

January Ushers
9:00 a.m.
 Jim Alsleben - C
 Barb Alsleben
 Scot Anderson
 Tanner Eberling
 Daniel Lease

January



Open



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 1

Robert Baird
 LaVerne Decker
 Shelby Dengerud
 Shelley Buck
 Joel Hoyer
 Ricky Maurer
 Lois Rusch
 Alec Sparboe

JANUARY 2

Amanda Magnuson

JANUARY 3

Tama Fisher
 Cameron Herzog
 Kristi Husmann
 Dorothy Lundin

JANUARY 4

Bennett DeWolf
 Taylor Fruetel
 Jerrod Quade
 Isaac Rick

JANUARY 5

Everett Hantge
 Ethan Stafford

JANUARY 6

Elois Johnson
 Aric Nelson
 Megan Thoma

JANUARY 7

Maeve Hanson
 Andrew Hoffmann
 Justin Isaacson

JANUARY 8

Carl Anderson
 Henrik Boll
 Kelsey Farmer

Kimberly Farmer

JANUARY 9

Cheyenne Zeppelin

JANUARY 11

Jonathan Lease
 Becky Lundin
 Brandon Mead
 Taylor Stafford

JANUARY 12

Lennon Herzog
 Greta Hulterstrem
 Sara Miller
 Kim Prahll

JANUARY 13

Delores Kalkbrenner

Dennis Nelson

JANUARY 14

Jess Housman

JANUARY 15

Alex Sherwood

JANUARY 16

David Lee

JANUARY 17

Charlie Bredeson
 Polly Hemingway
 Ila Rueckert

Mason St. Pierre
 Donald Weimer

JANUARY 18

Kendra Christians
 Annika Ellingson
 Anyiah-Mae Haidt

JANUARY 20

Sarah Jones
 Jayne Herzog
 Courtney Teas
 Jean Wieland

JANUARY 21

Shelly Christians
 Sara Nelson

JANUARY 22

Barbara Alsleben
 Janet Andreen

Loren Boll

JANUARY 23

Anna Cottington
 Christopher Fruetel
 Landry Ludowese

JANUARY 24

Bev Anderson
 Donna Beckstrand
 Justin Elj

Cooper Evenson
 Cynthia Graff

Daniel Nelson
 Renee Trettin

Dominick Wendler

JANUARY 25

Joseph Berube
 Norman DeGeest

JANUARY 26

Judith Jones

JANUARY 27

Jason Block
 Clinton Christians
 Abby Hemingway
 Joanne Rust

JANUARY 28

Harper Hulterstrem

JANUARY 29

Hunter Hoff
 Constance Nelson
 Tracey Nistler
 Curtis White Jr.

JANUARY 30

Dan Christopherson
 Gina Gabrielson
 Jennifer Lamecker

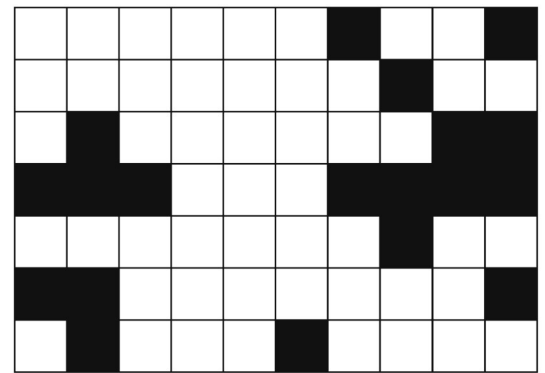
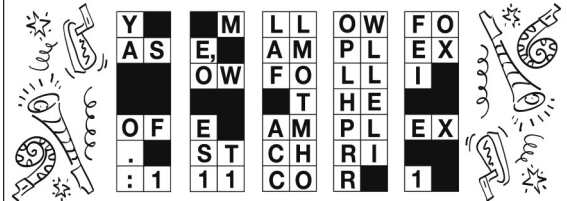
Mitchell Lease
 Amy Pierce

JANUARY 31

David Berry
 Robert Frank
 Claire Gabrielson
 Wendy Norine
 Larry Sutter


Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. I Cor. 11:1

Senior Dining Menu

	Tuesday, Jan. 3	Wednesday, Jan. 4	Thursday, Jan. 5	Friday, Jan. 6
	Biscuits and Sausage Gravy	Ginger Citrus Chicken	Sloppy Joe on Bun	Baked Fish
	Roasted Potatoes	Rice Pilaf	Potato Wedges	Macaroni and Cheese
New Year's Day Observed	Cinnamon Apple Slices	Peas and Carrots	Vegetarian Baked Beans	Broccoli Florets
	Dessert	Peaches	Banana or Fresh Fruit	Pears
	Low Fat Milk	Bread/ Margarine	Cookie	Jello w/ Whipped Topping
	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 9	Tuesday, Jan. 10	Wednesday, Jan. 11	Thursday, Jan. 12	Friday, Jan. 13
Egg Bake w/ Sausage	Meatloaf	Pasta in Meat Sauce	Roast Turkey/ Gravy	Baked Ham w/ Sauce
Oven Baked Potatoes	Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream	Romaine Salad w/ Dressing	Mashed Potatoes	Scalloped Potatoes
Carrots	Pears	Pineapple Chunks	California Normandy Veg	Peas and Carrots
Applesauce	Bread/ Margarine	Bread Stick	Bread/ Margarine	Dinner Roll/ Margarine
Coffee Cake	Bar	Dessert	Cookie	Pudding
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 16	Tuesday, Jan. 17	Wednesday, Jan. 18	Thursday, Jan. 19	Friday, Jan. 20
Chef's Choice	Chicken ala King	Goulash	Pork Loin	Lemon Pepper Fish
Vegetable	Peas and Carrots	Mixed Green Salad w/ Dressing	Candi Yam	Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream
Vegetable or Fruit	Pineapple Chunks	Tropical Fruit	Steamed Calif Norm Veg	Coleslaw
Grain	Brown Rice	Bread/ Margarine	Dinner Roll/ Margarine	Bread/ Margarine
Dessert	Jello w/ Whipped Topping	Dessert	Bar	Apple Brown Betty
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 23	Tuesday, Jan. 24	Wednesday, Jan. 25	Thursday, Jan. 26	Friday, Jan. 27
Parmesan Chicken	Creamy Swedish Meatballs	Turkey Noodle Casserole	Roast Beef w/ Gravy	Salmon Loaf
Green Beans	Mashed Potatoes	Broccoli Florets	Mashed Potatoes	Creamed Peas
Fruit Cocktail	Carrots	Cinnamon Baked Apple Slices	Corn	Roasted Potatoes
Bread Stick	Bread/ Margarine	Dinner Roll/ Margarine	Peaches	Bread/ Margarine
Dessert	Pudding	Cookie	Bread/ Margarine	Cake
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 30	Tuesday, Jan. 31			<h1>January 2023</h1>
Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy	Tater Tot Casserole			
Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream	Green Beans	<p>This service is funded in part by a contract from the Area Agency on Aging with funding from the Federal Older Americans Act through the Minnesota Board on Aging. Additional funds are provided by the State of Minnesota, United Ways, local communities and other adult contributions.</p> <p>The posted menu is for a traditional diet. Diabetic friendly, reduced sodium and fat restricted diet menus are available upon request. The traditional menu provides an average of 700-800 calories per meal.</p> <p>If you are interested in learning about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), please call 800.488.4146.</p>		<p>Menu is subject to change.</p> <p>Approved by Donna Dunlap RD, LD SNAP or EBT payment is accepted.</p>
Peas and Carrots	Peaches			
Bread/ Margarine	Dinner Roll/ Margarine			
Dessert	Bar			
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk			

320-693-6203

150th Anniversary

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



YOUR STORY MATTERS

1 Corinthians 16:14
“Let all that you do be done in love.”

Anniversary Hymn
“I Love to Tell The Story”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

January 15 @ 4:00 pm
Candlelight church service
Pastor Christa Forsythe preaching
Potluck supper to follow

March 19 @ 9:00 am
Bishop Dee Pederson preaching
Swedish breakfast @ 10:00 a.m.

May 7 @ 9:00 am
Pastor Buendorf preaching
Swedish sweets @ 10:00 a.m.

August 13 @ 1:00 pm
Minnesota Boys Choir
Music Concert
Ice cream to follow

August 20
Laying of cemetery flowers

August 27
150th Anniversary Service
Pastor Tom Evenson preaching
Formal catered congregational dinner
Congregational Group Photo

First Lutheran's 150th church anniversary celebration will begin Jan 15th with a candlelight service @ 4:00 pm. We want to kick off our sesquicentennial jubilee in worship and in prayer. Remembering our past but looking to our future. Pastor Christa Forsythe will be preaching. This candlelight celebration will be followed by a potluck supper.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Please worship with us on Jan 15th @ 4:00. This is the greatest privilege of our lives to openly rejoice in God's love and Grace. Paul said: "And with great poignancy, he repeatedly commands those who are privileged to be together to actually be together: nose to nose, smile to smile, greeting one another with a holy kiss." Together, we are a group of people that give public gratitude to God. We show love for other Christians. We grow in our faith together and delight in our church. We know our church has more value and beauty than we can see with our physical eyes. We are thankful for our local church.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Some history...

1856 The first Swedish settlers began moving into this area of Minnesota

1861 Rev. Eric Norelius held the first Swedish Lutheran worship service in the Litchfield area.

1873 On August 28, a constitution was adopted and the name "The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Litchfield" was selected. There were 16 members and 19 children. The last charter member to die was Margaret Palmquist, who died on April 10, 1941 at the age of 96 years, 2 months and 25 days.

1875 Our women organized to assist the church.

1884 In the fall, at a cost of \$4,000, a church building was built on the corner of South Miller Avenue and West Ripley Street

1901 A new Estey Organ was purchased by the Young People's Society for \$1,350.

Pastor Otto Hallberg died while in service of this parish and is buried in Lake Ripley Cemetery.

1910 English services were first instituted in the evening of every fourth Sunday.

1912 A Luther League Hall was added to the existing church building at a cost of \$2,000.

1916 Our first Men's Club was organized to support the soldiers and help with the church property.

Swedish Table Prayer

I Jesus namn till bords vi gå,
välsigna Gud den mat vi få.
Gud till ära, oss til gagn,
så få vi mat
i Jesu namn.

Translation:

In Jesus name to the table we go
God bless the food we receive
O God be the honor to us the strength
We receive food In Jesus Name.



Our Leadership and Pastors

Visiting Pastors from 1873 - 1881

Rev. P. Beckman, Rev. J. G. Lagerstrom, Rev. N. G. Dahlstedt, and Rev. P. Dillner

Rev. J. S. Ryding 1881 - 1883

Rev. Dr. L. A. Hocanzon 1883 - 1889

Pastor P. A. Wenner 1891 - 1900

Pastor Otto Hallberg 4/1901 - 6/1909

Pastor J. E. Linner 3/1910 - 8/1917

Pastor G. Rast 5/1918 - 1928

Pastor A. H. Franzen 9/1929 - 9/1949

Pastor J. Henry Bergren 8/1950 - 1961

Pastor Douglas Pearson 1961 - 2/1968

Pastor Clifton Trued 10/1968 - 1973

Pastor Robert Walrod 2/1974 - 1980

Assoc. Pastor Timothy Rauk 1975 - 1977

Assoc. Pastor David Fagerberg 1977 - 1980

Sr. Pastor Daniel Buendorf 4/1981 - 12/2000

Assoc. Pastor Karen Kiener 10/1981 - 8/1984

Assoc. Pastor Greg Hall 2/1985 - 4/1988

Assoc. Pastor Roy Harrisville III 3/1989 - 8/1994

Assoc. Pastor Richard Ricker 7/1995 - 10/2001

Interim Sr. Pastor J. David Nelson 2/2001 - 1/2002

Interim Assoc. Pastor Dennis Bushkofsky 12/2001 - 7/2002

Sr. Pastor Allan Bjorklund 2/2002 - 3/2004

Assoc. Pastor Therese Brownson 9/2002 - 8/2004

Interim Pastor Duane Hetland 4/2004 - 5/2005

Sr. Pastor David Sorensen 6/2005 - 11/2010

Intern Pastor Patricia Johnson Carlson 11/2005 - 7/2006

Intern Pastor Linda Marlett 8/2006 - 8/2007

Intern Pastor Christa Forsythe 9/2007

Lay Pastor Christa Forsythe 6/2009

Associate Pastor Christa Forsythe ordained 1/2010 - 7/2013

Intern Pastor Tom Evenson 6/2008

Interim Sr. Pastor Gary Cumings 6/2010 - 10/2010

Interim Sr. Pastor Robert Dahl 1/2011 - 10/2011

Sr. Pastor Paul Lutter 10/2011 - 10/2014

Visitation Pastor Gary Cumings 01/2012 - 06/2020

Interim Assoc. Pastor Bruce Falksen 8/2013 - 1/2014

Interim Assoc. Pastor John R. Smith 3/2014 - 8/2014

Interim Pastor Bob Iverson 10/2014 - 6/2016

Interim Pastor Kari Pancoast 7/2016 - 11/2016

Pastor Tom Evenson 11/2016 - present

Visitation Pastor Mark Little 1/2022

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:



*Our members known to be in the military are:

Staff Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olimb, Vicenza, Italy, grandson of Edna and Martin Oldenburg, Vern and Lil Madson;

Master Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt, 934th Airwing, Minneapolis, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt;

Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann, stationed at Fort Drum, NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann;

Eric Kammermeier, active duty United States Navy, son-in-law of Mike and Beth Boyle;

Airman 1st Class John Rogers, Beale Air Force Base, CA. Grandson of Janet and Jim Lange.

Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned to the States. Thank you all for your service

*Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or addresses have changed for any of the above.

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING: American Red Cross



Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace God's Word, Welcome the Day.

B.R.E.W.

meets every **Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m.** with Pastor Tom for coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

Family Fare Receipts: Please bring in your receipts (place in basket in the Sunday School Entrance or bring to the church office). These receipts are added together and helps our education program earn \$1000 per \$150,000 worth of receipts. Please note we need the entire receipt.

Thank you for all the receipts that have been turned in!!

*receipts for prescriptions purchased are **not eligible** for the program.

Save your greeting cards!

They can be recycled! They will take the whole card or you can cut off the signed names, if you wish. I will drop them off at the Senior Center in Hutchinson. ****No Christmas Cards please.**

Thank you! Elaine Lenhard

Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers,

Meeker Manor: Lois Rusch

Emmaus Place: Mae Brehmer

Bethany Home: Janet Lundin

Litchfield, in own home: Jutta Goodrich, Darlene Miller

Lakeside, Dassel: Martin and Edna Oldenburg



Congregational Annual Meeting: January 29, 2023

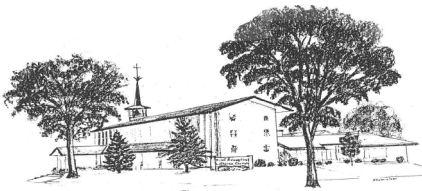
The annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29, at 10:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend to share in a review of the past year's ministry, and a look ahead to the coming year of mission. The meeting will include election of congregation leaders and 2023 budget approval.

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m., with the Annual Meeting to follow at 10:15 a.m.

FLC Church Council will hold a Silent Auction & Chili Cook-off after the meeting.

FIRST NEWS is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send **submissions** to: The Church Office by January 15th
For the **NEXT ISSUE: February 2023**



FIRST NEWS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 South Sibley Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355

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Litchfield, MN
55355

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Sara Rick, Bookkeeper
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Carol Heath, Financial Secretary
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Bea Devereaux, Organist, Senior Choir, and Bell Choir Director

Carol Dragt, Director of Music, Non-Traditional

Kipp Kleinschmidt, Media Director
firstmedia@hutchtel.net

Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

LIKE us on Facebook!
Or Follow us on Youtube!

Happy New Year



SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song;
FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV