

FIRST NEWS

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

MARCH 2023

March 2023 Time with Tom

As the snow falls on this season of Lent, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation. God, creator of all things continues to care for us even though we are not worthy of God's love, God loves us. Let us look deeper into the love of God this forty days leading to Good Friday and the resurrection on Easter morning. What is it that God sees in us that we could be recipients of that amazing love? Why is God mindful of us, a sinful, selfish generation? *Psalm 144:3 O Lord, what are human being that you regard them, or mortals that you think of them?* We are nothing without the Lord and we are not deserving of the love God has for us, but for some reason, God loves us.

Could it be that God loves us because God sees us as children of God? When our children get it wrong, we do not give up on them. That does not mean we are not disappointed, but we continue to love them because they are our children. Yes, we get upset or mad even at some of the things they do, but we do not stop loving them. Some people have given up on their children and maybe have disowned them, but deep in their hearts, they still love them because they are our child. God has been upset and even mad at us. God has wanted to give up on us and at one point God tried to disown us by flooding the earth, but God still loved us.

Now this Easter season we are going to look at the witnesses of holy week one at a time. We will hear "I" witness reports of the activities from two thousand years ago, telling us who God is in Jesus Christ. At each Lenten service, we will hear a different account of the horrors and the blessings of Passion Week. God loves us and comes to us to bring light into the world. The world loves darkness and rejects the light because the light reveals the sin in which we live. Nevertheless, the light of God does not stop shining through Jesus Christ. God brings light into the world and nothing can overcome the light of God. Not man, not evil, God's love cannot be taken away even in death.

The light of God that shines will always shine, so we may all be together on that day when God comes again to bring us to himself. Live in the light of Christ and be a witness to all nations teaching them everything Jesus taught us. Love one another the way Jesus first loved you, let the light of Christ shine in always in you. 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

FIND THE
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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, February 21 2023

**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:
Karla Kadelbach
Andy Miller
Mike Langmo

**Social Ministry/
Evangelism:**
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

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:

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

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

2026: Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemmingway, Maddie Baumgartner

*Meeting was held via Zoom due to inclement weather.

*All members present except for Meredith Elj and Andy Miller.

*Maddie Baumgartner was welcomed to the council by Council President Corey Cervin.

*Additions to the agenda:

~None

*Devotions: Corey Cervin

*Secretary report was approved

*Treasurer report was tabled for clarification

***Pastor Tom reported:

~MST International has selected the destination of Braga Portugal for their 2024 trip. Four families are committed at this point. Continuing to search for more Juniors and Seniors to join the group.

~The Grief support group continues to meet the second Sunday of the month at 3:00 PM.

~Pastor Tom has been asked by the MST USA group to help chaperone their trip in July. They will be going to Nashville TN

Team Reports:

*Christian Education:

~The team is still communicating with Green Lake Bible camp to help with Vacation Bible School (VBS). It appears the schedules are not working out to our advantage. They are planning an alternate VBS program if the Green Lake scenario does not work out. Quintin Berube has been asked to help out with some Bible Camp songs if the team has to do the camp themselves.

~Ash Wednesday (now postponed due to weather) will be the Mentor supper with the Confirmation students.

~The team was planning to do the Lenten soup supper on March 1st but due to weather conditions, this will now be the Ash Wednesday service.

~Last day of Sunday school will be on May 7th and the students will lead the Sunday service.

~First Communion classes will be starting in 2 weeks

*Church Property:

~The team discussed replacing some of the heavy 8’ tables in Chilstrom Hall. Good quality new tables would cost approximately \$210.00 each. A decision will be made at the next team meeting if we want to order some tables and how many.

~The team agreed to research if Finkens Water could service and fill the water softener as needed. Jim Alsleben will meet with Finkens and report back to the group at the next meeting.

~The west entrance enclosure was discussed and tabled. This is a larger project than many team members realized. To be re-visited at a later date.

~Kitchen countertop replacement was again discussed. This is not a crucial repair item at this time. Due to the cost of other maintenance items including the replacement of the rooftop heating units, this will be addressed at a later date. Additional cutting boards may be purchased if requested.

Church Council

~Tentative schedule to replace the rooftop heating and cooling units will be in June.

~A spring cleaning of the entire facility was discussed. This will be scheduled in the spring. Help from the congregation will be requested.

*Personnel:

~Corey Cervin reported that he has performed some of the staff annual reviews and the conversations have been favorable.

*Worship & Music:

(Worship & Music Old Business)

~Reviewed Lenten worship schedule / no changes.

~Lenten Soup Suppers;

> ~~March 1st - Christian Ed~~ (Now will be Ash Wednesday service due to weather)

> March 8th - Church Council

> March 15th - Music Groups

> March 22nd - WELCA

March 29th - Men's Group

(Worship & Music New Business)

~Palm Sunday; Carol directs; Discussed whether to have a drama, congregation participation, processional from Chilstrom Hall, or Cry of the Congregation. Decided to do Cry of the Congregation.

~Easter Sunday morning service schedule:

> 6:30 / 9:00 / 10:30

~MST Easter Sunday French Toast breakfast 7:30 to Noon

~Maundy Thursday service 7:00 PM

~Good Friday service 7:00 PM

~It was reported that there were a few issues with microphones. This is being addressed.

*150th Anniversary:

~Sunday March 19th at the 9:00 AM service, Bishop Dee Peterson will be presiding. There will be a Swedish breakfast following the service.

*Council Old Business:

~An update from the call committee was briefly discussed.

*Council New Business:

~A review of the Annual meeting regarding budget questions took place.

> It is understood that we will be asking for assistance and training regarding the Shepherds Staff software accounting system as soon as possible.

~Council serving soup supper on March 8th was discussed and planned.

~Council retreat was scheduled for March 19th at Pastor Toms house at 3:00 PM.

*Prayer requests were taken

*Closing prayer was heard and the meeting was adjourned

***Dates to remember:

*Coop services continue virtually on Sunday's at 8:30 AM

*In person services Sunday's at 9:00 AM

*Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Suppers through March at 6:00 PM

*Wednesday evening Lenten Services at 7:00 PM

*Executive Team meeting Tuesday March 7th at 6:30 PM

*Team meetings Tuesday March 7th at 7:00 PM

*Council meeting Tuesday March 21st at 7:00 PM

Submitted as un-approved minutes by Dennis Gartner

Finance

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Jan. 2023: \$42,764
Expenses for the month of Jan. 2023: \$33,540

Year to Date:

Income as of January 2023: \$42,764
Expenses as of January 2023: \$33,540

At the annual meeting in January, the audit committee referenced a list of questions that they had in regards to the year-end financials. Since then, the questions have been reviewed by the council. Some of them were addressed at the meeting, some of them have been resolved since, and the remaining are being reviewed. The council is committed to working with the staff to improve the accuracy of the statements. We also are looking at ways to simplify the information so that all can have a better understanding of what is being represented. Last but not least, we are seeking out training opportunities for the users of the program so as to have better understanding of the system as a whole. Thank you for your interest and patience in this process.

We as a council know that there have been concerns about the reporting for some time. I assure you that the best intentions are set forth by the council and staff every day. Regardless, we will work diligently to improve the process and the information generated. Thank you.

Corey Cervin – Council President



James "Jim" E. Lange
Friday, February 17, 2023

Ricky Maurer
Saturday, February 18, 2023

Please keep their friends and families in
your prayers.



Baptized: Sunday, February 19, 2023
Henry Anthony Fritz Nelson
Parents: Anthony and Nellya Nelson
Sponsors: Jackie and Louie Riehle,
Stephanie Nelson, and Paige McFarland.



Calling all Fifth Graders!!!

Please watch your mail box for a special letter regarding your First Communion and important dates that we will be meeting over the next couple of weeks to prepare for this Milestone Ministry in your life. This is a very special occasion and we encourage all of you to attend these sessions as a part of this ministry.

Bless and Be Blessed,
The Milestone Ministry Team

Beginning Feb. 26th **MST-USA 2023** will be taking orders for Butter Braids. Orders may be placed with any MST-USA youth (online or in person), or through the church office. With the new "on-line" ordering options, customers are able to visit the on-line "store", place an order and pay all in one spot! Your Butter Braids will then be available for pick up at church, or delivered by one of our youth. If you'd like to place an order on-line, you can either visit the First Lutheran Facebook page for the link - or call the church office and Judy can assist by emailing you the link.

Butter Braids will be delivered on Monday, April 3 - just in time for Easter!! If you have any questions, please contact Martha Christensen [320-981-0354](tel:320-981-0354).
Thank you for your support of MST-USA!

MST-USA is excited to announce that our 2023 mission trip will take us to Nashville, TN. This July, 16 youth and 4 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!



Javin Stucky, 12th grade
(Parents are Jason and Tanna Stucky)
"This will be my 3rd trip with MST USA. I am looking forward to going to Nashville, because I love to travel and meet people and help them."



Wil Herzog, 10th grade (Parent is Kathy Herzog) "What I'm looking forward to about the MST USA trip is going to a city I've never been to before to help people in need. Another thing I'm looking forward to is spending time with my friends"



Ben Driver, 10th grade
(Parents are Trina Driver and Terry Driver)
"I want to go on the trip because the last one was really fun and it brought me closer to God."



Owen Rick, 9th grade (Parents are Virgil and Sara Rick) "I am excited to go on this mission trip because I want to help the people in need."

Churchwide

MST-USA Continued....



I'm very excited to announce that we have our team of chaperones assembled!!

Pastor Tom and Carrie Block will be joining with Martha Christensen and Jon Nelson to chaperone our group of 16 youth to Nashville, TN.

Our fabulous team worked together for MST USA 2019 in Brooklyn, NY and I feel beyond blessed to have their leadership and support for **MST USA 2023!!**



MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS

Gifts were given to the General fund and Meeker Area Ministries in memory of **Anna Mae Wigen**, Darlene Lundin's sister, by Jerry and Lana Johnson, Ron and Barb Piepenburg, Dianne Thorp, Gladys Johnson, Marge Hellzen, Einar Lundin, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, and Bob and Sharon Johnson.

Gifts have been given to the Library fund and General fund in memory of **Jim Lange** by Carol Rowell, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Bob and Sharon Johnson, Dianne Thorp, Gary Smith, Darlene Lundin, John and Katie Hulterstrum, Paul and Sue Lemmer, Karla Kadelbach, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, and Jerry and Lana Johnson.

Gifts were given to the General fund in memory of **Martin "Pete" Oldenburg** by Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, Vern and Lil Madson, Gary Smith, Aldeen and Idell Kadelbach

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of **Marie and Martin**, Alice Harding's sister and brother "Pete" by Mike and Kris Nelson

A gift has been given to the General fund in memory of **Ricky Maurer** by Karla Kadelbach.

A gift has been given to the General fund in memory of **Dorothy Tacheny** by Marlys Elam.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all who donated items, all who purchased items, all who made chili and the church council for putting together the Silent Auction and Chili cook off fundraiser for MST-2024. It was a great success!! We appreciate everyone's effort and contributions for the event.
Thank you, MST-2024 Team

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and came to our Sweetheart Banquet and to all who helped make this a successful event. Special Thank you to Carol Dragt for providing the musical entertainment for the evening and Pam Radunz for making centerpieces. Congratulations to Aldeen and Idell Kadelbach as the newly crowned "2023 Sweethearts". MST – 2024 Team

February Serving Group - Thank you for saying yes when we called. Also thank you to the "on-call team" for stepping up to bake or work for the funerals. Bless ALL of you!! Dorothy Euerle, Sue Lemmer

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Johannesburg, South Africa.

After the long Christmas and New Year's Summer break (in the southern hemisphere), schools, businesses and churches are back in full swing. We continue to accompany companion churches across the continent in the areas of mission and ministry, diakonia, disaster response and international leadership development.

Gender Justice is a strategic priority for the ELCA Continental Africa Desk and 'Thursdays in Black' is one of the campaigns in this regard.

'Thursdays in Black' grew out of the World Council of Churches' Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988–1998), in which the stories of gender injustice, abuse and violence were lifted up, as well as stories of women's resilience, agency and personal efforts to resist such violations.

The Watchword for the Year, "You are God, [who sees me.]" from Genesis 16:13, is the basis for the foreword in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa 2023 Almanac (lectionary and daily texts) by Presiding Bishop N.M. Myka. Bishop Myka writes, "The story of Hagar shows us that God does not only see but also reflects on and acts against injustice. ...This watchword challenges us...to consider supporting a 'Hagar campaign' and to further explore one of the LWF's 500th anniversary slogans, 'Human beings are not for sale!' ... [T]ake heart in knowing that God sees you!"

The Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), with 15 member churches in 10 countries, has also embraced the Thursdays in Black Campaign and is planning various activities for the coming year as part of its Gender Justice program.



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

January 24, 2023

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

March Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

6:00 p.m. No Soup Supper .

7:00 p.m. *Rescheduled Ash. Wed. Worship

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper served by Council

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper served by Music Group

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Swedish Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper served by WELCA

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 26, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper served by Men's Group

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 3, 2023*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 12, 2023*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2023*

This year's Lenten theme is called "I Witness"

All mid-week services will begin at **7:00 p.m.**

We will have the opportunity to hear from other Pastors from our area churches during this Lenten season.

We will be worshipping with Holden Evening Prayer.

Soup Supper will be served at **6:00 p.m.** in Chilstrom Hall starting **March 8, 2023.**



Holy Week Schedule

April 2	Palm / Passion Sunday	9:00 a.m.
April 6	Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion	7:00 p.m.
April 7	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.
April 9	Easter Sunday Worship	6:30, 9:00, & 10:30 a.m.



Date Change:

MOVIE NIGHT Saturday, March 11, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Holy Word Theater, FLC

Movie: "Miracle on the Mountain"

True story of the Kincaid family.

Please join us for a good movie
and popcorn.

Please bring your own beverage.

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

LENTEN “GIVING CROSS” PROJECT

The 2023 Lenten “Giving Cross” Project will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2023) and continue through Easter Sunday. The emphasis is on the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) parish projects which include Baby Care Kits & Personal Care Kits.

The cross will be located in the Narthex and filled with cards, each having an item printed on it. Please take a card or two, purchase the items, tape the card to the item and place the items in the basket placed by the cross. If monetary donations are made, please make the checks payable to “Giving Cross” Project. Monetary gifts may be left at the church office also.

After Easter, the kits will be assembled and packed for Lutheran World Relief. Because shipping costs have escalated each kit costs approximately \$2.65 to ship, so monetary contributions are also appreciated. In the past your response to this project has been overwhelming, so please take the time to make this another successful Lenten Project.

If you have questions regarding the project please contact a committee member.

Thank you,
The Giving Cross Committee
Brenda Johnson, Elaine Lenhard or Joan Sommerfeld

BABY CARE KIT

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 gowns or sleepers (without feet) – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 receiving blankets
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size (4-5 oz) ivory soap
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

PERSONAL CARE KITS

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (approx 52”x27”), dark color recommended
- 2 bath size (4-5 oz) soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clippers

Churchwide



“Pack the Pews”

Pack the Pews is a great way to come together as a faith organization during the Meeker Area Food Shelf’s Annual March Campaign and collect food for those facing food insecurity. This year, we have created a Needs List of our most needed items for your convenience. This also helps to meet the needs of those needing our services.

This list includes:

- ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner, Laundry Soap, Hand Soap/Bar Soap, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Deodorant (Men & Women) Feminine Hygiene Products, Combs, Brushes, Lotions, Toilet Paper/Paper Towels

Here is a list of items that are always needed:

- ⇒ Soups, crackers, oatmeal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat, granola bars, cereals, spaghetti sauce, rice, noodles, spices, condiments.
- *Healthy options are highly recommended.
- ⇒ Monetary donations allow us to purchase food at a discounted rate through our food bank.

Thank you for your Support



Pack the Pews

Hygiene/ Household Items

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Laundry Soap
- Hand Soap/ Bar Soap
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Deodorant (Men & Women)
- Tampons
- Combs/Brushes/Lotions
- Toilet Paper/ Paper Towels

Pack the Pews is a great way to come together as a faith organization during the Meeker Area Food Shelf’s Annual March Campaign and collect food for those facing food insecurity. This year, we have created a Needs List of our most needed items for your convenience. This also helps to meet the needs of those needing our services.

Always Needed Items:

Soups, crackers, oatmeal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat, granola bars, cereals, cooking oil, sugar, spaghetti sauce, rice, noodles, spices, condiments.

** Healthy options are highly recommended.*

Meeker Area Food Shelf	Dassel Area Food Shelf
118 North Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355 (320) 693-7661	531 Atlantic Ave. W. Dassel, MN 55325 (320) 275-0124
Hours: M: 11am-6pm W, Th, F: 10am-3pm	Hours: T: 10am-3pm Th: 3-6pm

Website: www.meekercountyfood.org
Email: needfood@hutchtel.net

Our Mission:

The Meeker County Emergency Food Shelf is a non-profit venture of community partners working to provide access to healthy food for those facing food insecurity.

The Meeker Area Food Shelf and Dassel Area Food Shelf serve all of Meeker County. We provide 400-550 individuals with a 3-5 day supply of food each month.

Donate online easily at:
www.givemn.org
Search: Meeker Area Food Shelf

**Monetary donations allow us to purchase food at a discounted rate through our food bank.*

Thank you for your support!

March 2023 Calendar

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 South Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 320-693-2487			1 11:00 a.m. 150 th Committee Mtg. Conference Room 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. **6:00 p.m. NO Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Students, & Mentors Meeting 7:00 p.m. Rescheduled Ash Wednesday Worship Service w/ Communion, Distribution of Ashes	2 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	3	4 9:00 a.m. Baby Shower hosted by Dana Ratlike
5 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service With Communion & Baptism, Emersyn Lease 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. 1st Communion Class 1:00 p.m. Grief Support Gathering	6	7 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. Worship@ M.M. 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	8 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle	9 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	10 9:30 a.m. Christian Women's Mtg.	11 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal **Date Change** 5:00 p.m. Movie Night, Holy Word Theater
12 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 10:00 a.m. 1st Communion Class	13	14 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	15 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship	16 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 1:00 p.m. LAMA Meeting 1:30 p.m. WELCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	17 5:00 p.m. Set up for Pine Derby in Chilstrom Hall	18 8:00 a.m. Cub Scouts Pine Derby Chilstrom Hall
19 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio 150 th Anniversary Event: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, with Communion, Bishop Dee Pederson preaching 10:00 a.m. Swedish Breakfast served in Chilstrom Hall 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 1:00 p.m. Grief Support Gathering 3:00 p.m. Council Retreat, Pastor Tom's Home	20 9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle	21 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	22 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship	23 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Ecumen Worship 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	24	25 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
26 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	27	28 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	29 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship	30 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	31	

Serving Group & Birthdays

MARCH 2023 SERVING
Chairs:
Karla Kadelbach
Ila Rueckert
Geri Follett
Keith & Juliann Fredrickson
Tom & Beth Fruetel
Nick & Tracy Gabrielson
Sandra Gabrielson
Todd & Jessicah Gabrielson

Paul & Char Garrison
Dennis & Renee Gartner
Joe & Lisa Gaulrapp
Jason & Esmerelda Giang
Debra Gilberts
Robert & Sally Gilberts
Donna Gilsrud
Harvey Graff
Randy & Pam Groskreutz
Ray & Darlene Groskreutz
Heather Burdick-Grotto
Von & Kris Grotto

March Ushers 9:00 a.m.
Dennis Gartner - C
Paul Garrison
Winton Nelson
Jason Oslund
Chad Zeppelin
Larry Radunz
Gary Pierce
Tim Pierce
John Streed

March



Laurie Pierce
693-2681
Laurie Koehn
693-3604



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 1

MARCH 2

Joel Haas
Richard Nistler

MARCH 3

Christopher Breault
Noah Elam

Ava Provencher

Alixzander Rodriguez

MARCH 4

Jan Fawcett
Michael Johnson

MARCH 5

Bonnie Bohn
Joni Book
Fay Braseth
Brady Stille
Valda Thomas

MARCH 6

Dusti Berglund
Pastor Tom Evenson
Ashlin Hasson
Dan Johnson

Joel Ramthun

MARCH 7

Erika (Gartner) Schilla
McKenna Mahlow

MARCH 8

Jacob Gabrielson
Jorja Gabrielson
Jerry Johnson
Jim Lenhard
Brielle Moore

MARCH 9

Heidi Johnson
Jeanette Nelson
Oden Nelson
Javin Stucky

MARCH 10

Brenda Anderson
Lexi Cumings
Ezekiel Forster

Howard Koehn

Edna Oldenburg

MARCH 11

Ben Kranz
Sabrina Schreiber
Mathew Steichen

MARCH 12

Hal Huso
Sara Strolberg

MARCH 13

Miranda Michaletz
Tanna Stucky

MARCH 14

Justin Boop
Jason Michels
Olivia Rick
Karlie Snodgrass

MARCH 15

Nathan Nelson
Charlene Tancabel
Colleen Worden

MARCH 16

Judy Berglund
LillieAnna Giang
Jeremy Westphall
Jody Westphall

MARCH 17

MaryKay Hannan

Crystal Wilson

MARCH 18

Teri Alsleben
Megan Birch
Dakota Birch
Troy Hurd

MARCH 19

Lisa Bohn
Brandon DeWolf
Katherine Hantge
Ruth Massingham
Tracy Quale

Jon Silverberg

MARCH 20

Ella Eberling
Chuck Fenton
Taylor Manning
Deb Zeppelin

MARCH 21

Bradley DeWolf
Chris Madsen
Aubrey Ross

MARCH 22

Robert Farmer
Kirk Lundin
Maverick Miller

MARCH 23

Keith Evenson
Shirley Lekander

MARCH 24

Scott Hoff

MARCH 25

Beth Boyle
Erin Kleinschmidt

MARCH 26

Lillian Barrick
Nathean Andersen-Otto

Riley Defries

Avery Liestman

Luke Herzog

Beverly Nelson

MARCH 27

Jill Ramthun

James Rorah

MARCH 28

Audree Hanson
Kayla Hulterstrum

MARCH 29

Deborah Maurer

MARCH 30

Jacqueline Defries
Jesse Kleinschmidt
Daniel Piepenburg
Cindy Strolberg

MARCH 31

Allan Andreen
Dorothy Euerle
Nicholas Gabrielson
Gina Lokken
Sadie Ludowese
Laynee Pater

Senior Dining Menu

March 2023



LSS Meals | Traditional Older Adult Menu

Monday, March 6	Tuesday, March 7	Wednesday, March 8	Thursday, March 9	Friday, March 10
Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy	Tater Tot Casserole	Chicken Wild Rice Soup	Pulled Pork on Bun	Beef Lasagna
Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream	Green Beans	Broccoli Florets	Butternut Squash	Carrots
Peas and Carrots	Peaches	Pears	Romaine Salad w/ Dressing	Fruit Cocktail
Bread/ Margarine	Dinner Roll/ Margarine	Bread Stick	Pineapple Chunks	Garlic Bread Stick
Dessert	Bar	Jello	Cookie	Dessert
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, March 13	Tuesday, March 14	Wednesday, March 15	Thursday, March 16	Friday, March 17
Liver or Pepper Steak	Biscuits and Sausage Gravy	Ginger Citrus Chicken	Sloppy Joe on Bun	Smothered Pork Loin
Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream	Roasted Potatoes	Rice Pilaf	Potato Wedges	Boiled Potatoes and Cabbage
Stewed Tomatoes	Cinnamon Apple Slices	Peas and Carrots	Vegetarian Baked Beans	Carrots
Dinner Roll/ Margarine	Dessert	Peaches	Banana or Fresh Fruit	Dinner Roll/ Margarine
Dessert	Low Fat Milk	Bread/ Margarine	Cookie	Lime Jello w/ Whipped Topping
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, March 20	Tuesday, March 21	Wednesday, March 22	Thursday, March 23	Friday, March 24
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	Peas	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, March 27	Tuesday, March 28	Wednesday, March 29	Thursday, March 30	Friday, March 31
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

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.

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.

If you are interested in learning about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), please call 800.488.4146.

Menu is subject to change.

Approved by Donna Dunlap RD, LD
SNAP or EBT payment is accepted.

320-693-6203

WELCA MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2023

WELCA met on February 17, 2023, in Chilstrom Hall with Betty Allen calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Betty.

The December meeting was cancelled because of the weather. There was no meeting scheduled for January.

The secretary's report for November was approved as printed. Karen Eberhard gave the treasurer's report for December 14, 2022 and the end of the year report, December 31, 2022.

Also reported were the receipts and disbursements for the Lucia Breakfast. The Harvest Donation total was given. The report was approved and filed for audit.

Discussion took place on how to allocate the funds to various organizations from the Harvest Donations. A motion was made by Lana Johnson and seconded by Sue Lemmer to donate these specific amounts to the following groups from the Harvest Donations:

Meeker Co. Food Shelf	\$300
FLC (LifeLine)	300
Lutheran Social Services	200
Ecumen Hospice	300
Meeker Area Ministries	1000
Flowers of Mercy	<u>75</u>
	\$2175

A committee met and unpacked and washed the items that were ordered for the kitchen on Nov. 21. Several cups were broken in shipment. The company was notified and the new cups arrived in good condition.

Dates to Remember: February 21st – WELCA Birthday party at Ecumen.

Lana and Kris will serve the cupcakes.

Nicole Geffre will play the piano and lead songs.

March 16th — WELCA meeting at 1:30

March 22nd — WELCA serves Soup Supper

Thank you to Dianne Thorp and Betty Allen for serving the dessert and also to Betty for the devotions.

Next month servers will be Dee Bollin and Marilyn Swanson

The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting adjourned to roll bandages.

Respectively submitted,
Sue Lemmer, Secretary



Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA

Spring Gathering

Saturday - April 22, 2023

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

211 E. Atlantic Ave., Dassel, MN 55325

Registration begins at 8:00AM Brunch at 8:30AM

“Angel Dress Ministry”

Guest Speaker - Patty Hauer

Offering: 50% SW MN Synod Women of the ELCA

50% Dassel Summer Lunch Program

In Kind offering: Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

You may bring any kits, quilts and shipping cost contributions

Reservation: \$10 per person

Checks payable to Women of the ELCA

Please sign up in the FLC church office.



Easter Memorials 2023

Given by: _____

In memory and/or in honor of:

General Fund \$ _____

Roof-Top Unit \$ _____

A/C and Boiler Pay-down \$ _____

Please return your memorial and this form to the church office no later than:
Monday, April 3, 2023. Thank you!

MST – Cost Rica



March 2023: The MST – Cost Rica Trip is here!

Our team of SEVEN is getting excited and eagerly preparing for our mission trip March 25 – April 2. We will be departing from the FLC parking lot the afternoon of March 25th with a prayer. All welcome!

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Luke 10:2

Together, we made a goal of donating \$5000 for our service project while we are at the Roblealto Bible Home. We anticipate our work will be general maintenance and external painting – all the money we donate is used for materials needed while we are there. We are bringing fewer physical donations this time, as we have found that the travel is expensive and arriving at camp with numerous suitcases of donations is burdensome to the staff. Instead we will sponsor a farewell party with burgers or pizza, ice cream, and lots of laughter. We will also host a mommy craft for the ten foster moms, a fun morning of pampering: coffee and cake, a craft, a gift, and a blessing. We also bring a small gift for all of the children, in the past we have brought kazoos, holding crosses, and flashlights.

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.” – Mike Stachura

In addition to our service project, we will be spending quality time with the children of the Bible Home, experiencing the culture of Costa Rica, and we will hopefully re-visit the Los Guido Child Care Center! This project has been in the works for many years and implemented in a step-wise

fashion. Millions of dollars, prayers, love, manpower, oppositions, determination, needs, and relationships have been poured into this fourth childcare center associated with Roblealto.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

We would like to extend an ENORMOUS thank you to the support of the FLC congregation and other team members’ congregations for your prayers and financial support! As we move through this month with last minute preparations, we ask for your continued prayers for good health, safety, preparing our hearts for change, and the children/employees of Los Guido and the Roblealto Organization. We are excited to come back and report how we helped the Roblealto Organization and how the children of Roblealto changed us!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:15-17

Sincerely,

Tim & Evan Matheson, Ann Tiffany, Katie Hultstrum, Janet Lange, Jamie Inselmann, & Kris Cervin

For more information: FB Roblealto Association (Picture Albums: Construction of the Los Guido Child Care Center and Back to School 2017) or www.roblealto.org

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A 1 D	F 2 H I	K 3 M N	O 4 S T	U 5 W V Y
----------	------------	------------	------------	--------------

W

5 1	3 5	4 4
-----	-----	-----

4 1	3 3	4 4	2 4	1 1
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

1 3	1 1	3 2	4 4	1 1	3 3
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

“

2 4	4 4	2 4	1 1
-----	-----	-----	-----

1 1	4 4	2 3	3 3	1 3	1 1
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3 3	4 4	5 5	4 2	1 1	4 4
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

”

2 2	1 3	2 4	1 1
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Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2022?

- facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief
- instagram.com/luthworldrelief
- twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief
- youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief



462,262
QUILTS & KITS
IN 19 COUNTRIES

- 220,317** QUILTS
- 1,650** BLANKETS
- 94,060** PERSONAL CARE KITS
- 90,860** SCHOOL KITS
- 46,560** BABY CARE KITS
- 8,815** FABRIC KITS
- 31,950** FACE MASKS

COUNTRY	SHIPPING WAREHOUSE	QUILTS	BLANKETS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS	MASKS
ANGOLA	Maryland	18,480			9,890	4,950	1,230	
ARMENIA	Maryland	12,375					1,230	
BURKINA FASO	Minnesota	14,760		4,480	9,100	4,480	4,100	4,400
DIJIBOUTI	Minnesota	10,080		15,360				
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Minnesota			15,360				
GEORGIA	Maryland	36,960						
GUATEMALA	Minnesota	7,200			21,700	7,200		
HAITI	Minnesota	8,640			2,800			
JORDAN	Maryland	7,260		5,500				
LEBANON	Maryland	15,180		8,000	6,900	4,200	1,230	
MALI	Maryland	22,440		5,000	4,830	3,150	205	6,250
NIGER	Minnesota	11,160		5,760		3,840		4,400
PERU	Minnesota	15,840			7,000			
POLAND	Maryland	11,520		2,500	7,360	3,480		
SIERRA LEONE	Minnesota	10,800			7,000	3,840		4,400
SOUTH SUDAN	Maryland	3,630	1,650	13,000	3,220	2,100	820	6,250
SYRIA	Maryland			6,500	5,908			
TANZANIA	Minnesota	7,920		6,400		6,080		
UKRAINE	Maryland	6,072		3,000	8,280	3,240		6,250
TOTAL		220,317	1,650	90,860	94,060	46,560	8,815	31,950

This shipping information is from LWR's 2022 fiscal year (Oct 2021 - Sept 2022).

Lutheran Disaster Response

SITUATION REPORT

TÜRKIYE & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

SITUATION

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Türkiye, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Türkiye and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 41,000 people have been killed, with the count expected to continue rising drastically.



Photo: GOPA-DERD

Photo: GOPA-DERD

RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is contributing to ACT Alliance to address the devastation from the earthquakes. There are several ACT Alliance members already active in the region that are providing immediate aid. These organizations are supplying blankets, mattresses, hot meals and hygiene kits to earthquake survivors. As needs are assessed, the organizations will establish further actions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray

Let us pray for the people in Türkiye and Syria who have been affected by the earthquakes. May God's healing presence give them comfort and hope in their time of need.

Give

Contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response (Middle East Crisis).

Connect:

Share our posts on your social media sites and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



If you would like to donate, please send a check to First Lutheran Church. We will send funds to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you!

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

Some history...

1919: This was the beginning year of the Women’s Missionary Society initiated by Mrs. J. E. Linner. This group was interested in the work of foreign and home missions. They supported mission work in China, India and Africa. Their home mission work included Inner Missions, Institutions of Mercy and Migrant to include Mexican, Jewish, Indian and African American citizens. This group sewed quilts and clothing, collected clothing and other articles and financial support to the mission fields and parish and conference homes. They also conducted a number of prayer events in the parish.

1949: Pastor A. H. Franzen conducted his final worship service on September 25 after serving the parish for 20 years. At this time, the baptized membership had reached 741. The building fund had a balance of \$25,000. He died on February 22, 1954. Along with his wife, he is buried in Lake Ripley Cemetery.

1954: The congregation voted to purchase the present site, 703 South Sibley, at a cost of \$11,000, to build a new church. Total cost for the new church was approximately \$300,000.

1958: Herbert Chilstrom, baptized at Beckville Lutheran Church, confirmed at First Lutheran Church, was ordained into the ministry on June 22, 1958

1958: A Service of Thanksgiving was held at the old church on October 26. In the middle of the service the congregation exited the building and marched down Sibley to the new church. The Service of Thanksgiving was then completed in the sanctuary of the new church building.

1962: The United Lutheran Church of America, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Swedish Augustana Synod merged to form the Lutheran Church in America. Dr. Chilstrom served as bishop of the Minnesota Synod for the years of 1976-1987.

1966: Our congregation membership reached 828 confirmed and 333 youth. This was the beginning of the internship program here at First. Intern John Schroepel began in September. Our second intern was Bruce Robinson.

1970: Pastor Trued initiated the Mission Study Trip (MST).

1971: The Lutheran Church of America recommended the separating of First Communion from Confirmation.

Einar Lundin



Einar was born in 1927 in the upstairs bedroom, directly above the kitchen, of his childhood home. Einar has never lived anywhere else. He grew up with two brothers, John and Carl and one sister, Janet. His grandparents immigrated from the southern part of Sweden arriving in Meeker County, with one son. Later they had four daughters (one of them is Einar's Mom, Myrtle). His great Uncle and great Aunt also immigrated at that time. His grandparents lived in town while his great Uncle and Aunt had a seven-year lease on a farm SE of Litchfield. His Uncle grew tired of farming so Einar's grandparents took over the lease. In 1917 they moved to the current farm and this has been in the family ever since. The farm site had a barn, many out buildings and a shed for the well. There was a large hill east of all the building so the original house sat to the north. Later, they scrapped the hill off and built the house of today, so they would be closer to the barn. At this time, they had a water pipe installed from the well to the new house. The house had cisterns and two tanks in the basement. Somehow this water was pumped into the kitchen. They used a wood range which also had a water tank on the front for hot water.

At a young age (7-10), Einar drove the horses and wagon from the field. His Mom and Grandmother would drive the wagon of hay into the barn with three slings attached to lift the hay into the barn, emptying and repeating. As most farms during the early 1900s they had horses, pigs, chickens and dairy cows. Einar milked by hand. The family sold cream. They created a large pile of straw, which was used as bedding but they would dig out a hole/cave in the straw where the pigs would stay for the winter.

They had a gas engine in the barn to help with the milking stuff. On this engine was a tank for heating water (hot water for cleaning the milking equipment). Einar said they changed the hard screw (?) to a wood plug so they could easily get access to the hot water. Electricity was on the way but Einar's Grandmother said no.... we can get by. They used kerosene lanterns that would blow out in the wind. At some point, his Grandmother bought a windmill from John Deere.

Side note: at the age of 8, Einar rode in a Model T. His Great Aunt was to sail on the Titanic but she became sick and did not board. Things were beginning to change from wood to iron.

Einar attended the Carlson school for seven years. (It may be the schoolhouse south of their home, but you will have to ask him!) His aunt and uncle lived near Darwin and they had three girls. Einar and family would visit often... the neighbor girl would come down to play with the three girls. And that was the first meetings with Delores Johnson, Einar's future bride.

Einar's Dad, Albin, came from Sweden and landed in St Paul doing construction. Albin was in WW I. He was a hired hand then rented the farm from Einar's Grandmother. Albin is a charter member of VFW. Einar's parents shared hauling with two other farmers (co-op!) and they took turns hauling the milk to town. Einar worked on the farm. He joined the National Guard in 1947, and attended training once a week on a Thursday. As a guard, he was called to help with the So St Paul meat packing strike.

Einar is a lifetime member of First Lutheran Church. His family attended the first church built in Litchfield, South Park location. (note: some called this park "Swede Park".) He was baptized, confirmed and married at First Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Luther League. They would roller skate at the opera house, 35 cents for skate rental and skating. They would all change up partners to skate with and here Einar and Delores socialized together. Einar and Delores were married in 1950. To this marriage, came three children; Harold, Elaine and Judy. All three baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Church and both girls married here. Harold lives near Beckville Church and Elaine is on the homestead. Einar did his share of volunteering at church, as a council member he was part of the group that hired, Bea, as organist. Einar, 95 years later, is still faithfully worshipping at First Lutheran Church. The Lord has blessed him with a long life and we are grateful that he has been part of our history.

Submitted by Karla Hyberger, 150th Anniversary Committee



The Reverend Linda L. Marlett

Trinity Lutheran Parish
50506 Main Street
Osseo, WI 54758

715-597-2290

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Thank you for thinking of me as a source for former clergy leadership regarding your amazing plan to "honor our past and present, imagine our future, and implement agreed upon goals to live out our vision in the Name of Jesus." Wow...I love the creativity and possibilities your group is using as a springboard to opportunity! Powerful. My prayer for you is that you will indeed look to the Source of all Good, and build the Kingdom of God in new ways...right there.

My story:

As a seminarian at Luther Seminary, I had the opportunity in February 2006 to interview with Pastor David Sorenson. Frankly, I had so hoped to go to a warm, exotic location or somewhere like New York for internship. So, while driving out in winter weather to meet Pastor Dave for a regular wintery call, I was not exactly excited about the prospects. (You said to be honest!) However, during the interview, it became clear that First Lutheran of Litchfield, was indeed where God was calling me. I believed that Pastor Dave was the exact mentor I needed to embark on the journey to be a pastor.

I was not disappointed...and First Lutheran's Council, my internship team, and many of the dear, dear congregation, took me in and helped me become!

I needed real input that was not abrasive, but real people listening to my sermons and wanting me to do better. I will forever be grateful to my internship team...they helped me and still, to this day, in ministry, some of their words ring in my ears when I am preaching! (Usually that is reserved for seminary professors!)

The Councils I worked with at First Lutheran were dream teams. I remember back 5+ years ago when I went to my first council meeting as part of this call... I looked back longingly to those people and those meetings and prayed God would once again bless me to be part of teams like that!

My project was to begin Strategic Prayer before the morning services began. The Committees and the Councils embraced it as I visited their meetings to collect prayer requests. Their help made that project exciting work instead of the drudgery of just handing in more papers. I enjoyed seeing the Council's prayer requests as published in your newsletter when I went back to Seminary.

I also enjoyed working with WELCA, the bible Studies, confirmation, and visiting the hospitalized and homebound, working with the Youth projects, and everything and everyone else I worked with.

And then there are the wonderful individual congregants. It was very difficult to leave you, and even more difficult to have the assignment that I could not remain in touch with you. That was hard. However, that is the ELCA's wise policy and so, internship at First Lutheran brought me to that important lesson as well, and for that, I am grateful.

Yes, I am sure there were other problems, after all it was real life and none of us are perfect. So, I don't remember them.

As before, I think of 1st Lutheran's wonderful people, and I pray God's richest blessings to each of you, may He always hold you in His heart.

Pastor Linda Marlett

The Reverend Linda L. Marlett



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 Oldenburg, and 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: Giving Cross/Lutheran World Relief Kits



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!!

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: Edna Oldenburg



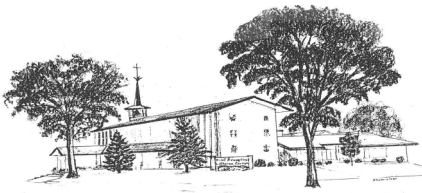
Family Fare Receipts - the Direct Your Dollars program through Family Fare will end as of March 1, 2023.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this project and has turned in receipts over the years. It was truly appreciated!!

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

WELCA MEETING
Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:30 p.m.
All are welcome!

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 March 15th
For the NEXT ISSUE: April 2023



FIRST NEWS

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

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Or Follow us on Youtube!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



YOUR STORY MATTERS

Please join us for a
150th Anniversary Celebration Event

Sunday
March 19, 2023

Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Dee Pederson, Bishop - SW
MN Synod ELCA preaching

Swedish Breakfast served at
10:00 a.m.