

FIRST NEWS

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

APRIL 2023

April 2023 Time with Tom

The days of Easter are full upon us. We have been watching Jesus mission to Jerusalem for the last weeks leading up to the passion. We hear him calling us into the ministry of sharing the Good News of God's grace. Do we know what that means exactly? Sharing the Good News of the creator God's only Son who died for you and me, gives us life. Just the sharing of this story, brings light into a dark world. Jesus tells the disciple what they need to know and they have a difficult time understanding it all. We read from Luke 24, while in the upper room with the disciples, ⁴⁴*Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."* ⁴⁵*Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,* ⁴⁶*and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,* ⁴⁷*and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* ⁴⁸*You are witnesses of these things".*

We have heard the story and as baptized members of God's church, we are called to be sent into the world as witnesses of the same good news. It sounds like bad news, Jesus dies; but it is Good News because of God's love for creation, we may live. This happy exchange was devised by God to show grace to those who hear the Word (Jesus is the Word of God) and believe. Our role as Christ followers is to tell the story of Jesus life, death and resurrection to all nations. We are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind and all our strength. We are also called to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus said all the laws and prophets hang on these two commandments.

As we move into these days of the Easter Season, I ask you to carry the words of Jesus with you in all your conversations and activities. Knowing Jesus walks with us as we work and play can be comforting. Understand that God goes before us, the Spirit of God paves a way for us to meet with those who God wants to know the love God has for all people. We bring that Good News knowing Jesus will give us the words to say and the ones receiving this Good News will be ready to receive from us all that God tells us to bring. Trust in the truth of Jesus Christ and live in the light and life of the Word of God who dwells in us. Jesus is the Word and the light and the truth and the life that brings us everlasting life with God the father and all the saints that have gone before us. That is Good News for all people. This is the Easter Season, go and tell the story. 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
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
Mattie Baumgartner

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
Mattie Baumgartner

Worship & Music:

Gordon Burdick
Meredith Elj
Mike Langmo

Personnel:

Corey Cervin

MST:

Karla Kadelbach
Amy Nelson
Joe Berube

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Council Minutes
Sunday, March 19th 2023

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, Mattie Baumgartner

*All members present except for Chuck Fenton.

*Additions to the agenda: None

~Meeting was held in conjunction with the Council Retreat.

*Devotions: (Council Retreat)

*Secretary report was approved after a correction to the date for the last day of Sunday school was made.

*Treasurer report was approved.

***Pastor Tom reported:

~MST International / Braga Portugal group will be serving a French Toast breakfast on Easter Sunday from 7:30 to noon.

~The Grief support group has added another meeting time to their schedule. They are now meeting twice a month. The support group has been promoted to other churches in the community and the attendance has grown. Thank you to those who have helped to make this mission a success.

~The call committee awaits more candidates to be brought forth from the Synod.

~Outgoing Council member debriefings have not been completed. Hopefully they can be completed by the next council meeting.

~The 8:30 AM radio spot on KLFD may be changing. In the interest of keeping a consistent opportunity for the listeners, Pastor Tom is researching the possibility of the Co-op securing this time slot for broadcasting a weekly service.

***Team Reports:

*Christian Education:

~The team will provide a breakfast for the Sunday School kids on Palm Sunday during the Sunday School hour. They will also do a craft project during this time.

~The Good Friday service will be partially led by our youth.

~The last day of Sunday School will be on April 30th.

~It has been decided that the team will not be working with Green Lake Bible Camp for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. They will create the VBS program as a team. The dates for VBS will be June 5th, 6th & 7th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. They plan to center the program around the 150th anniversary of First Lutheran Church.

*Church Property:

~Tables for Chilstrom Hall will be ordered per previous discussion.

~The water softener was again discussed. It was decided that the custodians will monitor the salt level instead of working with Finken Water.

~Unused floor maintenance machines stored in the utility room will be removed. They will be donated to another church or someone else in need, or properly disposed of. New machines were purchased a few years ago and the old ones are taking up valuable space.

~It has been brought to the team’s attention that the roof drains on the flat roof area are possibly not draining properly. This issue will be researched in the spring after the snow is off the roof.

~Lighting in the Sanctuary was discussed. It was decided that the lights would be changed individually to LED style fixtures whenever maintenance is required.

Continued on pg. 3...

Church Council

~Tentative schedule to replace the rooftop heating and cooling units will be in June. One of the options for Easter Memorial donations is the replacement of the roof top units.

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

*Endowment:

~The team decided to donate \$500.00 to a Turkey Earthquake relief fund.

*Worship & Music:

(Worship & Music Old Business)

~Microphone clips have been ordered.

~Confirmed that they are doing the “Cry of the Congregation” for the Palm Sunday service. There will also be a Baptism during this service.

(Worship & Music New Business)

~Job descriptions and Team descriptions were discussed. The team members will review and follow up at the next meeting.

~KLFD Radio spots for broadcasts were discussed.

~Maundy Thursday service 7:00 PM

~Good Friday service 7:00 PM

~Easter Sunday morning service schedule:

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

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

*150th Anniversary:

~The visit from Bishop Dee Pederson on Sunday March 19th was well attended.

*Council Old Business:

~An update from the call committee was briefly discussed.

*Council New Business:

~KLFD Radio spot for Co-op services was discussed. The 8:30 radio spot would cost \$60.00 per week. Pastor Tom is discussing this with the other Co-op members and will report back to the council.

~A brief discussion regarding the need for more team members took place. Members of the congregation may be asked to join a team in the future.

~Nominations for Council Officers was requested by current President Corey Cervin. Discussion took place regarding acting officers retaining their positions. The current officers all agreed to retain their positions if no other Council members had an interest or an objection. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made and seconded, the motion passed.

~Officers are: Corey Cervin, President / Karla Kadelbach, Vice President / Andy Miller, Treasurer / Dennis Gartner, Secretary.

*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

*Maundy Thursday Service April 6th at 7:00 PM

*Good Friday Service April 7th at 7:00 PM

*Easter Sunday Services April 9th at 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*Executive Team meeting Tuesday April 4th at 6:30 PM

*Team meetings Tuesday April 4th at 7:00 PM

*Council meeting Tuesday April 18th at 7:00 PM

Submitted as un-approved minutes by Dennis Gartner



Finance

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Feb. 2023: \$24,213
Expenses for the month of Feb. 2023: \$40,413

Year to Date:

Income as of February 2023: \$115,789
Expenses as of February 2023: \$87,474



FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Judy K. Quale
March 17, 2023

Please keep her friends and family in your prayers.



Baptized: Sunday, March 5, 2023

Emersyn Peyton Lease

Parents: Matthew and Jordyn Lease

Sponsors: Elle Geislinger, Mariah Lease



Our First Communion class has been busy with making their chalices and learning about the sacrament of Communion.

Coming up....

- Thursday, April 13th (6:30 PM); Making First Communion Bread and Final class with parents in Chilstrom Hall, including rehearsal, pictures and preparation.
- Sunday April 16th at 9:00AM;
First Communion - during worship

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said. "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"
NRSV

MST USA - 2024

MST-USA 2023 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.

Thank you for your support of MST-USA!

⇒ **MST-USA 2023 trip PARENT and YOUTH** meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 pm in Chilstrom Hall. We will be discussing final fundraising opportunities, trip details and permission forms with YouthWorks. Please plan to attend!

MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS

Gifts were given to the General fund in memory of Jim Lange by Duane and Darlene Henkelman, Alan and Laurie Boll, Stanley and Sylvia Kittelson, Valda Thomas, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, David and Valerie Johnson, John and Shirley Lekander, Lorraine Bipes, Mike and Kris Nelson, Sheldon and Diana Erickson, Gary and Lori Larson, David and Darlene Meidal, and Chuck and Karen Eberhard.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of Martin “Pete” Oldenburg by VFW Post 2818.

Gifts were given to the General fund in memory of Anna Mae Wigen, Darlene Lundin’s sister, by David and Darlene Meidal, and Chuck and Karen Eberhard.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of Ricky Maurer by Gary Smith.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of Phyllis Piepenburg, Faye Kjolsing’s sister, by Dianne Thorp.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of Judy Quale by Karla Kadelbach.

A gift was given to the General fund in memory of John Lemmer, Paul and Sue Lemmer’s brother, by Kirk and Dorothy Lundin.

A gift was given to the Chilstrom Hall Roof Top unit fund in memory of John Lemmer by Paul and Sue Lemmer.

A gift was given to the Men’s Group to use towards Camper’s Scholarships in memory of Jim Lange by Janet Lange.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers for my surgery and for my recovery. Bob Gilberts

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

A Special Thank You to the March Serving Group. We appreciate all your help! Karla Kadelbach and Ila Rueckert

Thank you, The members of First Lutheran Men’s Bible Study Group - Jim loved the Men’s Bible Study Group and looked forward to being part of the fellowship on Saturday mornings. He felt accepted and the fellowship of you guys filled a need in Jim. When he came home from study, we sat down and he went over the lesson with me - giving it double duty. Thank you all for being a part of his life. Janet



Lutheran Men In Mission

Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Gloria Dei Church

Redwood Falls

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with Coffee, Juice and Rolls

The day will included: Bible Study, Business Meeting, Lunch, Breakout Sessions and
Worship with Communion

Featured Speaker:

“Faith, Trust in God”

Pastor Troy Pflibsen,

SW MN Synod Director for Evangelical Mission

Each man is asked to bring two Bible verses with the word “Faith” to the session.

Come and join the discussion on Faith.

If you are planning to attend please sign up in the FLC church office by Mon. April 10th.

Mission

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Johannesburg, South Africa.

Earlier this month, pastors and lay delegates of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (IELM) gathered in the capital city Maputo for the church's general assembly.

Some of the delegates from the northern part of the country travelled for two days over 2000km on public transportation to attend the meeting.

The theme chosen for the assembly was based on Nehemiah 2: 17-18 which focuses on Nehemiah's call to the returning exiles to work together to rebuild the temple and the broken walls of Jerusalem.



Delegates received reports and reflected on the challenges facing the church in Mozambique including financial sustainability, the effects of COVID-19, climate change, the ongoing insurgency in the north and a struggling economy.

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe Bishop K. Sibanda, Rev. L. Kasper (Executive Director of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), the General Secretary of the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) and I (representing the ELCA) were asked to assist with the process of the election of the bishop, general secretary, assembly president and church council.

Rev. S. Matsimbe (Dean of the Southern District) was elected to succeed Bishop Sinalo whose term had ended. The consecration of the bishop-elect and installation of the new officers is set to take place later in May.

The ELCA and other partners continue to seek ways to accompany the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique through mission outreach and support for diakonia and disaster response projects.

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
February 20, 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](https://www.elca.org/MissionaryGiving) for online giving.



APRIL

April Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 2, 2023 *Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Thursday, April 6, 2023 *Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion

Friday, April 7, 2023 *Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, April 9, 2023 *Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service w/comm.
 *7:30 - Noon MST-2024 French Toast Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. - Chapel

Sunday, April 16, 2023 *First Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. - Chapel

Sunday, April 23, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

6:00 p.m. Confirmation *Last one
 6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. - Chapel

Sunday, April 30, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion— Youth Lead
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School *Last one



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.
 April 9 MST-2024 Easter Breakfast served 7:30 a.m. – Noon

Preparation for worship

[Palm/Passion Sunday] We praise you, Jesus Messiah! Keep us faithful as we follow you, even to the cross.

[Maundy Thursday] What's the modern-day equivalent of foot-washing? Jesus, help me serve others humbly and lovingly, following your example.

[Good Friday] "Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb. There, adoring at his feet, mark the miracle of time: God's own sacrifice complete."

[Easter] Jesus, you meet me today and every day, as you met Mary outside the empty tomb. Call my name, so I will know for sure that it's you.

Jesus, my faith, like that of Thomas, is always tinged with some doubt. Thank you for blessing me anyway with your love and acceptance.

As you walk with me through life, Jesus, help me recognize you and invite you to stay.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, as you lead, help me know your voice better each day and eagerly follow you.

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, April 15, 2023
 5:00 p.m.
 Holy Word Theater, FLC
 Movie: TBD....
 Please join us for a good movie
 and popcorn.

Senior Dining Menu

Monday, April 3	Tuesday, April 4	Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, April 6	Friday, April 7
Parmesan Chicken	Creamy Swedish Meatballs	Turkey Noodle Casserole	Roast Beef w/Gravy	Lemon Pepper Fish
Green Beans	Mashed Potatoes	Broccoli Florets	Baked Potato w/Sour Cream	Scalloped Potatoes
Fruit Cocktail	Carrots	Cinnamon Baked Apple Slices	Corn	Mixed Green Salad w/Dressing
Bread Stick	Bread/Margarine	Dinner Roll/Margarine	Peaches	Dinner Roll/Margarine
Dessert	Pudding	Cookie	Bread/Margarine	Banana or Fresh Fruit
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, April 10	Tuesday, April 11	Wednesday, April 12	Thursday, April 13	Friday, April 14
Salisbury Steak w/Gravy	Tater Tot Casserole	Chicken Wild Rice Soup	Pulled Pork on Bun	Turkey Alfredo w/Pasta
Baked Potato w/Sour Cream	Green Beans	Broccoli Florets	Butternut Squash	Carrots
Peas and Carrots	Peaches	Fruit Cocktail	Romaine Salad w/Dressing	Pears
Bread/Margarine	Dinner Roll/Margarine	Bread Stick	Pineapple Chunks	Garlic Bread Stick
Tropical Fruit	Bar	Jello	Cookie	Dessert
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, April 17	Tuesday, April 18	Wednesday, April 19	Thursday, April 20	Friday, April 21
Pizza Casserole	Biscuit w/Sausage Gravy	Tenyaki Chicken	Sloppy Joe on Bun	Baked Fish
Green Beans	Roasted Potatoes	Brown Rice	Potato Wedges	Macaroni and Cheese
Applesauce	Cinnamon Apple Slices	Peaches	Vegetarian Baked Beans	California Normandy Veg
Garlic Bread Stick	Dessert	Romaine Salad w/Dressing	Banana or Fresh Fruit	Pears
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Bar	Cookie	Jello w/Whipped Topping
		Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk
Monday, April 24	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27	Friday, April 28
Ginger Citrus Chicken	Meatloaf	Pasta in Meat Sauce	Roast Turkey w/Gravy	Chicken ala King
Rice Pilaf	Baked Potato w/Sour Cream	Romaine Salad w/Dressing	Mashed Potatoes	Brown Rice
Peas and Carrots	Pears	Pineapple Chunks	California Normandy Veg	Broccoli Cuts
Peaches	Bread/Margarine	Bread Stick	Bread/Margarine	Fruit Cocktail
Bread/Margarine	Bar	Dessert	Banana or Fresh Fruit	Cookie
Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk	Low Fat Milk

April 2023

LSS Meals | Traditional Older Adult Menu



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

April 2023 Calendar

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service with Communion, & Baptism, Leo Tyler Larson 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting *MST – Costa Rica Trip returns		4 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilistrom 8:30 a.m. BREW – FB Live 2:00 p.m. Quilters 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	5 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.	6 Maundy Thursday 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio No Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Worship with Comm.	7 Good Friday 10:00 a.m. L.A.M.A. Worship Service, Ecumen Chapel 7:00 p.m. Worship	8 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
9 Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Serv. w/comm 7:30 - 12 p.m. MST Breakfast 8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP on KLFD 9:00 a.m. Trad. Worship w/Comm No Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship w/comm	10	11 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilistrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	12 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle 7:30 p.m. MST-USA 2023 Trip Parent and Youth Meeting, Chilistrom Hall	13 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 6:30 p.m. First Communion Class with Parents and Students, Photos and rehearsal	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Women's Mtg.	15 8:30 a.m. Lutheran Men in Mission, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls. 5:00 p.m. Movie Night, Holy Word Theater
16 First Communion Sunday 8:30 a.m. ELCCoop/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with First Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 1:00 p.m. Grief Support 3:00 p.m. Holy Word Theater, Movie: Passion of the Christ	17 9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle	18 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilistrom 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	19 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel	20 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFD Radio 1:00 p.m. L.A.M.A. Meeting 1:30 p.m. WELCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	21	22 8:00 a.m. WELCA Spring Gathering, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
23 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion, & Baptism, Parker DeWolf 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	24	25 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilistrom 8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel	26 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel	27 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	28	29

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
703 South Sibley Ave.
Litchfield, MN
320-693-2487

30 Last Day of Sunday School
8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio
9:00 a.m. Youth Lead Worship Service with Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
1:00 p.m. Grief Support

Serving Group & Birthdays

APRIL 2023 SERVING GROUP	Richard & Carol Heath
Chairs:	Pamela Heffern
Jerry & Lana Johnson	Marge Hellzen
Mark & Judy Hulterstrum	Abby Hemingway
Sandra Gruenke	Mike & Polly Hemingway
Shelly Guggemos	Duane & Darlene Henkelman
Christina Guza	Marlene Herzog
Joel & Christina Haas	Millard "Buck" & Jane Hickman
Bill & Mary Kay Hannan	Warren & Sandra Hickman
Dennis & LeeAnn Hanson	Cindy Hill
Everett & Katherine Hantge	Scott and Theresa Hoff
Alice Harding	Heidi Hoekstra & Casey Miller

April Ushers 9:00 a.m.

Darin Mahlow - C
Ralph Elj
Eric Hulterstrum
Mike Doty
Ben Kranz
Will Dolan
Joe Gaulrapp
Dave Schwartz
John Spanos

April



Robin Johnson
693-7197



APRIL 1

Trina Driver
Scott Nelson
Julie Spanos

APRIL 2

Courtney Anderson-Kuhnau

APRIL 3

Isabella Forster
Michelle Guggemos
Darlene Lundin

APRIL 4

Alex Breault
Daniel Johnson

APRIL 5

Brett Alsleben
Hayden Guza
Stephen Koehn
Judy Mahlow
Sara Jo Pollock
Jason Stucky

APRIL 6

Debra Langmo
Linda Larson
Ramona Lohse

APRIL 7

Donna Forster
Lois Volinkaty

APRIL 8

Judith Kramer
Otto Kraushaar
Bodhi Kraushaar
Jailyn Mickelson

APRIL 9

Jeanette Erickson
Priscilla Lee
Renee Mahlow
Tyson Michels

APRIL 10

Justin Benson
Zach Schmidt
Ali LaVine
Randy Groskreutz
Antonio Weitz

APRIL 11

Alison Radunz
Sarah Kuechle

APRIL 12

Conner Gabrielson

APRIL 13

Nicholas Sandry

APRIL 14

Joanna Bailey
Emma Defries
Charles DeWolf

APRIL 15

Zachary Nelson
Donovan Slinden III
Beau Snodgrass
Wyatt White

APRIL 16

Bradley Nelson
Carol Nelson
Asjha Quade
Susan Smart

APRIL 17

Grant Dengerud
Kyle DeWolf
Rebecca Farmer
Darron Judes

APRIL 18

Brandon Findley
Marge Hellzen

APRIL 19

Tyson Anderson
Teresa Carlson
Kylie Guggemos
Darcy Schmitz

APRIL 20

Scot Anderson
Daniel Estrada
Steven Hickman
Brandon Nelson
John Spanos
Brittanny Wagner

APRIL 21

Trevon Grotto
Toni Kadelbach
Nicholas Konietzko

APRIL 22

Josh Fluck
Warren Hickman
Mariah Lease

APRIL 23

Quintin Berube
Jason Giang
Miranda Isaacson
Myrna Manson
Casandra Walberg

APRIL 24

Phyllis Ableidinger
Rick Sandry

APRIL 25

Dee Bollin
APRIL 26
Robert Blomberg
Drew Dengerud

APRIL 27

APRIL 28

Cale Alsleben
Kenneth Braseth
Brian Burdick

APRIL 29

Dawn Doty
Kristy Quast
John G Spanos
Danny Walker
APRIL 30
Patricia Hagen
Austin Kleinschmidt
Jared Laidlaw
Vernon Madson
Timothy Matheson



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

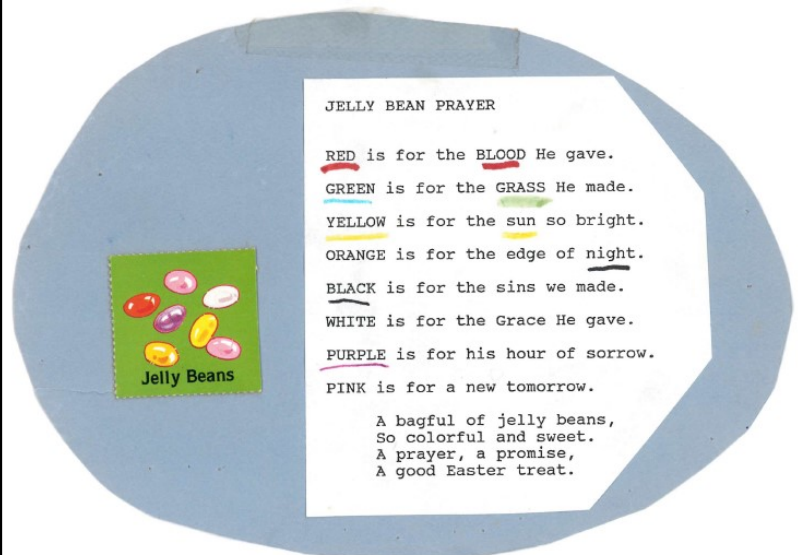
Reservation: \$10 per person

Checks payable to Women of the ELCA

Please sign up in the FLC church office.

Bit of Trivia about FLC *Answers will be in the May Newsletter*

1. How many FLC pastors who were born in Sweden are buried in the Ripley Cemetery?
2. What are their names?
3. What is the name of the pastor who died while serving the church?
4. What is the name of the pastor who started the Emmaus Home?
5. What is the name of the person who started the library?
6. What is Bishop Chilstrom's youngest brother's name?
7. What year was this church built?
8. What was our church first called?
9. How many sets of identical twins did we have?
10. What are their names?



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 Sunday
Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Tom Evenson preaching
Congregational Group Photo
following service
Formal catered congregational dinner

Some history...

1974: A substantial financial gift of \$66,261.00 was received from the Hilma Simonson estate on Feb 6th. Of this amount, \$26,433.00 was used to pay off the mortgage on the church. The remaining amount of \$39, 828.00 was used to create an Investment/Endowment Fund. Throughout the years, the interest earned has supported many causes with the church and our missions.

1981: Pastor Buendorf arrived on April 1st.

1982: A 70-member commission was appointed by the LCA, ALC and AELC to begin working out the details for a new national Lutheran church body.

1987: We are grateful for the many ways our members have helped to update and add to the necessary items of the church by memorializing their loved ones. New green paraments were purchased in memory of Evelyn Erickson, new blue paraments were purchased in memory of Harriet Norine and new white paraments were given in memory of Sidney Fredrickson.

1988: The new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially came into being. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, son of this congregation, was elected as the first presiding Bishop (reelected to a 2nd term in 1991). On January 3, a Celebrative Service of Praise with Dr Richard Jensen as our speaker was held at the Litchfield High School gymnasium. We had to become used to new names, new faces, new places, new ways of thing, new titles and new orientations.

1988: A three-octave set of hand bells were purchased in memory of Louis and Clara Ekbohm.

1990: The sanctuary was air conditioned.

1992: This was the beginning year of the First Stringers Music Group under the leadership of Marge Hellzen.

1994: First Lutheran became computerized.

1995: Matthew Goodrich, son of the congregation, was ordained during the morning worship service on July 30th. He is presently serving in his first call at Trinity Lutheran Church in Endicott Washington.

1997: Pastor Dan and Sandy Buendorf participated in a Lutheran World Relief study tour in India. They visited slum areas, drought-stricken areas, earthquake areas, villages, healthcare centers, mother Theresa's House of the Destitute, Home of the Dying and Orphanages. They presented their work to many communities, congregations and service clubs.

Save The Date.....

Our full catered 150th celebratory congregation dinner (at noon) will be held on Sunday, August 27th.

In order to plan and prepare properly we are asking for your response. We need close to an exact number so please consider thoughtfully who may be attending. We wanted to catch most of you in the next couple months before summer schedules take over.

Please RSVP with the sign up sheet in the Narthex or the church office. August 27th will also include our 150th Anniversary worship service, communion, a congregational picture and meal.

August 27, 2023
150th Anniversary Celebration
*Worship Service at 9 AM
*Group Photo
*Meal served at Noon



From Sunday, March 19, 2023 150th celebration - Worship with Bishop Dee Pederson, Swedish Breakfast was served, and the 150th Anniversary Committee



150th Anniversary

I am going to try my best to relate some of the events and stories of the 1950's

My father was pastor at First Lutheran from 1950-1961/1962?

I remember the old church and the large heating grate in the front of the church. John Erickson and I were acolytes ^{etc} when Sunday when he began to weave forth and back on his feet. He subsequently fainted on the floor and was taken back into the area behind the altar for help. Boy was I scared.

I remember the old organ in the old church which had a pump to put air into the bellows. The organ was in the balcony and played by Mrs. Leroy Gaynor.

I was in my father's first confirmation class. He combined two classes together so there were about 25-30 kids in the class. My father had us learn 60 Bible verses and we were to put them on recipe cards. One side had the verse written out and the other side had the location in the Bible where it was found. I still can remember many of the verses by heart. We were given a quiz in front of the congregation which was really very scary.

I remember the Sunday we march^{ed} down Sibley Ave to the new church building from the old building. We were all very proud that day.

My father J. Henry Bergren was a "builder." The first building he had built was the new parsonage at 724 S. Ramsey. It was great to live in and make our home there. My father's office was near the front door so that people could come and visit him without disturbing the rest of the family. My brother, James, and I had our room near the door that went over the breezeway. In the winter, we would jump off the garage that was attached to the breezeway into snow banks. Later on he would serenade the neighborhood with great trumpet music.

The next building that my father was influential in getting built^{In} was the new church building. You still worship there even after all these years. In some ways it was ahead of its time. A free standing altar! Each Sunday the adult choir would march up to the front of the nave and back to the balcony for the worship service. The choir was directed by Mrs Lowell Wilson. Our Sunday School was led by Mildred Oslund and we also had a great Junior Mission Band as well as yearly Vacation Bible School.

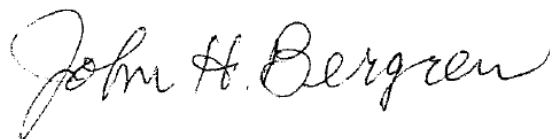
The next building my Dad was instrumental in starting was the Emmaus Home. I understand that it has many buildings now. My Dad experienced a great deal of opposition from neighboring pastors, from neighboring towns, but he prevailed.

One humorous event was when my father was in a local men's clothing store, he said to one of the members, that he liked red ties. Every Christmas after that he got a red tie from this fellow.

The last memory I would like to share is that the last meeting of the Minnesota Synod of the Augustana Lutheran Church was held in the First Lutheran's new building. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry of the United Lutheran Church was there along with many of the officers of the synod. In our living room sat Dr. Fry, Dr. Edgar Carlson of Gustavus, Dr. Bertil Larson, my Greek teacher, some students from GAC and along with my father and several lay delegates from the Twin Cities. What a cross section of the church!

My father was the ordination sponsor of Dr. Herbert Chilstrom. My father was mentioned in Chilstrom's book, A Journey off Grace, several times. He also sponsored Pastor Eugene Strinden and his son, John, me.

I hope these thoughts will help you in your timeline story.



Pastor John H. Bergren

Church
Archives



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, Chief Petty Officer HSC-23, 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: MST - 2024 Braga, Portugal



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, Hazel Wittenberg

Litchfield, in own home: Jutta Goodrich, Darlene Miller

Lakeside, Dassel: Edna Oldenburg



Widow's Grief Support Gathering

First Lutheran Church:

Sunday April 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. & Sunday April 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Open to all women whose spouse has died, whether the death was a month ago or 18 years ago. Sharing and support for healing and strength is the mission of the group.

Call the church office for more details. 320-693-2487



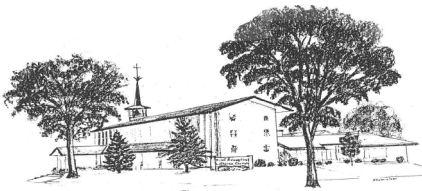
WELCA MEETING @ FLC

Thursday, April 20, 2023

1:30 p.m.

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 April 15th
For the NEXT ISSUE: MAY 2023



FIRST NEWS

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Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

LIKE us on Facebook!
Or Follow us on Youtube!



**Easter Sunday
Worship Services
April 9, 2023**

6:30 a.m.

Sunrise Worship Service w/communion

7:30 a.m. - Noon

MST-2024 French Toast Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship w/communion

10:30 a.m.

Non-Traditional Worship w/communion