

# FIRST NEWS

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

**MAY 2023**

## May 2023 Time with Tom

Do we have a reason to be afraid? What do we fear now that we have reached the year 2023? As children: so many things frighten us. It is not unusual for a parent to comfort their child by saying do not be afraid or it will be okay, I am right here by your side. Sometimes we say to our children, there is nothing to be afraid of, see, as we turn on a light or take them by the hand. Jesus before and after his death and resurrection often greeted his disciples with the statement, "do not be afraid". The scripture text used during May, we will hear Jesus telling us why we should not be afraid. There are many reasons we will combat his urging of peace simply because of the news we hear or read about every day. What can we do when we see such violence and terror around us constantly? The lack of support for our peace officers, the constant division and separation of every group in society seems to be tearing us apart even when the leadership of our country and state claim to want to bring us together.

The amount of lawlessness and disrespect of human life has given us plenty reason to be afraid. Yet we hear Jesus say do not be afraid. What will God do for us to calm our nerves? Jesus claims to never leave us and tells us to find ways to love one another. "Love", "like Jesus", is always the right answer. By looking up and away from ourselves and our fears, we can begin to see those around us who are just as afraid. We will see how others need love and the assurance they are not alone in a world that appears to be crashing down around them. Take them by the hand, "so to speak", and lead them to the cross of Jesus. Tell them the story of the resurrection and assure them this amazing story includes them. Allow yourself to be bold in the face of evil knowing God will not leave you. Care for the needs of another person and let your fears go. Remind yourself, you are a child of God chosen by Jesus and sent to all nations, baptizing, making disciples and teaching them all Jesus, in his commands; told you.

Yes, it is not easy; nobody said it would be easy. We may not see the results of our hard work but if you remember, it is not about us, it is about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Trust Jesus, do not be afraid, go and tell the story, so all people will know the love of Jesus. Amen

Agree with one another; live in peace and the God of Love and peace will be with you. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
CHURCH CALENDAR  
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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](mailto:firstoffice@hutchtel.net)  
WEBSITE:  
[www.firstlitchfield.org](http://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  
Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 were present except for Joe Berube and Amy Nelson.

\*Additions to the agenda: Cub Scouts clean up of FLC grounds. No action needed.

\*Devotions: Karla Kadelbach

\*Secretary report was approved.

\*Treasurer report was approved.

**\*\*\*Pastor Tom reported:**

~MST International (Braga Portugal) will be holding a garage sale May 13<sup>th</sup>. Four students/families are committed to the 2024 trip at this time.

~The Call Committee does not have any current candidates that are being considered.

~First Communion on April 16<sup>th</sup> was well attended despite the weather conditions.

Twelve students received their First Communion.

~The outgoing debriefing for Council Members has been completed.

~There are five students scheduled to attend Confirmation camp in June. The Endowment committee will again support the financial obligation for the campers.

~Pastor Tom has been in contact with Pastor Dan Buendorf to coordinate his participation in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pastor Dan will bring the message for the service on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

~The Co-op radio broadcasts will continue at 8:30 Sunday morning on KLFD.

~The Meeker Area Ministries (MAM) board is working on securing another rental opportunity. Nicole Geffre has offered to join the board and will offer legal opinions as needed.

~Co-op activities of each church should be shared with the other congregations. If you have something that may interest the community, please contact the church office.

**\*\*\*Team Reports:**

~Misc.: A team template formatting sheet for submitting team minutes has been sent to the Council members to share with their teams. If your team is not using a format of some kind, please consider using this option so the church office can have the information as needed. Thank you!

**\*Christian Education:**

~The last day of Sunday School will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The service will be led by the youth.

~The dates for VBS will be June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. They plan to center the program around the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Lutheran Church. They have a lot of material on hand to use for the VBS program. The Council will serve ice cream sundaes on the first night of the program.

**\*Worship & Music:**

(Worship & Music New Business)

~The team discussed the summer/holiday schedules and diligently scheduled most of the summer events. (Please check the dates to remember or the bulletin for dates, times, and locations.)

~The co-op music group will perform at most of the events.

~The co-op 8:30 radio broadcast will continue to be shared by co-op members. Schedule to be determined.

**General Fund:**

Total Income for the month of Mar. 2023: \$32,777  
 Expenses for the month of Mar. 2023: \$34,495

**Year to Date:**

Income as of March 2023: \$148,566  
 Expenses as of March 2023: \$121,969

**Easter Memorials 2023**

General Fund: \$6,445.00  
 Roof Top Unit Fund: \$20,000.00  
 AC/Boiler Pay-down Fund: \$3,745.00

**Noisy Offering - Palm Sunday**

\$ 653.29 collected for Roblealto, Child Care Assoc., Costa Rica

|               |                    |                      |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 4,887 pennies | 96 half dollars    | *plus cash donations |
| 936 nickels   | 3 one dollar coins |                      |
| 1,597 dimes   | 1 wood screw       |                      |

*Church Council continued.....*

~Chuck Eberhard attended the meeting to discuss the offering during services. The decision was made to continue to pass the plates as we are currently doing. Music will be played during the offering.

~Upcoming events were discussed to include Spring Communion Luncheon, Senior Graduation/Quilt Service and New Member Sunday.

**\*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

~Will be meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.  
 ~Pastor Dan Buendorf will speak on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Council Old Business:**

~An update from the call committee was briefly discussed.

**\*Council New Business:**

~An existing Ameriprise dedicated account was discussed. The firm that was holding this account has changed to a different brokerage and our account is now being serviced by Ameriprise in Hutchinson. A contact will be made and no changes will be made unless the fee's are excessive.

~Gods Work Our Hands (GWOH) was discussed. The plan is to work with the other co-op churches to find projects that can work for many members. If you have any suggestions, please contact the church office.

~New Member Sunday was discussed. The date is May 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a potluck brunch after the service. The council members will help organize, set up, and clean up.

**\*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**
- \*Last Confirmation class is on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**
- \*Last day of Sunday school and Youth Led service April 30<sup>th</sup>**
- \*Executive Team meeting Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM**
- \*Team meetings Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM**
- \*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / Pastor Buendorf speaking Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**
- \*Council meeting Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**
- \*Communion Luncheon Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM**
- \*New Member orientation Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**
- \*New Member Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM**
- ~Potluck Brunch following the service
- \*High School Senior / Quilt Service Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM**

Submitted as un-approved minutes by Dennis Gartner



Memorial

DAY WEEKEND

Sunday, May 28th

ELCA COOP Worship

at

Windmill Park

in Grove City

10:45 a.m.

Bring your lawn chair.

(no service held at  
First Lutheran Church)

# Churchwide



## FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Robert C. "Bob" Johnson  
March 27, 2023

Please keep his family and friends  
in your prayers.



### **New Member Orientation:**

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

### **New Member Sunday:**

May 21<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM

Potluck Brunch following service  
in Chilstrom Hall



High School Senior Recognition  
& Quilt Service  
Sunday, May 21, 2023  
at 9:00 a.m.



Baptized: Sunday, April 2, 2023

### **Leo Tyler Larson**

Parents: Tyler and Elaina Larson

Sponsors: Josh Nikko, Megan Futhey



Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have received instruction and their First Communion on Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Front Row:** Emma Hoff - Parents, Scott and Theresa Hoff, Eleanora Miller - Parents Travis and Clarissa Miller, Everett Snodgrass - Parents, Chelsea Snodgrass and Ben Kranz, Mason Baumgartner - Parent, Joshua Baumgartner, Cooper Evenson - Parents, Keith and Sabrara Evenson, Declan Berube - Parents, Joe and Amy Berube, **Middle Row:** Hayden Miller - Parents, Andy and Sara Miller, Leo Ludowese - Parents, Steve and Sadie Ludowese, Alexis Blunt - Parents, Justin and Amy Blunt, Liam Kraushaar - Parents, Kole and Marissa Kraushaar, Noah Hoff - Parents, Scott and Theresa Hoff, Richard Nelson - Anthony and Nellya Nelson **Back Row:** Minister Amy Nelson, Pastor Tom Evenson



For grades:  
pre-school thru  
6th grade

A 'WANTED' poster for Vacation Bible School (VBS) students. The poster is on a piece of torn, aged paper with a red cowboy hat on top. At the bottom left, there is a cartoon illustration of a cowboy in a blue shirt and hat playing an acoustic guitar. The text on the poster reads:

**WANTED**

**Vacation Bible School Students**

First Lutheran Litchfield  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Monday - June 5  
Tuesday - June 6  
Wednesday - June 7  
Supper at 5:30 p.m.  
Music  
Bible Study  
Games



To register: Call the  
church office at  
320-693-2487

# 2023 High School Seniors



*Congratulations to the  
Class of 2023*



Alex Draeger, son of  
Stefany Groskreutz, and  
Matthew Draeger



Javin Stucky, son of  
Jason and Tanna Stucky



Kylie Michels, daughter of  
Jason and Andrea Michels



Aidan Berube, son of  
Joe and Amy Berube



Kylie Guggemos, daughter of  
Chris and Shelly Guggemos

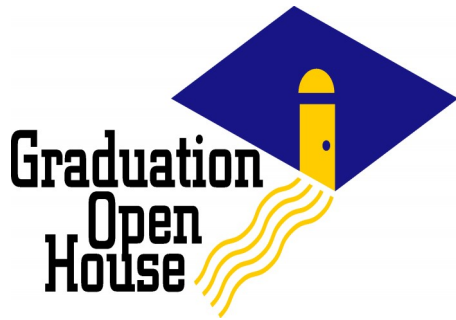


Miles Deitchman, son of  
Sabrara and Keith Evenson



Evan Matheson, son of  
Tim and Sacia Matheson

Not pictured, Alex Carlson, Jorja Gabrielson, Eric Marotte, and Hayley Polizin



**Kylie Michels  
Open House will be  
on Sunday, June 4th  
from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
at 825 S. Hubbard Ave.,  
Litchfield.**

**Open House  
Graduation Party  
For Alex Dreager  
Sunday, June 4th  
at 4 B'z From 1 - 4 pm**

**Open House  
Aidan Berube  
June 10th, 2023  
2- 5 pm  
At our home  
24685 608th Ave - Litchfield**

**Class of 2023  
Kylie Guggemos  
Grad Party  
When: June 10th  
4 - 8 P.M.  
Where: 1302 Cedar Lane.,  
Litchfield**

**Open House  
Graduation Party!  
For Javin Stucky  
Saturday, June 10th  
4:00 pm-?  
14933 CSAH 35, Litchfield**

**Evan Matheson  
Graduation Open House  
Sunday, June 11th  
from noon - 3:00 p.m.  
at the Darwin Rod & Gun Club**



# MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS

**Gifts were given** to the General Fund and the Roof Heating and Cooling Units in memory of John Lemmer, Paul (Sue) Lemmer's brother, by Mike and Kris Nelson, Jerry and Lana Johnson, Steve and Jackie Kraushaar, and David and Darlene Meidal.

**Gifts were given** to the General Fund, and the Roof Top Unit fund, and Choir fund in memory of Bob Johnson, by Aldeen and Idell Kadelbach, Darlene Lundin, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, Marlys Elam, Einar Lundin, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Karla Kadelbach, Paul and Sue Lemmer, Ron and Barb Piepenburg, Steve and Jackie Kraushaar, Vern and Lil Madson, Gary Smith, Dianne Thorp, Richard and Carol Heath, and Kathleen Oftedahl, Chuck and Karen Eberhard, Ralph and Gloria Elj, Jeanette Erickson, and Dan and Robin Johnson. Gary and Kathy Cervin, Valda Thomas, Gordon and Helen Johnson, Bryan and Linda Larson, Stanley and Sylvia Kittelson, Jerry and Betty Urdahl, Gary and Lori Larson, Ken and Mary Lawson, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Shirley Berg, Duane and Darlene Henkelman, Mike and Deb Langmo, Elois Johnson, Iona Albright, Doug and JoAnne Miller, James and Holly Devinck, John and Katie Hulterstrum, Janet Lange, John and Shirley Lekander, Paul and Julie Tinberg, Terrance and Carole O'brien, Dan and Brenda Johnson, Barbara Keller, Bob and Norma Hall, Dennis and Renee Gartner, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, John and Jo Carlson, David and Darlene Meidal, and Jean Wieland.

**A gift was given** to FLC in honor of Leo Larson's Baptism by Rueben and Janice Stommes.

**A gift was given** to the church library in remembrance of Mrs. Emil Martha Linner Anderson, who founded the library and in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the church from Carol Rowell.

**A gift has been given** towards replacing the Roof Heating and Cooling Units by Steve and Ruth Joramo.

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Thanks** for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, visits and hugs for Jim and me during the past months in his battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma and for the support, cards, memorials, and love shown me on his entry into heaven on February 12. We couldn't have walked thru this without your prayers. His battle is over and he now walks with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Janet Lange

**Thank you** for the beautiful, meaningful Good Friday service. Kudos to the young people for their production. Susan Johnson

**Dee (Bollin) and all the prayer chain,** Thank you all so very much for the continued prayers for my recovery. I am so very thankful for my church family. I keep my prayer shawl around me when doing my devotions each day. It brings great comfort. Again, thank you, you have really lifted me up. Barb Alsleben



Please join us for the  
**Spring Communion Luncheon**  
at First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
703 South Sibley, Litchfield, MN

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**  
Lunch and Fellowship to follow the service.



**Meeker County Food Shelf -  
Pack the Pews for March 2023.**  
First Lutheran Family donated  
448 pounds of food  
and \$1,825 in monetary donations.  
Thank you everyone!



**WELCA MINUTES APRIL 20, 2023**

WELCA met on April 20, 2023, in Chilstrom Hall with Betty Allen calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Betty.

The March meeting was cancelled because of the weather.

The secretary’s report for February was approved as printed. Karen Eberhard gave the treasurer’s report for March and April 2023. The \$75 that was approved for Flowers of Mercy from the Harvest Donations is still in the WELCA account. Karen found out Flowers of Mercy has been dissolved. Later it will be decided how to spend the \$75. The report was filed for audit.

Old Business: The Birthday Party at Ecumen in February was a success. Keith Johnson substituted for Nicole Geffre as the entertainment.

The soup supper served by WELCA was very well attended and thank you to Darlene Meidal and Jackie Kraushaar for making the delicious chili and soups.

The WELCA Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Gethsemane Lutheran in Dassel. About 12 ladies will be attending.

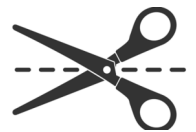
New Business: WELCA has been paying for the recycling container at First for Hope for Our City. Hope has been reusing the boxes they get so there is no need for the recycling container. As of now, Hope will not be starting because there is a shortage of donated food. It was suggested that we discontinue the payment for recycling. Betty will check with the Council to see if they want to take over the payment of the recycling container or discontinue its use.

Geri Follett is making Swedish hats to be used by serving groups for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Next Fall’s WELCA Gathering will be held at First.

Thank you to Brenda Johnson, Joan Sommerfeld and Karen Eberhard for organizing the collection of items for baby layettes, personal care kits and school bags. Thank you to Cindy Hill for sewing the school bags. 25 layettes have been completed.

WELCA Continues on page 10.....



*Thankoffering*



“ . . . gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings.”

- Women of the ELCA Constitution



# May 2023 Calendar

| May 2023   |  |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|  | <b>1</b>                                       | <b>2</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom<br>8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live<br>8:30 a.m. Quilters<br>2:00 p.m. Worship@ M.M.<br>5:30 a.m. Worship Team<br>6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel<br>6:30 p.m. Exec. Team Mtg.<br>7:00 p.m. Team Meetings | <b>3</b><br>4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m. Worship w/<br>Comm. in Chapel<br>Chapel   | <b>4</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on<br>KLFD Radio<br>9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg.<br>Chapel                                   | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group   |
| <b>7</b> 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio<br>9:00 a.m. 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary<br>Celebration Worship Service<br>with Communion,<br>Pastor Buendorf preaching<br>at Fellowship & Coffee<br>1:00 p.m. Grief Support<br>6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting | <b>8</b>                                       | <b>9</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom<br>8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live<br>6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel  | <b>10</b><br>4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m. Worship w/<br>Comm. in Chapel<br>7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle                            | <b>11</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on<br>KLFD Radio<br>9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg.<br>Chapel                                  | <b>12</b><br>9:30 a.m. Christian<br>Women's Mtg. | <b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional<br>Worship Rehearsal<br>8:00 a.m. – Noon: MST<br>Garage Sale, Chilstrom Hall         |
| <b>14</b> Mother's Day<br>8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio<br>9:00 a.m. Worship Service<br>with Communion, MST<br>Cosia Rica presents trip highlights<br>10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee   | <b>15</b><br>9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle           | <b>16</b><br>7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom<br>8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live<br>9:00 a.m. Martha Circle<br>6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel<br>7:00 p.m. Church Council   | <b>17</b><br>11:00 a.m. Spring Comm.<br>Worship Service & Luncheon<br>4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m. Worship w/<br>Comm. in Chapel | <b>18</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on<br>KLFD Radio<br>1:30 p.m. WELCA Meeting<br>6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg.<br>Chapel<br>7:00 p.m. New Member<br>Orientation | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group<br><br>5:00 p.m. Movie Night,<br>Holy Word Theater                                       |
| <b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio<br>9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/comm;<br>Welcome New Members & H.S.<br>Senior Quilt & Recognition<br>10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee<br>1:00 p.m. Grief Support  | <b>22</b>                                      | <b>23</b><br>7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom<br>8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live<br>8:30 a.m. Quilters<br>6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel  | <b>24</b><br>4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m. Worship w/<br>Comm. in Chapel  | <b>25</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on<br>KLFD Radio<br>9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg.<br>Chapel                                  | <b>26</b><br>5:00 p.m. Wedding<br>Rehearsal      | <b>27</b> 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional<br>Worship Rehearsal<br>4:00 p.m. Wedding<br>Courtney Teas & Rick Magedanz<br>Chapel |
| <b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. ELCA Coop/Radio<br>10:45 a.m. ELCA Worship at<br>Windmill Park, Grove City<br>(no service at FLC)  | <b>29</b> Memorial Day<br>Church Office Closed | <b>30</b><br>7:00 a.m. BREW – Chilstrom<br>8:00 a.m. BREW – FB Live<br>6:30 p.m. NA – Chapel  | <b>31</b><br>4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m. Worship w/<br>Comm. in Chapel  | <b>First Evangelical Lutheran Church</b><br><b>703 South Sibley Ave.</b><br><b>Litchfield, MN</b><br><b>320-693-2487</b>                                      |  |  |

# Serving Group & Birthdays

|                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>MAY 2023 SERVING GROUP</b>       | Eric & Kayla Hulterstrum    |
| <b>Chairs:</b>                      | John & Katie Hulterstrum    |
| <b>Steve &amp; Jackie Kraushaar</b> | Harold (Hal) & LaVonne Huso |
| <b>Daniel &amp; Robin Johnson</b>   | Rocky & Karla Hyberger      |
| Howard & Laurie Koehn               | Derek Isaacson              |
| Andy Hoffmann                       | Dan & Brenda Johnson        |
| Donald & Mary Hokanson              | Dan E. Johnson              |
| Barb Holmberg                       | David & Myra Johnson        |
| Iris Holmgren                       | Gladys Johnson              |
| Mark & Jayne Holmgren               | Gordon & Darla Johnson      |
| Diane Housman                       |                             |
| Cecile Hoyer                        |                             |

**May Ushers**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
 John Lekander  
 Brian Findley  
 Brandon Findley  
 Jim Asmus  
 Nick Benson  
 Derek Isaacson  
 Wayne Larson

**May**



Meredith Elj  
 593-8640



**Happy  
 Mother's Day**

**MAY 1**  
 Andrew Desens  
 Samuel Gruenke  
 Emma Hoff  
 Noah Hoff  
 Robert Kadelbach  
 Nicole Schmitz  
 Nicole Hable/White

**MAY 2**  
 Ashley Holmgren  
 David Jacob  
 Kalkbrenner  
 Lori Larson  
 Jesse Lundin  
 Laila Mickelson

**MAY 3**  
 Richard Elam  
 Christina Guza  
 Levi Hanson  
 Linda Holtz  
 Bruce Lee  
 Gaylene Thomas  
 Michael Thomas

**MAY 4**  
 Mark Bredeson  
 Arlo Prechel

**MAY 5**  
 Benjamin Miller

**MAY 6**  
 Geraldine Follett  
 Eric Hein  
 Judy Hulterstrum  
 Kiera Olson  
 Gary Pierce  
 Leo Roush  
 Jill White

**MAY 7**  
 Henry Adams  
 Lisa Barto  
 Richard Farmer  
 Donna Gilsrud  
 Aurora Haas  
 Myra Johnson

**MAY 8**  
 Hazel Wittenberg

**MAY 9**  
 Heather Burdick  
 Emily Driver  
 Matthew Sook

**MAY 10**  
 Susan Elam  
 Jude Ludowese

**MAY 11**  
 Betty Allen  
 Nicholas Graff  
 Megan Lundin

**MAY 12**  
 Alex Carlson  
 Cade Cervin  
**MAY 13**  
 Sandra Bostrom

**MAY 14**  
 Ryan Block  
**MAY 15**  
 Megan Boyle  
 Jerry Freitag  
 Coralynn Gabrielson  
 Millard Hickman  
 Lavaune Putzier

**MAY 16**  
 Marlys Elam  
 Darlene Meidal  
 Amy Nelson  
 Amanda Polzin

**MAY 17**  
 Kristen Nelson  
 Jeffrey Olson

**MAY 18**  
 Will Dolan  
 Larry Griffin  
 Chad Mahlow  
 Daryn Worden

**MAY 19**  
 Tamara Borowicz  
 Darla Johnson  
 Tamra Thompson  
 Carter Zeppelin  
 Trevor Zeppelin  
**MAY 20**  
**MAY 21**  
 Carol Heath  
 Jean Larson  
**MAY 22**  
 Esmae Boll  
 Angela Larson-Weimer  
 Leah Wilson

**MAY 23**  
 Matthew Carlson  
 Paul Martin  
 Florence Roeszler  
 Emily Sommerfeld

**MAY 24**  
**MAY 25**  
 Isaiah Matheson  
 Lukas Wahl

**MAY 26**  
 Brian Findley

**MAY 27**  
 Dustin Nelson  
**MAY 28**  
 Jacob Bredeson  
 Kris Cervin  
 Debra Cziok  
 Jane Hickman  
 Michael Husmann  
 Gladys Johnson  
 Lisa Steichen

**MAY 29**  
 Colby Christensen  
 Hudson Gabrielson  
 Bridget Judes  
 Emily Michels  
 Zachary Piepenburg

**MAY 30**  
 Travis Hanson  
 Timothy Pierce  
 Katie Silverberg

**MAY 31**  
 Joshua Bailey  
 Jeffrey Ballard  
 Charlene Garrison  
 Dalen Jones  
 Paxton Peterson  
 Kaitlyn Moore

Dear friends,

Earlier this month parts of the southern African countries of Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi were severely affected by Cyclone Freddie, which has been classified as one of the longest lasting and most powerful storms to hit the region. News outlets are reporting a death toll surpassing 500 with many tens of thousands left homeless or displaced due to heavy rains, flooding and mudslides.

Malawi has declared a National Disaster with a two-week period of mourning.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi presiding bishop Joseph Bvumbwe wrote: "On our part and for now we can only ask for your prayers to sustain us and help us gain the strength needed to stand back on our feet and start working on lending the much needed services to the affected Communities. ... As you can see from this briefing, the situation is so overwhelming and requires prayerful discernment and wisdom to help us provide hope to the hopeless."

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is providing support for relief efforts through the ACT Alliance rapid response fund.

At the end of February I participated in the annual Youth Peer Educators' planning workshop organized by the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA). The young adults gave reports from their respective churches and took turns presenting on topics such as: HIV&AIDS in the era of COVID-19, Mental Health, gender justice, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, entrepreneurship, climate change, and the challenges and opportunities of using social media. I gave a presentation on disaster preparedness and response strategies. The workshop included an Ash Wednesday worship service with Holy Communion.

The ELCA supports the HIV&AIDS program of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa which includes 15 member churches across ten countries in the region.

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


March 20, 2023



By NASA image by Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, Goddard Space Flight Center - <http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/imagery/single.cgi?image=Gafilo.A2004066.0655.2km.jpg>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=748812>



# Senior Dining Menu

| Monday, May 1             | Tuesday, May 2            | Wednesday, May 3              | Thursday, May 4  | Friday, May 5                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Chicken Fried Steak       | Pork Loin                 | Goulash                       | Chef's Choice  | Liver or Pepper Steak        |
| Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy   | Candi Yam                 | Mixed Green Salad w/ Dressing | Vegetable Fruit  | Mashed Potatoes              |
| Mixed Vegetables          | California Normandy Veg   | Tropical Fruit                | Grain  | Stewed Tomatoes              |
| Dinner Roll/Margarine     | Bread/Margarine           | Bread/Margarine               | Dessert  | Dinner Roll/Margarine        |
| Dessert                   | Bar                       | Pudding                       | Low Fat Milk   | Dessert                      |
| Low Fat Milk              | Low Fat Milk              | Low Fat Milk                  | Low Fat Milk   | Low Fat Milk                 |
| Monday, May 8             | Tuesday, May 9            | Wednesday, May 10             | Thursday, May 11   | Friday, May 12               |
| 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, May 15            | Tuesday, May 16           | Wednesday, May 17             | Thursday, May 18   | Friday, May 19               |
| 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, May 22            | Tuesday, May 23           | Wednesday, May 24             | Thursday, May 25   | Friday, May 26               |
| Pizza Casserole           | Biscuit w/Sausage Gravy   | Teriyaki 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, May 29            | Tuesday, May 30           | Wednesday, May 31             |  <h2 style="color: red; text-align: center;">May 2023</h2> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">LSS Meals   Traditional Older Adult Menu</p> |                              |
| Memorial Day              | Meatloaf                  | Pasta in Meat Sauce           |  |                              |
|                           | Baked Potato w/Sour Cream | Romaine Salad w/Dressing      |  |                              |
|                           | Pears                     | Pineapple Chunks              |  |                              |
| Closed                    | Bread/Margarine           | Bread Stick                   | Dessert  |                              |
|                           | 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

## May Worship Schedule

### Wednesday, May 3, 2023

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

### Sunday, May 7, 2023 \*150<sup>th</sup> Ann. Celebration

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

Pastor Dan Buendorf preaching

10:00 a.m. Swedish Treats served at Fellowship and Coffee

### Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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

### Sunday, May 14, 2023 \*Mother's Day

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee

### Wednesday, May 17, 2023

11:00 a.m. Spring Communion Worship Service and Luncheon

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

### Sunday, May 21, 2023 \*New Members & H.S.

#### Senior Quilts and Recognition

9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, May 24, 2023

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

### Sunday, May 28, 2023 \*Memorial Day Weekend

10:45 a.m. ELCA Community Worship at Windmill Park in Grove City  
(no service held at First Lutheran Church)

### Special Dates:

- National Day of Prayer, *May 4, 2023*
- Mother's Day, *May 14, 2023*
- Ascension Day, *May 18, 2023*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 20, 2023*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 22, 2023*
- Pentecost, *May 28, 2023*
- Memorial Day, *May 29, 2023*

### Preparation for worship

Risen Jesus, as spring blossoms around me, may your love blossom in me, that I might share its fragrance and brilliance with others.

\* \* \*

God of strong and tender love, thank you for those who have shown me your love in motherly ways, and for the opportunities I have to care for others.

\* \* \*

As you, Jesus, sent your disciples out as witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and beyond (Acts 1:8), send us as witnesses in our neighborhood, city, region and beyond.

\* \* \*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, today and always, Lord God. Energize and equip us to live out your love in the world.

### TONGUES OF FIRE



Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.

### MOVIE NIGHT Saturday, May 20, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Holy Word Theater, FLC  
Movie: TBD....

Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.

Please bring your own beverage.

### 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         |

# 150<sup>th</sup> 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 27 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday  
Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m.  
Pastor Tom Evenson preaching  
Congregational Group Photo  
following service  
Formal catered congregational dinner

Bit of Trivia about FLC (from the April Newsletter) - **Answers**

1. How many FLC pastors who were born in Sweden are buried in the Ripley Cemetery? **Three**
2. What are their names? **Rev. Otto Hallberg, Rev. Linner, and Rev. Franzen**
3. What is the name of the pastor who died while serving the church? **Rev. Hallberg at age 40**
4. What is the name of the pastor who started the Emmaus Home? **Pastor Bergren**
5. What is the name of the person who started the library? **Mrs. Emil Martha Linner Anderson**
6. What is Bishop Chilstrom’s youngest brother’s name? **David Chilstrom**
7. What year was this church built? **1958**
8. What was our church first called? **Swedish Lutheran Church**
9. How many sets of identical twins did we have? **Two**
10. What are their names? **Myrtle and Mildred Oslund, and Myrtle and Myrle Isaacson** (both sets are buried in Ripley Cemetery next to their parents.

Well, how did you do, get them all right? Carol Rowell

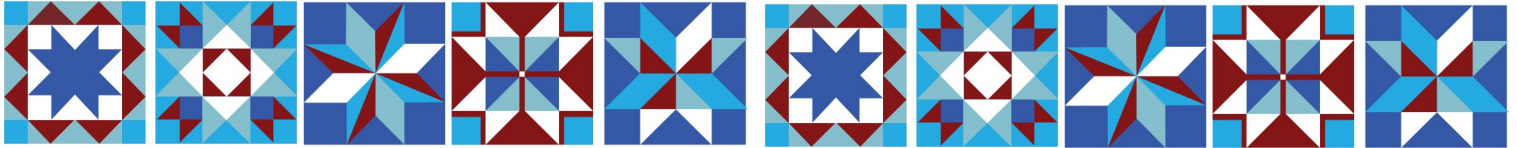
### Save The Date.....

Our full catered 150<sup>th</sup> celebratory congregation dinner (at noon) will be held on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 27<sup>th</sup> will also include our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service, communion, a congregational picture and meal.





Quilting at First Lutheran began from “scratch.” This was a comment Louise Tostenruid made during our recent visit. She was one of eight or ten women who organized the activity in the 1950’s.

They had no funds to purchase fabric, thread, yarn, or other supplies. Church members were asked to donate used clothing, curtains, sheets, blankets or whatever. At the time, women’s slacks and men’s trousers were often made of various synthetic fabrics which usually were darker colors. Everything was put to good use. Louise said the quilts weren’t probably the most beautiful but they provided warmth and comfort.

When I joined the group, Helen Hydeen and Marie Langseth were co-chairmen. I remember Evelyn Erickson’s job was to take apart garments, curtains and so forth. Others cut and measured the material to make 22 inch square blocks. The blocks were sewn together to make a 60” x 80” finished top, the size recommended by Lutheran World Relief. Then they were put together with batting and a backing and tied with yarn. Finally, they were machine stitched all around the outer edges. Quilts are still made in this same fashion today. However, nothing is wasted and several women take home smaller pieces of material and cut various size squares to make finished tops.

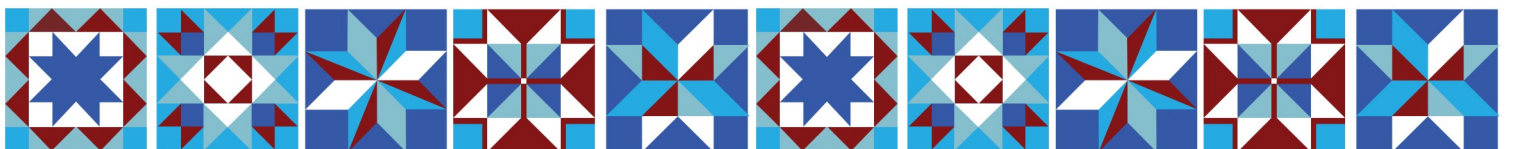
There have been changes during the years. After using woven fabrics, double knits became popular. They weren’t always a joy to sew, as they varied in weight and the amount of stretch. Fabrics not suitable for tops or backs of quilt were used as filler between the two. Later, we received polyester quilted batting from the Modern Quilters in town and this served as backing also. The colors were black and navy.

Thanks to memorials and other donations there is now a quilting fund to purchase batting and fabric, although many women donate fabrics they no longer need. This year there are twenty-seven volunteers who usually meet from 8:30 until noon (coffee break included) on the first and fourth Tuesday of each month from September through May.

More than one hundred quilts are made each year. They are given to Lutheran World Relief, local Social Services, Wings, needy families and disaster areas. Also each high school senior graduate who is a member of the congregation receives a beautiful quilt.

Our quilting ministry reaches out both near and far. The quilts are gifts of comfort and love. We all enjoy the fellowship and working together.

Marie Hulterstrum



## Mildred and Myrtle, the Oslund Twins

Though not identical, Mildred and Myrtle always dressed alike. Until you got to know them well, it was difficult to tell them apart. During the week they worked as tellers at the Northwestern National Bank on “[Main Street” in downtown Litchfield. Almost always they walked to and from work from the home they shared with their widowed father at the east edge of town. Their pleasant back yard was like a small park, complete with a water fall and lovely flower gardens.

Though highly efficient at the bank, work in the teller’s cage never seemed to be their chief aim in life. It was First Lutheran Church and their personal faith that always took priority. Whatever went on at church, they were there. Among other things, they served as leaders in the Sunday church school for what seemed like generations. One could not even begin to count the children whose lives were shaped by Mildred and Myrtle.

It was their passion for the youth of the congregation that touched my life most directly. After confirmation I spent a week at Green Lake Bible Camp. My life took a decided turn from what had been a casual, lukewarm interest in the Christian faith. Now I hungered for a deeper relationship with Christ. At First Lutheran that always meant getting better acquainted with Mildred and Myrtle. They led us in youth Bible class and even encouraged me to join the adult Bible study group. Though the only youth in that class, I felt completely at home, thanks largely to those two loving women.

It was in the youth group – the “Luther League” as we called it in those days -- that their influence on me was most pronounced. They were always there to give words of encouragement. When I was elected president of the League, it was the Oslund twins who came to our planning sessions, who attended our monthly meetings, and who encouraged us to attend Bible camp every summer. They never dominated. Like twin rudders on a ship, they were just there to gently give stability and direction.

When I decided to go into the ministry Mildred and Myrtle were major cheerleaders. After I went off to college and seminary, Pastor J. Henry Bergren invited me to preach at First Lutheran once a year. After those services I could always count on the twins to linger and give me a boost, consistently commenting on some aspect of the sermon they thought was especially helpful. On those Sundays the “loose offering” was given to me to assist with college and seminary expenses. I’m quite sure those modestly-paid bank tellers were among the most generous givers on those days.

Mildred and Myrtle never married, never had children of their own. But they had many children – children in the faith. I thank God that I could be one of them.

Herb Chilstrom

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**, 934<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Rogers**, Beale Air Force Base, CA. Grandson of Janet 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: Lutheran World Relief



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

Hiltop Health Care, Watkins: Vern Madson



## **Widow's Grief Support Gathering**

First Lutheran Church:

**Sunday May 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. & Sunday May 21, 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, May 18, 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 **May 15th**  
For the **NEXT ISSUE: June 2023**

