



FIRST NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2025

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Time with Tom

This year, February is a month of Epiphany. It is rare to be in Epiphany every Sunday of February but with Easter so late this year we get a chance to sit in Luke for much longer and hear about the great epiphany of our Lord. Why is this getting me all worked up? It is an opportunity to think about the importance of who Jesus is now and how the revealing of Jesus identity came to be. Jesus has been since the beginning as John's gospel declares in the first chapter; *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.* Now to get to this point we need also to hear what Luke says and how Jesus is introduced. We hear the angels come to the shepherds at night and tell them about the baby born in a manger, Emmanuel, (God with us) and they go tell everyone what they witnessed. Then we hear after eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child at the temple a man named Simeon who was told he would not see death until he has seen the Lord's messiah together with the Prophet Anna, declare the child is the messiah. Later at Jesus's baptism, the sky is torn open, the spirit comes down like a dove and rests on him, and a voice from heaven declares to Jesus, you are my son. All this should be enough but there is more. The spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil but in doing so, the devil reveals who Jesus truly is as the son of God, the Messiah. It goes on when Jesus himself reveals who his is when he turns water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Now just turning water into wine may not seem like an epiphany but because of how Mary introduces this story, we can claim this as another time we hear who Jesus is. We hear all this before February. As we enter into the next phases of Jesus life journey with us, let us look for the message Jesus has for us individually. What is God telling us through Jesus this year? Will we hear the words as prophetic calling of God? Will we act when called? Can we truly look at others through the eyes of Jesus and love them? This year, the month of love is giving us evidence we can hold onto in our time of discernment as we move with the Christ in a world filled with doubt and despair, bringing hope to all people. The epiphany of our Lord is a time for us to say, I get it, I believe it help me live it Lord. We are moving quickly towards Lent and Easter, ask God to move quickly in your life and fill you with the spirit that brings hope, joy and life for all people. February is the month of epiphany, praise God and give him all glory, Amen. *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 Jesus' name.

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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

Church Council

**“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”**

Church Council Minutes
January 21, 2025

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:

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

2026: Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemingway, Mattie Baumgartner

2027: Betty Allen, Tanner Eberling, Sabrara Evenson, Karla Hyberger

Meeting called to order by Tanner Eberling

Absent: Andy Miller, Abby Hemingway, Mattie Baumgartner, Karla Hyberger
Devotion by Corey Cervin

Secretary’s Report: Motion to approve by Karla K. seconded by Betty Allen
Approved

Treasurer’s Report: Motion to approve by Corey C. seconded by Mike L. Approved

Pastor’s Reports: The reports were submitted for the annual meeting booklet for all to read

Team Reports:

Evangelism/Social Ministry – No meeting

Christian Education/Youth Team – Discussion on 1st communion and Family Day in February

Church Property – Next 6 months want to work on getting rid of never used items

Personnel – Finished the new job descriptions will get to council for the next meeting for approval

Endowment – No meeting

Stewardship & Finance – No meeting

Worship – Meeting on the upcoming Lent services and Easter

New Business:

Last minute annual meeting items

A motion was made by Corey C. Seconded by Betty A. to purchase a short-term CD for better interest rates for monies in the savings until needed for projects.
Approved

Organist update Carol resigned as organist only will continue in all other musical decisions in the church and the church has contracted with Substitute Organist Service and Jodi Findley is interested in being part-time organist after receiving lessons on our organ

**First Evangelical Lutheran
Church Council 2025**

PRESIDENT:

Tanner Eberling

VICE PRESIDENT:

TBD

SECRETARY:

Mattie Baumgartner

TREASURER:

TBD

Team Representatives:

**Christian Education/
Youth & Family:**

Abby Hemmingway
Amy Nelson

Sabrara Evenson
Karla Hyberger

Stewardship & Finance:

Karla Kadelbach

**Social Ministry/
Evangelism:**

Meredith Elj
Abby Hemingway

Amy Nelson
Sabrara Evenson

Betty Allen
Karla Kadelbach

Karla Hyberger

Endowment/Memorial:

Tanner Eberling

Property:

Mattie Baumgartner
Tanner Eberling

Betty Allen

Worship:

Meredith Elj
Amy Nelson

Personnel:

Tanner Eberling

MST:

Karla Kadelbach
Sabrara Evenson

Stewardship & Finance

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Dec. 2024: \$95,267
Expenses for the month of Dec. 2024: \$40,588

Year to Date:

Income as of December 2024: \$485,811
Expenses as of December 2024: \$473,148

Council minutes continued.....

Dates to remember:

Annual Meeting: January 26, 2025 @ 10:00am following Worship Service

MST French Toast Breakfast January 26, 2025, 8:00am – Noon

Team Meeting night: Tuesday February 4, 2025

MST Sweetheart Dinner: Sunday February 16th doors open at 6:30 Program @ 7:00

Council meeting night: Tuesday February 18th @ 7:00

Ash Wednesday: March 5th

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Submitted as unapproved minutes by Karla Kadelbach



“Time”

Time is
too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who love,
time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke



NEW AT FIRST:

*Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

Group meetings are Wednesday mornings from 10 am - 12 pm. 10 until 10:45 we will have open discussion about our lives today and the challenges we face. After a brief intermission we will start again at 11 am with a designated topic, then end at noon.

This support group is for anyone with a past TBI, including concussions, stroke, brain tumor, aneurisms, falls, and car accidents. It is free for everyone and feel free to come to one or both hours.

Any questions please contact Marty at 320-267-1528



A prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice, and the welfare of all. Amen.

Churchwide

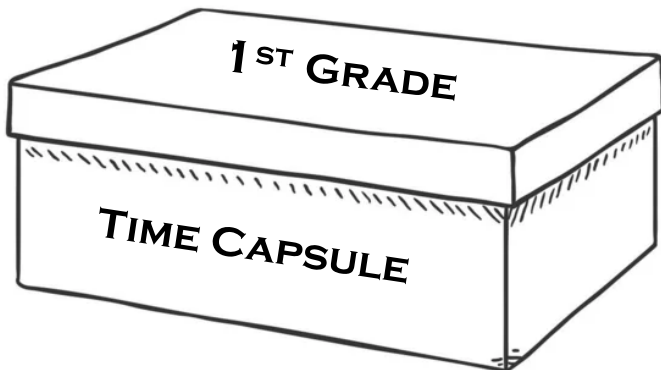
First Evangelical Lutheran of Litchfield Staff Members have new email addresses.

New email addresses (starting February 1st) are as follows:

Pastor Tom Evenson, Senior Pastor	firstsr@firstlitchfield.org
Pastor Michael Buller, Associate Pastor	firstap@firstlitchfield.org
Heidi Thoma, Christian Ed. Coordinator	first.chris.ed@firstlitchfield.org
Judy Berglund, Office Manager	firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org
Carol Heath, Financial Secretary	firsttr@firstlitchfield.org
Sara Rick, Bookkeeper	firsttr@firstlitchfield.org
Carol Dragt, Director of Music, Non-Traditional	firstmusic@firstlitchfield.org
Kipp Kleinschmidt, Media Director	firstmedia@firstlitchfield.org



Join us for
Sunday School - Family Day
February 16th
10 am,
following the Youth-Led Worship Service
Special Project: Valda will be coming to do a
painting with the families.
Hope to see you all there!!



Milestone Ministries

We will have a gathering for first graders on February 9th at 10 am during the Sunday school hour. We will be putting together a time capsule to be opened at their 10th grade confirmation banquet. Parents are asked to come and join and assist their child/children. Looking forward to seeing you all!



February 2025 Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 2, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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

Sunday, February 9, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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

Sunday, February 16, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

MOVIE NIGHT
Saturday, February 15, 2025
 5:00 p.m.
 Holy Word Theater, FLC
 Movie: TBD....
 Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.
 Please bring your own beverage.

Special Dates...

- Black History Month — February 1-28, 2025
- Groundhog Day — February 2, 2025
- Valentine's Day — February 14, 2025
- Presidents' Day — February 17, 2025

An old hymn declares:



I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto me and rest.
 Lay down, O weary one,
 lay down your head upon
 my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn
 and sad. I found in him a resting-place, and he has
 made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division,
 the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More
 than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need
 to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we
 can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a
 place of refreshment where we can relax long
 enough to remember that not everything is bad;
 there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred;
 God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We
 are reminded of love shown by kind people to those
 in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm
 friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by
 rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We
 can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

AND ^{now} these
 THREE remain:
 FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.
 But the greatest of
 these is LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13, NIV

WELCA did not meet in January 2025. The next meeting will be Thur., February 20th @ 1:30 pm



Monthly Serving Chairs needed:
Please consider helping serve for WELCA.
Contact the church office or Betty Allen if interested!

Thank You

Faith in economics

from Gather Magazine

01/22/2025 | [Community](#)

What is the rule of your household? How do you manage your home? How do you make sure that everyone gets what they need and sometimes what they want? Who feeds the dog or cleans up after the cat? Who does the grocery shopping, and who pays for the groceries? How are the children taught? Who coordinates with the neighbors?

The word economics is a simple transliteration of an ancient Greek word for the rule system that guides household management. We might think economics has a different meaning in the U.S. today—that it focuses on the flow of money, the price of goods, and the businesses and governments that coordinate services. But politicians rightly correlate the economics of the family to policies set by Congress, the Federal Reserve and the World Bank. These policies affect households.

At the beginning and end of the day, almost all of us are most concerned about managing our homes and those who dwell inside them. What we do as citizens affects our households. It is for the sake of our households that many of us become involved in social action.

For Christians, household economics includes a commitment to tithing and other charitable giving. You probably know that, in the new millennium, charitable giving by individuals has declined steeply. This is true, despite the tax burden being overall less in the 21st century than it was in the middle of the 20th century. While some of the decline in giving can be attributed to recessions, some of it also seems to be due to a decrease in trust.

As I see it, we have lost faith in our economic and social system to help take care of our households, so we put the burden on ourselves to be independently responsible. We tend to emphasize spending on our household members and saving for an uncertain future for their protection. If we have a little bit left over, instead of giving it away, we often feel more secure saving this for our retirement, our children's college funds or a legacy to leave our grandchildren.

Interestingly, however, the accounts we use to keep our savings do not hold our savings still. Banks and investment firms loan this money out to encourage economic growth. Most of us accept the risk of loss for a greater return on our investments—we trust the financial advisor to make good decisions for our household. Yet we may feel less secure in giving out that money ourselves to our churches, schools and favorite charities. I don't have an answer to this philanthropy crisis, except to name it as a faith crisis—not an economic crisis. We have lost faith that our giving to support these organizations will be blessed and help our households too.

Recently, a woman at the Metropolitan Chicago synodical women's convention told me that she has always tithed 10 percent to the church and Women of the ELCA. In making this part of her budget, she's always had enough for her household and has been blessed by the organizations she supports. For her, she said, it is about faith.

When we support our society and our church, we build up systems that support our own households. My faith tells me to trust this, and not the scarcity messages so prevalent in society today. In faith, we give in love, and we flourish.

Jennifer Hockenbery, Interim Executive Director of Women of the ELCA, also works as editor for the Journal of Lutheran Ethics. A lifelong Lutheran, she has written several books and articles about the intersection of Lutheran theology, philosophy and gender studies.

February 2025 Calendar


February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 South Sibley Ave Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-2487</p>						1
<p>2 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Scout Event 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 2 pm Worship @ Mkr. Manor 5:30 pm Worship Team Mtg. 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings</p>	<p>5 10 am *TBI Support Group, Classroom (Across from Library) 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chp. 7:00 pm Youth Study Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Widow's Grief Support, Conf. Room 6:00 pm Den Mtg., Chilstrom</p>		<p>8 8:00 a.m. Men's Group</p>
<p>9 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Milestone Ministries 1st Graders - Time Capsule 10:00 am Sunday School</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am LAMA Meeting 11:00 am GLLM Annual Mtg. 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p>12 10 am *TBI Support Group, Classroom (Across from Library) 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chp. 7:00 pm Youth Study Group 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle, Church Conf. Room, Dianne Thorp, Host</p>	<p>13 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Pack Mtg, Chilstrom 7:00 pm Scout Leaders, Chilstrom Hall</p>		<p>15 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater</p>
<p>16 9:00 am Youth Led Worship with Communion 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School – Family Day 6:30 pm MST-2026 Hosts: Sweetheart Dinner</p>	<p>17 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 9:30 am Rachel Circle, Darlene Meidal's home</p>	<p>18 7:30 am BREW 9:00 am Martha Circle 11:00 am M.A.M. Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 7:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p>19 10 am *TBI Support Group, Classroom (Across from Library) 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chp. 7:00 pm Youth Study Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" KLFD 12:30 pm Widow's Grief Support, Conf. Room 1:30 pm WELCA Meeting 6:00 pm Den Mtg., Chilstrom</p>		<p>22 8:00 a.m. Men's Group</p>
<p>23 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. & Baptism, Josiah Pechoit 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Crow River Conf. Assembly</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p>26 10 am *TBI Support Group, Classroom (Across from Library) 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chp. 7:00 pm Youth Study Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Pack Mtg, Chilstrom</p>		

Serving Group & Birthdays

FEBRUARY 2025 SERVING GROUP	Jerry & Sue Hartwig Pamela Heffern
Chairs:	Marge Hellzen
Jerry & Lana Johnson	Abby Hemingway
Christina Guza	Mike & Polly Hemingway
Christina Haas	Duane & Darlene Henkelman
Bob & Norma Hall	Marlene Herzog
Bill & Mary Kay Hannan	Millard "Buck" & Jane Hickman
Dennis & LeeAnn Hanson	Warren & Sandra Hickman
Everett & Katherine Hantge	Cindy Hill
Alice Harding	Scott and Theresa Hoff
Richard & Carol Heath	Heidi Hoekstra & Casey Miller

**February Ushers
9:00 a.m.**

Josh Baumgartner
Jacob Bredeson
Gary Cervin
John Hulterstrum
Corey Cervin
Tom Fruetel
Chad Mahlow



**February
Open**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Corinthians 13:6

FEBRUARY 1
Anthony Nelson
Darla Peterson
Kira Sparboe
FEBRUARY 2
Kelsey Ballard
Kathy Herzog
Cody Klabunde
FEBRUARY 3
Matthew Herzog
Holly Seifert
Bryanna Wagner
Abby Williams
FEBRUARY 4
Jodi Elam
Chad Johnson
Mark Lease
Jesse Sanden
FEBRUARY 5
FEBRUARY 6
Aidan Berube
Travis Kramer
Jason Oslund

FEBRUARY 7
Andrew Ross
FEBRUARY 8
Suzann Buck
Bryan Larson
FEBRUARY 9
Adrian Baldwin
Roger Larson
Brenda Pollock
FEBRUARY 10
Beth Fruetel
Ryan Johnson
Kylie Michels
Dale Rueckert
Teri Starkey
FEBRUARY 11
Logan Hanson
Blake Hoecke
John Hulterstrum
FEBRUARY 12
Ethan Brott
Darcy Lease

FEBRUARY 13
Jim Asmus
Mary Steenrod
FEBRUARY 14
Gloria Elj
Danica Rueckert
David Schwartz
FEBRUARY 15
Joseph Gaulrapp
Darren Schreiber
FEBRUARY 16
Barbara Keller
Allen Liestman
Andrea Michels
Susan Nelson
Michael Pierce
Braxton Kerstein
FEBRUARY 17
Mildred Neitzel
David Nelson
Henry Nelson
Emma Stalberger

FEBRUARY 18
Linda Carlson
FEBRUARY 19
Erin Groskreutz
Eric Hulterstrum
Mark Hulterstrum
FEBRUARY 20
Ralph Elj
Darlene Groskreutz
FEBRUARY 21
Jenny DeFries
Isla Koelln
FEBRUARY 22
Kaitlyn Borg
Richard Buck
Nathan Elj
Amanda Hickman
Kelsey Pechoit
Jesse Peterson
FEBRUARY 23
Jo Ann Lindstrom
Craig Lokken
Macie Manning
Stacy Roush

FEBRUARY 24
Randy Worden
FEBRUARY 25
Jayne Holmgren
FEBRUARY 26
Marlene Bohn
Richard Buan
Joshua Fenton
Andrew Hoffmann Jr.
Austin Lease
Penny Lease
Gavin Marotte
Cassandra Olson
Matthew Wagner
FEBRUARY 27
Jesse Johnson
FEBRUARY 28
Katelyn Guggemos
Debra Henkelman
Angela Kinsella
FEBRUARY 29
Luke Beckstrand

Senior Dining Menu

Feb-25



LSS Meals | Traditional Older Adult Menu

Monday, Feb. 3	Tuesday, Feb. 4	Wednesday, Feb. 5	Thursday, Feb. 6	Friday, Feb. 7
Chicken Fried Chicken	Beef Roast w/Gravy	Beef Chili	Oven Roasted Turkey	Beef Mac and Cheese
Cream Gravy	Scalloped Potatoes	Broccoli Florets	Turkey Gravy	Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes	Sliced Carrots	Peach Crisp	Mashed Potatoes	California Veg Blend
Green Peas	Wheat Bread	Combread	Whole Kernel Corn	Dinner Roll
Wheat Bread & Margarine	Peanut Butter Cookie		Wheat Bread & Margarine	Margarine
Sugar Cookie	Margarine	Margarine	Chocolate Chip Bar	1% Milk
1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	
Monday, Feb. 10	Tuesday, Feb. 11	Wednesday, Feb. 12	Thursday, Feb. 13	Friday, Feb. 14
Baked Pork Chop w/Gravy	Chicken Alfredo	Satisfury Slsak w/Gravy	Tater Tot Holdish	Oven Fried Fish
Parslied New Potatoes	Sliced Carrots	Mashed Potatoes	Whole Kernel Corn	Mashed Sweet Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables	Green Peas	Green Beans	Apricot Crisp	Country Veg Blend
Wheat Bread & Margarine	Dinner Roll	Dinner Roll & Margarine	Wheat Bread	Dinner Roll & Margarine
Oatmeal Raisin Cookie	Margarine	Brownie	Margarine	Snickerdoodle Cookie
1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk
Monday, Feb. 17	Tuesday, Feb. 18	Wednesday, Feb. 19	Thursday, Feb. 20	Friday, Feb. 21
Chef's Choice	Beef Stroganoff	Pork Roast	Turkey Tetrazzini	Cheesy Egg Bake
Vegetable of the Day	Parslied Noodles	Pork Gravy	Peas & Carrots	Mixed Vegetables
Fruit of Choice	Chutseau Veg Blend	Candied Yarns	Whole Kernel Corn	Potato O'Brien
Dassert of the Day	Diced Beets	Green Beans	Dinner Roll & Margarine	Blueberry Muffin
Bread w/Margarine	Dinner Roll	Wheat Bread & Margarine	Dinner Roll & Margarine	Margarine
1% Milk	Margarine	Peanut Butter Cup Cookie	Peanut Butter Cup Cookie	Margarine
	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk
Monday, Feb. 24	Tuesday, Feb. 25	Wednesday, Feb. 26	Thursday, Feb. 27	Friday, Feb. 28
Beef Cabbage Roll Casserole	Chicken a la King	Country Pork Tips w/Gravy	Meatloaf	Rigatoni Beef
Peas & Pearl Onions	Steamed Rice	Parslied Noodles	Brown Gravy	Green Beans
Apple Crisp	Sliced Carrots	Capri Veg Blend	Mashed Potatoes	California Veg Blend
	Dinner Roll	Dinner Roll	Whole Kernel Corn	Dinner Roll
Wheat Bread	Margarine	Margarine	Wheat Bread	Margarine
Margarine	1% Milk	Margarine	Margarine	Chocolate Chip Cookie
1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% Milk	1% 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:
Nicole Crouch, MS, RD
SNAP or EBT payment is accepted.

320-693-6203

Gifts, Memorials & Thanks

Gifts were given to the General fund and the Blessing Box in honor of Gary and Janet Smith's wedding from Dorothy Euerle and friends and family.

Gifts were given to the General fund and Flooring fund in memory of Einar Lundin from Dorothy Euerle, Joan Sommerfeld, Jeanette Erickson, and Mike and Connie Hamm.

A gift was given to the Quilters fund in memory of Mae Brehmer from Dorothy Euerle.

Gifts were given to the General fund in honor of Charlie Bredeson's birthday from Mike and Kris Nelson, Jerry and Lana Johnson, John and Shirley Lekander, and Dan and Brenda Johnson.

Gifts were given to the General fund in honor of Everett Hantge's birthday from Jerry and Lana Johnson, Dan and Brenda Johnson, and John and Shirley Lekander.

Special Thanks

A big **THANK YOU** to the December Serving Group for your willingness to help serve coffee during that month. What a terrific group to work with.

Karen Eberhard – December Serving Group Chair

January Serving Group, Thank you for volunteering to work and serve.

Your help was greatly appreciated. Karla and Ila



True love

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
- "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
- "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers

We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

"We love because God first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NCV)

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 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;

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 Costa Rica



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

Bethany Home: Wendy Norine

Litchfield, in own home: Jutta Goodrich, Darlene Miller

VA Health Care, St. Cloud: Gordon "Bud" Johnson, Richard Allen

Hilltop Health Center, Watkins: Elois Johnson



Widow's Grief Support

1st and 3rd Thursday of each
Month, in the Conference Room
at 12:30 p.m.

All are Welcome!

Confirmation

Confirmation Photos are here! Please
pick them up in the church office.
Thank you!



WELCA Meeting

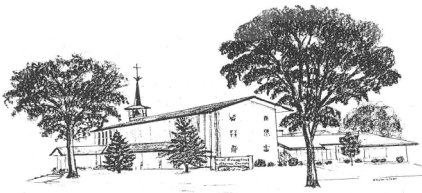
1:30 pm

February 20, 2025

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 **February 15th**

For the **NEXT ISSUE: March 2025**



FIRST NEWS

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

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First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487
LIKE us on Facebook! Or Follow us on Youtube!



MST 2026 invites you to a

Sweetheart Dinner

Sunday, February 16th, 6:30 pm

Tickets: \$20

Dinner Menu: Chicken Kiev, Rice Pilaf, Salad, Dessert

*** Entertainment Provided ***

Event held at:

First Lutheran Church
703 South Sibley Ave
Litchfield, MN

Tickets available in the church office

or from any MST 2026 member.

Must have a ticket to attend– no tickets sold at the door.

