



The First Perspective

January 2022

First Lutheran Church, Stephen MN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1



On January 6th we celebrate the Epiphany, the day the wise men, the Magi, came to worship the baby Jesus. The season of Epiphany continues in the church calendar until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is also known as the season of light.

This past year, actually the past 2 years, has been a time of darkness for me and for many. We have been living with COVID since March of 2020. It has been a time of loneliness, loss, change, worry, anxiety and much more. We as a church have survived! We may not worship as we did, but we worship. We may do things differently, but we do them because we are the church! We know the light has come! We celebrate the light and the birth of our Savior each year!

Let us look forward to 2022 with renewed faith in God. Let us ask God’s guidance as we look forward to what he has in store for us personally and as a church. My prayer for you this new year is that you look with gladness on the changes that we may have to make and know that God is with us in the darkness and in the light!

Praise his Holy Name!

Marilyn

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12/8/21

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of beautiful quilts. Your generosity is combined with that of so many others in our community to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

As a CVIC supporter, you are part of carrying out our mission to prevent violence, to promote safety and to build hope among those in our community in desperate need of your help. One thing is sure: When you give to CVIC, lives change.

Your compassion for others is truly changing the face of this community. To show you the difference you are making in this community, we will provide you with updates in our newsletter and e-news correspondence.

Thank you for being an inspiration to us all. Thank you for sharing your talents with our clients!

Warm regards,
Coiya Tompkins
President/CEO

11/15/2021

Thank you for your kind donation of 15 lbs of personal care items in support of the East Grand Forks Food Shelf. It is through people like you, that are compassionate towards families that struggle to have enough food to feed themselves, that we can continue to serve our community. The East Grand Forks Food Shelf is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the Emergency food needs of people in our community. We cannot express how grateful we are to have received your donation.

Because of donations and grants, we were able to serve our community. During 2020 our food shelf assisted 1351 households. Those households were made up of 446 seniors, 2149 adults and 1438 children. We issued out 172,000 pounds of food.

This year we experienced the need of each household's increase in the amount of assistance needed. Without the community involvement we would not be able to meet their needs. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

We now accept donations conveniently online through PayPal: www.paypal.me/egffoodshelf
Thanks for all you do, in advance. **Our Sincere thanks and may God bless you!**

Lori Bjerck, Operations Manager
and
Board Members
East Grand Forks Food Shelf

Thank you for your continued support all year to Pathways.
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God Bless, From the entire staff at Pathways

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please use this check for general budget needs and thank you for the internet connection!!

Arleen Raffanti

We keep Everyone at First Lutheran in our thoughts and prayers. No white Christmas in Illinois. It has been a long beautiful season.

Love & Best Wishes,
Larry & Juanita Eftefield



***Thank you to all who shared poinsettias
with us for Christmas!***



In Memory of Alice Rogus	Given by Paul & Jess, Charlotte, Clara, & Conner Rogus
In Honor of Kay Kroulik's 101 st Birthday	Given by Penny Jensen
In Memory of Vernon & Grace Frei and Fanny Murrieta	Given by Gale Frei & Fanny Schaeffer
In Memory of Gordon & Anna Lou Gordhamer	Given by Tim & Jody Paulson
In Memory of Loved Ones	Given by Nancy Gajeski
In Memory of Bob and Inyce Hendricks, Daniel Hendricks & Francine Kuznia	
In Honor of Benjamin Hendricks and all deployed	Given by Brian and Jean Hendricks
In Memory of Clarence (Pete) Jr. & Lois Peterson	
In Memory of LaVern Zimmerman	Given by John and Shawna Peterson
In Memory of Rosie & Ted Black	Given by Isaac, Carly & Teddie Black
In Memory of Carol Johnson	Given by Luther Johnson
In Memory of Troy Bazey	Given by Kathy & Charles Labine
In Memory of Aaron Bazey	Given by Kathy & Charles Labine
In Memory of Bob & Virginia Anton and Muriel Vagle	Given by Al and Ellen Anton
In Memory of Blair, Paul, & Laura Klamar	Given by Sarah, Rylan, & Ellie

In Memory of Kipp Carl	Given by Nona Carl
In Memory of Bill Carl	
In Memory of Ole & Gladys Johnson	
In Memory of Aaron Bazey	Given by Stub & Ingrid Bazey
In Memory of Beverly & Norval Benson	Given by David & Debra Benson & Family
In Memory of Wayne & Opal Tommervik and Donald & Marian Bates	Given by Tim & Darlene Bates
In Memory of Lewis & Marge Stromberg and Ted Kroulik and	
In Honor of Pat Kroulik	Given by Mark & Beth Kroulik
In Memory of Glen & Clarice Brinkman & Charlene Kotts	
In Honor of Willard & Diane Kotts	Given by Garry & Sharon Kotts
In Memory of Allan & Joyce Merdink	Given by Marilee Marty
In Memory of Ray & Bernice Kazmierczak and Casey & Irene Erickson	Given by Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak
In Memory of Ivy & Carl Haugen and Philip Anderson	Given by the Anderson Family
In Memory of John & Judy Gervasio	Given by Geoff & Deanna Swendseid & Family
In Memory of Loved ones	Given by Ralph & Audrey Swendseid
In Memory of Lorna Jensen	Given by Betsy & Brian Jensen
In Memory of Jane Jensen & John & Bonnie Risius	Given by Conner, Holly, & Carrie Jensen
In Memory of Roger Benitt	Given by Trevor, Tamara, Darby, Brynn, & Kasen Benitt
In Memory of Gordon Grandstrand	
In Memory of Herman & Mildred Nelson and Albert & Edith Grandstrand	Given by Marilyn Grandstrand
In Honor of Our Family	Given by Bruce & Aase Hamnes



Member News

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bryce Nelson, Jenny Johnson, Roy Ohman, Sandie Rud, Jim Brinkman, Wally Vagle, Kay Kroulik, Brooklyn Poe, Jim Jarshaw, Pat Kroulik, Shane Reuille, Mira Opp, Karen Schendel, Tara & Tyson Jarshaw, Caitlin Willard, Ethel Thorlacius, Trisha Chwialkowski & Darin Perus, Penny Jensen, for those deployed; Benjamin Hendricks, Luke Thompson, John Johnson and for all those who are in need but are not listed here.

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE

Jon Hendricks, son of Brian & Jean Hendricks, Travis Air Force Base
Ben Hendricks, son of Brian & Jean Hendricks, Naval Base San Diego
Todd Jensen, son of David & Penny Jensen
John Johnson, son of Roger & Jane Smidt
William Kotts, brother of Garry Kotts
Luke Thompson, son-in-law of Garry & Sharon Kotts
Kelsey Schendel, niece of Pr. Mike
Please remember all our service men & women in prayer.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

We are always looking for member news to share and hope to hear from you if you have some exciting news you would like to share with other members. Maybe it is a new child-grandchild-great grandchild, wedding, baptism, or birth in your family that you would like others to know about. We would also like to hear from former members including those who grew up at FLC and have transferred their membership to other churches.

EMAILS & CELL PHONE NUMBERS NEEDED

We are adding/updating email addresses and cell phone numbers to the church's database. Please send your contact information to firstl@wiktel.com. Many e-mails and phone numbers have changed or need to be added since this was last done.

Church News

Dear First Lutheran members:

As we embark on 2022, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation over the last two years. When I agreed to the council president position two years ago, I never imagined things would unfold as they did! Thanks to a strong council and a resilient congregation, we successfully navigated uncharted waters together. Whether it was the COVID disruption and learning how to "attend" on-line services, Pastor Mike's retirement, welcoming Marilyn to our congregation, Wednesday School changes, Confirmation changes and numerous other changes, First Lutheran sailed through with barely a hiccup.

In the near future, the Call Committee will meet with our Synod representative and begin First Lutheran's next endeavor, calling a new pastor. Once the committee meets, it will have more information that will be shared with the congregation. Yes, you will be doing some "work", too, in calling a new minister! The call committee includes Marilee Marty, Gannon Nelson, Korey Sundby, Shawna Peterson, Connie Troska and me.

May 2022 be kind to us all. God Bless, Deanna

© First Lutheran Church, Stephen MN 56757

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The secretary's office hours are M-W-F-9:00 AM—Noon

e-mail—firstl@wikel.com---phone--218-478-3895

SAM M. Grandstands' office hours are Tuesday & Friday, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM.

e-mail—flcpastor@wikel.com---phone--763-258-9217

DATES TO REMEMBER

1/05– Church Council

1/05—Wednesday School & Confirmation resume

1/18—Marilyn does Worship Service w/Communion at the Tamarac

1/30—Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 30, 2022 following Worship Service and Potluck dinner. Worship service will be at 10:30 am.

MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE

Martha/Ruth Circle will **NOT** meet in January for Bible Study. Martha/Ruth Circle will resume in March.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

You may have noticed that the Sunday Bulletin is sponsored occasionally in honor or memory of family members. Past sponsorships have included honoring birthdays, deaths, weddings, births, and more. These sponsorships are \$20. Contact the office if you would like to become a sponsor.

SNOW REMOVAL SIGN UP SHEET

The sign-up sheet for snow removal, for the front and back door areas, is now on the white board in the back of the Sanctuary. Please sign up as you are able, to shovel snow from these areas if needed. This arrangement has worked well in the past and this keeps the cost of our parking lot snow removal down. Thank you for considering this service to First Lutheran.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Please remember we will need to be changing the paraments and filling the candles like usual as before the pandemic. Communion is now back to “normal”. We will continue to serve communion the first and third Sundays of the month. Altar committee members will set up communion on the altar. Thank you.

DOOR FUND

A Door Fund has been set up to replace the arched doors and the side door in the front entrance of the Church. The doors have been ordered and will tentatively be installed before winter. You may continue to make donations or memorials to this fund.

LOOSE CHANGE

The Loose Change canister will be available by the East Door for the loose change offering each month. January's Loose Change offering has been designated to ELCA Good Gifts. If you drop your loose change offering in the Secretary office door slot, please mark for loose change. Loose Change will also be collected on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month.

NEW LIGHTED SIGN

A new fund has been started for a lighted/electronic sign, to replace the current church sign in gratitude for Pr. Mike's 36 years of service to FLC. Donations and memorials can be made to this fund.

FREENOTES HARMONY PARK

Three instruments that were ordered have arrived. They will be stored and installed in the spring. They will be placed on the south side of the church and will be available for the community to use. If you are interested in helping with the install, please contact Betsy Jensen via text or phone at 218-689-5375.

FIRST LUTHERAN NEW BIBLE PROGRAM**12 Minutes a Day.**

That's the time it takes to read the ENTIRE Bible in one year.

It's a small daily habit that has ripple effects throughout the day, week, month, and year.

Carving out time for intentional Bible study brings focus, peace, and perspective to our days.

12 Minutes of Bible study can change the entire tone of the day.

It's a time to *PAUSE*.

It's a time to *REMEMBER* what is really important.

It's a time to *BUILD* positive momentum for the day.

First Lutheran has invested in a program that breaks down the Bible into weekly reading plans - different chapters or verses each day. This plan follows the Bible in chronological order, so you won't be reading it from start to finish; but moving around as events happened.

Each month of plans will be sent out in the monthly newsletter and there will also be sheets located in the brochure rack just inside the East door for those that may not receive the newsletter or would like an extra set for a friend. Join us as we read the Bible together as a congregation/ community.

YOUTH NEWS

Boundless
2022 ELCA Youth Gathering
July 24-28, 2022
Minneapolis, MN

Attention all youth going into 9th grade and having finished 12th grade by 2022, the national youth gathering is gearing up and we need you.

We, the Lutheran churches of Lancaster, Hallock, Lake Bronson, Kennedy, Karlstad and Stephen will be working together as one group of youth.

We will rotate meetings and events at each church as we make plans for fund raisers. We can accomplish so much more together than individually.

Information will be coming in a form of letter so we can get an idea how many students will take advantage of this life-giving event. The website for the Youth Gathering is www.elca.org/YouthGathering.

Here are the plans for our first fund raiser. We are putting a calendar together. We would like you to sponsor a day. The day could be selected because it is your birthday or your parent's anniversary. The day could be sponsored because you have a favorite teacher. You can decide. You will need to contact the pastor of your church, to purchase the day or as many days as you would like, for the amount of the day. For example, if your birthday is on March 1st, the day would cost you \$1.00. If you purchased the 25th, it would be \$25.00. If the 25th were filled you could purchase any combination of dates to make 25 (5th and the 20th or the 10th, 5th, 3rd and 2nd) or the 25th of another month. We realize the gathering will have happened by the middle of summer, but we believe this is a fun fundraiser, we can celebrate all year.

You can purchase your dates as soon as you read this article. We will make every effort to fill the calendar by November 1st. Spread the word because the dates can be purchased by anyone interested. The Calendars with the completed dates will be for sale in December.

YOUTH PRINTER INK AND TONER RECYCLE PROGRAM

The program for printer ink and toner has been updated and changed. There are several of the printer inks and toners that are no longer accepted. **Brands of toner accepted include: Brother, HP, Cannon and Lexmark. The ink jet brands accepted include: Canon, Epson, Hasler Neo Post, Lexmark, and HP.** We will no longer be recycling cell phones until further notice. You can drop off the used cartridges at First Lutheran Church. Funds go to the youth group.

YOUTH CELLPHONE RECYCLE PROGRAM

We will again be recycling certain cell phones. **Smartphones, cell phones, iPads, tablets, Kindles, iPods, Apple Watches and MacBook**, regardless of age or condition will be accepted. Please drop off your phones at the church, there is a cupboard in the front entry you can leave them in. Proceeds will go to the FLC Youth. If you have any questions, please call: First Lutheran Church or Michelle Weberg at 478-4543.

RACHEL KURTZ IN CONCERT

January 28, 2022

Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Show Starts: 7:30 Pm

Grace Lutheran Church

321 S Birch Ave

Hallock, Minnesota

Suggested Donation: \$15 at the door!
All proceeds support the area Youth Groups!

**THRIVENT MEMBERS**

Are you throwing away \$500 a year?

Thrivent members have the opportunity, to use this money to help local or national causes.

Questions? Contact Ellen Anton or Staci Winge



Please check the Lay Readers Sign Up sheet and add your name if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Thank you to all the Lay Reader who have contributed their reading talents during the last three months including:

Nona Carl**Jane Smidt****Patsy Heggen****Kris Ann Pietruszewski****Michael Douglas**

If you haven't been a Lay Reader in the past, find out what is involved by talking to Pastor Mike or Pat. It is a great service opportunity that doesn't take much time.



Northwest Minnesota Synod News

"I am called"

Discerning a Call to Public Ministry

God calls everyone to do God's work
in the world.

How is God calling you?

Explore that question in a series of
Zoom conversations.

Thursday, January 20th &
January 27th 7:00-8:30pm

This event is open to all in Region 3 (Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota).

SESSION ONE: PUBLIC MINISTRY IN THE ELCA

Learn about discernment resources and explore the call to public ministry as you hear call stories from pastors and deacons!

Thursday, January 20th @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm

SESSION TWO: SO, HOW DO I GET THERE? – SEMINARY AND OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Learn about the ELCA Candidacy Process and hear from Seminary partners who will share about programs that can equip you to follow God's call in your life.

Thursday, January 27th @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm

[Please RSVP here.](#) Attending both sessions is encouraged, but you are welcome to attend just one!

The Zoom link will be emailed to you two days prior to the session.

FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Deacon Krista Anderson

ELCA Region 3 Candidacy and Leadership Manager

Program Director for the Support of Ministers of Word and Service

krista.anderson@elca.org | 651.208.7713

SERVANT LISTS

USHERS & ACOLYTES		
Date	Acolytes	Ushers
01/02	Emmie McGlynn Claire McGlynn	Al & Ellen Anton Mike & Sarah Berg
01/09	Shianne Kostrzewski Darby Benitt	David & Alana McGlynn Family
01/16	Kristen McGregor Ava Weisenberger	Lon & Melissa Woinarowicz Tom & Ann Woinarowicz
01/23	Olivia Winge Carly Pagnac	Jessica Rogus Family & Brian & Betsy Jensen
01/30	Madison Woinarowicz Elizabeth Parker	Jeff & Jamie Nelson & Gannon & Chrissy Nelson

COFFEE SERVERS	
Leaders: Steve & Michelle Weberg	
01/02	David & Debbie Benson Ron & Vicky Weiland
01/09	Steve & Michelle Weberg Jon Petersen & Ken Kalin
01/16	Mark & Kim Anderson Brian & Paige Halfmann
01/23	Mark & Laura McGregor Mark & Beth Kroulik
01/30	Annual Meeting—Servant Group sets up for Pot Luck dinner

ACOLYTES/USHERS:

Please note the dates that you are scheduled to acolyte/usher for Sunday Worship. If you are not able to serve that Sunday, please find a substitute and notify the office (478-3895) of the change so that the bulletin can be printed with the correct names. Thank You.

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/01	Lowell Bring	01/19	Justin McMahon
01/03	Carol Thorkildson	01/21	Luke Kuznia
01/04	Bruce Field	01/21	Tabitha Laudal Omodt
01/05	Kyler Szczepanski	01/24	Jonathan Anderson
01/06	Huck Hanson	01/27	Debbie Laudal
01/08	William McGlynn	01/27	Emily Thorlacius Curry
01/08	Mabel Sundby	01/28	Savannah Jensen
01/09	Kelly Heggen	01/29	Tina Safranski
01/09	CJ Nyland	01/30	John Fay
01/13	Darby Benitt	01/31	Dianne Dammann
01/14	Addalynn Nelson	01/31	Kyle Hyrnyshyn
01/19	Evan Meadows		

DECEMBER MEMORIALS

Troy Bazey		
Aaron Bazey	Kathy & Charles Labine	Door fund
Eileen Engen	Kathy & Charles Labine	Door Fund
	Lowell & Muriel Bring	Door Fund
Daniel Pietruszewski	Holly & Kent Wavra	Wednesday School
	Michael & Cheri Douglas	Memorial Fund
	Robert & Dianne Dammann	Memorial Fund
Edmund Heggen	Ralph & Audrey Swendeid	Door Fund
	Ken & Pat Heggen	New Sign
	Mark & Beth Kroulik	New Sign
	Family & Friends	New Sign
Wednesday School Staff		
	Carrie Jensen	Freenotes Harmony Park
In Honor of Pastor Mike Schendel		
	Larry & Juanita Eftefield	New Sign



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 1, 2021

Member Present: Deanna Swendseid, Connie Troska, Melanie McGlynn, Betsy Jensen, Gannon Nelson, Jessica Rogus, and Shawna Peterson. Also in attendance, S.A.M. Marilyn Grandstrand, Patsy Heggen and Ellen Anton. President Deanna called the meeting to order.

Devotions were read.

Secretary's report: Motion by Jessica to accept the November 3, 2021 minutes, second by Melanie. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Monthly offerings for November totaled \$5,983.00.

We have not paid synodical, Pathways, and LSS senior meals (Benevolence commitments) for the year. Motion made by Connie to accept the Treasurer's report as printed, second by Betsy. All in favor, motion carried.

Membership changes:

Transfer in: David and Kayla, Blaine, Mason, and Paige Smith from Bethany Lutheran Church, Hatton, ND.

Committee reports

Deacons: Nothing to report.

Trustees: The Trustees continue to work on several projects throughout the church.

Parish Education: The Christmas program will be at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 12th. Sunday morning service will be at 9:00 a.m.

Trust Fund: Will meet in December.

Stewardship: Betsy will make banners to track the fundraising progress for our main projects.

Old Business:

The stationary camera to assist in broadcasting services has arrived.

New Business:

The Call Committee will meet with Pastor Mary Gilthvedt, our conference dean, on January 16th.

The Annual meeting will be January 30, 2022. Church service will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by a potluck meal and the Annual Meeting.

The January Servant group will serve the meal and the Church Council members will clean up.

Pat Heggen announced that she would be retiring as church secretary at the end of January 2022.

Marilyn Grandstrand will be giving Communion at the Tamarac Senior Living Community the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.


Connie made a motion to adjourn, second by Gannon. All in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Peterson
Church Council Secretary

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 am –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion in-person & live on Facebook			6:00 pm Confirmation & Wednesday School 7:00 pm—Church Council			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am—Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook		9:30 am-- Quilting	6:00 pm— Confirmation & Wednesday School			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion in-person & live on Facebook/ Loose Change*		1:00 pm— Marilyn at Tamarac	6:00 pm— Confirmation & Wednesday School			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am—Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook		9:30 am- Quilting	6:00 pm— Confirmation & Wednesday School			
30	31					*Loose Change goes to ELCA Good Gifts
10:30 am-Worship Service in-person & live on Facebook/Pot Luck dinner & Annual meeting to follow						

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 72
STEPHEN MN 56757

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAGE
STEPHEN, MN
PERMIT NO. 1

January 2022

Snowbird?

Don't forget to mail in your pledge for the
weekly Worship services you missed.

Ministers to our Parish:

Marilyn Grandstrand-Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

flcpastor@wiktel.com ~~~~763-258-9217

Patsy Heggen– Parish Secretary

218-478-3895 (church)

All the Members of First Lutheran Church

Published Monthly by the
Congregation of
First Lutheran Church, Stephen
MN.

