



The First Perspective

November 2021

First Lutheran Church, Stephen MN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! Yes, you did read that correctly. November 28th begins the Christian new year – Advent. Advent means coming. It is derived from the Latin word ‘Adventus’.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming

“This season of waiting, watching, and wondering is almost



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upon us. We wait, not only for our annual celebration of Jesus’ birth, but also for his second coming, for the ushering in of the reign of God. We watch for the signs of the second coming, not only the signals that tell us that change is near, but also for the breaking in of the reign of God here on earth, the visible signs of God’s presence among us.

Advent doesn’t call for idle waiting, watching, and wondering.

Advent is a time for active preparation. We realign ourselves with God. We focus more intently on prayer, devotion, service. Each Sunday we gather around Word and Sacrament, experiencing anew the breaking in of the reign of God.

We are learning our lines, rehearsing our moves, practicing the interactions, so that when Christ comes again, we will be ready to live fully into the reign of God. Soon we will be so familiar with our roles that we live into them seamlessly.” (WELCA website)

How are you approaching Advent this year? What practices or rituals do you find helpful as you wait expectantly to celebrate the coming of the Christ child?

Here are some Advent practices to explore: Read 1 chapter of Luke each day of Advent, tell the Nativity story, reflect on the Advent hymns, make a collage during Advent to reflect your Advent journey, experience Advent through art, make your own Advent calendar – let your creative side shine. Text me (763-258-9217) what you are doing to prepare for the birth of Christ.

Marilyn, SAM

In Christ’s service,
Marilyn



Thank you to all the faithful members that signed up and kept the Church grounds mowed and trimmed this past season. Our lawn looked great all summer.

Thank you to the quilting ladies for helping fold the newsletters the past few months. I can always count on your help.

Bless you,
Pat Heggen



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE

- 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, United Arab Emirates
- 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.

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.

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.

Church News**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/03—Church Council

11/08— Martha/Ruth Circle

11/09 –Quilting

11/14—Wednesday School Kids Sing

MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE

Martha/Ruth Circle **will** meet in November for Bible Study. We will be meeting **Monday, November 8, 2021**, at 7:00 pm at Church. Our hostess is Patsy Heggen. The Bible Study will be presented by Jane Smidt based on scripture-related lessons from the former Andy Griffith television show.

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.

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. November's Loose Change offering has been designated to Marshall County Sharing Tree Project. 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 FUND

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.

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

As we roll into November, our Wednesday school program is well under way. This year our Wednesday School classes are being held at First Lutheran Church from 6:00-7:00pm each Wednesday.

We are blessed to have over 30 students attending our program this year and a group of wonderful teachers who have volunteered their time. Our teachers include,

- Whitney Weisenberger – Preschool & Kindergarten
- Megan Hoper & Tamara Benitt – 1st & 2nd
- Jenny Setterholm – 3rd & 4th
- Krissy McMahon – 5th & 6th
- Kelsi Douglas – Music teacher

We encourage you to pray for the success of our program. Our youth will be sharing their talents with the congregation when they sing at the beginning of the worship service on **Sunday November 14th** and during the Christmas program which will take place **Sunday, December 12th**.

- Board of Parish Education

**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

Connie Troska

Kris Ann Pietruszewski

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



Northwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

October 25th, 2021

Dear Wholly Devoted Partners in God's Mission,

Today I am giving thanks to God for the outstanding new synod staff that will be joining our shared mission to foster safe and healthy places for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and to shape an abundant future for all in Northwestern Minnesota.



Pastor Genelle Netland has accepted the call to serve as our new Associate to the Bishop for Synod Administration. Pastor Genelle brings a wealth of experience as a respected leader in our church. She has served as the Sr. Pastor of Calvary Lutheran in Bemidji, a Synod Minister for Community and Leader Engagement, and a leader in the ELCA among pastors of large congregations and also as a family farmer. Pastor Netland's portfolio will also include Community and Leader Engagement responsibilities for the Bemidji, Detroit Lakes and Moorhead Conferences. Pastor Genelle will begin her work on December 1, 2021.

Pastor Dennis Preston will join our staff as the Synod Minister for Community and Leader Engagement in conferences 7 and 8 (Fergus Falls and Alexandria). Pastor Preston brings a wealth of parish experience and leadership as an accomplished pastor, an effective interim pastor for congregations in transition, and is a certified coach. Dennis will begin his work on November 1, 2021



Joan Meulebroeck will join our staff as our Financial and Data-systems Specialist. Joan has held a variety of positions in her church including book-keeping and accounting and directing her congregation's preschool. Her work with us will improve our internal controls and also free up our Associate to the Bishop for increased engagement with congregations and leaders across the synod. Joan will begin her work on December 1, 2021

These new staff additions along with the recent addition of Pastor Rebel Hurd as our new Director For Evangelical Mission round out our synod staffing.

We are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you!

In Christ our Brother,



Rev. Bill Tesch

Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

SERVANT LISTS

USHERS & ACOLYTES		
Date	Acolytes	Ushers
11/07	Olivia Winge & Madison Woinarowicz	Larry & Eileen Opp, Chad & Pennie Korynta
11/14	Brynn Benitt & Lillian Douglas	Kelly & Kristen Clausen, Dave & Penny Jensen
11/21	Shay Setterholm & Anders Thompson	Daniel & Kelsi Douglas, Mike & Cheri Douglas
11/28	Colin McGregor & Liam McMahan	Steve & Melanie McGlynn Family

COFFEE SERVERS	
Leader: John & Shawna Peterson	
11/07	Aase & Bruce Hamnes Shawna & John Peterson
11/14	Kelsey & Erin Anderson Kim & Mark Anderson
11/21	Deanna & Geoff Swendseid
11/28	Tamara & Trevor Benitt Becky & Alvin Nybladh

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) by Thursday of the change so that the bulletin can be printed with the correct names. Thank You.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/05	DuWayne & Marcia Dahl	11/22	Gerald & Shirley Soderlund
11/08	Mark & Kim Anderson	11/25	Larry & Patricia Grabowska

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01	Karen Znajda	11/13	Hazel Douglas	11/21	Easton Anderson
11/03	Rylan Klamar	11/15	Geoff Swendseid	11/21	Taylor Znajda
11/04	Shawna Peterson	11/16	Erica Breedlove	11/22	Luna Thompson
11/04	Dylan Reuille	11/16	Brian Hendricks	11/25	Jan Anderson
11/04	Deanna Swendseid	11/17	Earl Anderson	11/26	Odin Hoper
11/05	Taylor Frisinger	11/17	Jean Hendricks	11/26	Claire Woinarowicz
11/05	Maynard Peterson	11/17	Tom Woinarowicz	11/27	Carly Peterson-Black
11/08	Roberta McGlynn	11/18	Adley Grandstrand	11/28	William Halfmann
11/09	Michael Sustad	11/20	Brynn Benitt	11/28	Mark Kroulik
11/09	Steve Weberg	11/20	David Jensen	11/29	Muriel Bring
11/11	Norma Hvidsten				

OCTOBER MEMORIALS

Tom Gillach	Mike & Karen Schendel	Memorial Fund
Irene Rud	Penny Jensen	Memorial Fund
	Ken & Pat Heggen	Door Fund
	Mike & Karen Schendel	Memorial Fund
Ryan Kraulik	Penny Jensen	Memorial Fund
Lorna Jensen	George & Margaret Carter	St. Petri Cemetery Fund
In Honor of Pastor Mike	George & Margaret Carter	Door Fund
Donna (Hoepfer) Boudreau	Ron & Vicky Weiland	Door Fund
Leonard Lubarski	Ron & Vicky Weiland	Door Fund



A LITTLE HOLY HUMOR

While grading his term papers, a college professor noticed something familiar about all of the papers except for one and realized he had uncovered a major cheating scandal. As he handed back each paper marked with a big red F, he told the students it was because they had received help writing the papers instead of doing them on their own.

When he reached the last student, he asked him to stand up and told the class that this was the only person who did not receive any help. The student looked at him sheepishly and said, "I received help from God."

The professor said, "No you didn't," and handed him a paper marked with a big red F.

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On the first day of class, the English professor asked her students what kind of writers they wanted to be. "I want to be like Jesus," one girl answered.

Not knowing what she meant, the professor asked the girl to explain.

"My brother took this class last semester," she said. "He worked all night on his final paper, and it was brilliant. Right before he printed it, the power went out, his computer went down, and he lost everything and flunked this class. That's why I want to be a writer like Jesus. Jesus saves."

### Bulletin Bloopers

Will all of those with rolls in the church Christmas play please report to the kitchen after the service.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Balser, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Balser.

### First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 6, 2021

**Member Present:** Deanna Swendseid, Connie Troska, Al Anton, Kelsey Anderson, Melanie McGlynn, Krissy McMahon, Betsy Jensen, and Shawna Peterson. Also in attendance, Patsy Heggen and Ellen Anton  
President Deanna called the meeting to order.  
Devotions by Krissy.

**Secretary's report:**

Motion by Connie to accept the September 8, 2021 minutes, second by Krissy. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Monthly offerings for August totaled \$7,416.00. All the bills have been paid. Motion by Betsy second by Krissy to accept the Treasurer's report as printed. All in favor, motion carried.

**Membership changes:** None

**Committee reports**

**Deacons:** Nothing to report.

**Trustees:**

-The new coffee pots have arrived.

-The Trustees are working on several projects throughout the church.

**Parish Education:** Wednesday School started today, October 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be in the evening this year. The Wednesday School Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Wednesday School students will sing in church the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday the month.

**Trust Fund:** Nothing to report.

**Stewardship:** The Harvest Festival went well. The vast majority of meals were take-out. Betsy has created a detailed list of things to add/change for next year to help with the change in serving time and the increase in take-out meals.

Profits from the Harvest Festival were \$2,125.70. Motion by Kelsey, second by Melanie to donate all proceeds from the Harvest Festival to the fund for a new lighted/electronic church sign. All in favor, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Betsy is arranging for installation of the Freenotes Harmony Music Park. Installation will probably be in the spring.

Connie will arrange the purchase and installation of computers for the offices. A new camera for broadcasting services will be ordered.

The Servant lists are being revised.

**New Business:**

Pastor Mary Gilthvedt, our conference dean, will be setting up meetings with the call committee in the near future to begin the call process. She is from Zion Lutheran in Warroad.

Members of the call committee are Deanna Swendseid, Connie Troska, Gannon Nelson, Korey Sundby, Marilee Marty, and Shawna Peterson.

Members of the congregation are asked to contact a council member with any concerns or issues they have regarding the church. This includes anything from lights that need to be repaired to ideas for Christmas programs. In the past members often contacted Pat Heggen or Pastor Mike. We are hoping that bringing the concerns directly to the church council streamlines the process.

Kelsey made a motion to adjourn, second by Melanie. All in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be November 3rd at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Peterson  
Church Council Secretary

# NOVEMBER 2021

| Sunday                                                                                                     | Monday                                      | Tuesday               | Wednesday                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                            | Friday | Saturday                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                            | 1                                           | 2                     | 3                                                                                         | 4                                                                                   | 5      | 6                                                                     |
|                            |                                             |                       | 6-7:00 PM-<br>Wednesday School<br>6-7:00 PM-<br>Confirmation<br>7:00 PM-Church<br>Council |                                                                                     |        | Daylight<br>Savings<br>Time ends<br>tonight.<br>Turn back<br>clocks!! |
| 7                                                                                                          | 8                                           | 9                     | 10                                                                                        | 11                                                                                  |        | 13                                                                    |
| 9:00 AM –Worship Service<br>w/Holy Communion in-<br>person & live on Facebook                              | 7:00 PM—<br>Martha/Ruth<br>Circle at Church | 9:30 AM-<br>-Quilting | 6-7:00 PM—<br>Wednesday School<br>6-7:00 PM-<br>Confirmation                              |  |        |                                                                       |
| 14                                                                                                         | 15                                          | 16                    | 17                                                                                        | 18                                                                                  | 19     | 20                                                                    |
| 9:00 AM—Worship Service<br>in-person & live on<br>Facebook<br>Wed. School Kids Sing                        |                                             |                       | 6-7:00 PM-<br>Wednesday School<br>6-7:00 PM—<br>Confirmation                              |                                                                                     |        |                                                                       |
| 21                                                                                                         | 22                                          | 23                    | 24                                                                                        | 25                                                                                  | 26     | 27                                                                    |
| 9:00 AM -- Worship<br>Service w/ Holy<br>Communion in-person &<br>live on Facebook<br>Loose Change Sunday* |                                             | 9:30 AM-<br>-Quilting |                                                                                           | Happy<br>Thanksgiving!                                                              |        |                                                                       |
| 28                                                                                                         | 29                                          | 30                    |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |        |                                                                       |
| 9:00 AM—Worship Service<br>in-person & live on<br>Facebook                                                 |                                             |                       |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |        |                                                                       |
| *Loose Change goes to<br>Marshall County Sharing<br>Tree Project                                           |                                             |                       |       |                                                                                     |        |                                                                       |

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

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

## NOVEMBER 2021

At the lake/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](mailto:flcpastor@wiktel.com) ~~~~763-258-9217  
Patsy Heggen– Parish Secretary  
218-478-3895 (church)  
All the Members of First Lutheran Church

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