

First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

200 East 5th Street, Morris MN 56267

320-589-3242

www.flcmorris.org



Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

October 2020

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 9:30am

Outdoor Parking Lot Worship
broadcasted on Facebook Live;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel

A Letter from our Council President

At the September Church Council meeting, the council resolved to “re-open” the church for inside Sunday worship services, starting on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The details have not yet been finalized, but the best safe practices – masks, social distancing, limited occupancy, hand washing/sanitizing — will be included. Everyone wants the First Lutheran congregation to stay safe and healthy, so we will adopt those policies and guidelines for safe and healthy practices as set forth by the CDC, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the SW Minnesota Synod.

In the meantime, the parking lot services and on-line services will continue as they have. The Task Force and the Church Council, along with Pastor Dan, will continue to plan and prepare for the November 1st re-opening of indoor worship services. Of course, on-line services will continue as well.

The council also wishes to extend their thank you to everyone who has donated to First Lutheran during 2020, especially in light of the economic challenges this pandemic has brought to our city, state and nation. Truly, First Lutheran’s members are a testament to their faith in God. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Bob Dalager, Council President

“Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries.” —1 Corinthians 4:1

As I write this, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is being laid to rest in the United States Capitol. She is the first woman, and the first Jewish person, in the history of the United States to be given the honor to “lie in state”. A beautiful solo of “Deep River” is being sung. At her death, her vision, devotion to our nation, her conviction and courage, is rightly being honored. A moving tribute to her life and legacy was given by a woman Rabbi. “*Tsedek, tsedek tirdof...*” from the Hebrew Bible was engraved on a plaque hanging in her office, said the Rabbi. “Justice, justice, you must pursue...” were the words on the plaque (from Deuteronomy 16:20, the Hebrew Bible, our *Old Testament*). Another word for justice is “fairness.” She flourished in adversity. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was valedictorian of her high school class, told the Rabbi, yet, she did not give a speech at her graduation; her mother died one day before her graduation. Her sister died when she was 14. This brilliant and determined woman graduated first in her class from Columbia Law School in New York City, the Rabbi added, yet, “no law firm in New York City would hire her, because she was a woman.” Such a disappointment and glaring injustice did not stop her. “Despair was not an option.” Justice Ginsburg pressed on. She took a teaching job; eventually, she became an esteemed Supreme Court justice. In the past year I reflected on her tenacity as I heard she was battling cancer, had to be hospitalized, then, went back to work at 87 years old! She had “four bouts with cancer” yet, she pressed on. Step by step, brick by brick, the Rabbi said, Justice Ginsberg worked toward a United States with justice for all people. She lived her faith out in our vocation as a lawyer and Supreme Court Justice. Whether one agrees, or not, with all of her “opinions” as a Justice, one cannot help but be in awe of her courage, commitment, resilience and resolve. I learned she also was a close friend of Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, a conservative justice; they had deep, and abiding respect for one another. What a model for all of us, especially in these times. In spite of their differing views and philosophies of law, they were friends over many years. Justice Ginsburg was a pioneer whom millions of young women and men have looked up to. She was a “steward” of her vocational role, of her talents, which she developed. She lived out her faith in God through her vocation.

The cry for justice, for fairness, has been heard on the streets of American these past few months. “Black Lives Matter” signs.... Marches, and speeches. *Black lives do matter*. They didn’t for too long... The cry for justice, and for recognition will continue. It is a cry heard around the world. As has been asked, “Don’t ALL lives matter?” Of course. God cherishes all God has made, and each human life is cherished by the Holy One. We should also so value every human life! Yet, when a group is systematically doled out injustice for centuries, God will hear their cry, just as God heard the cry of the Israelites, themselves slaves in Egypt. While our country has made some progress, there would not be the protests, and the intense energy put into these voices rising, were it not for injustices that have been suffered for so long. Can we hear the longing of God, in the voices of peaceful protesters?

50 years ago, on November 22, 1970, Elizabeth Platz became the first woman ordained a pastor in the Lutheran Church in America. Since then, our Lutheran body is one of several who have recognized the gifts of women in ministry. 21 years later, in 1991 about half the students at my seminary, Luther, were women. Our studies, and relationships, were enriched by my women classmates insights, presence, faith and gifts. The Apostle Paul speaks of his “co-workers” Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4, as women who worked alongside him in the proclamation of the gospel. Somehow, the church seemed to miss that over the centuries. My classmates often had a much harder time finding a call than we males did. Of course, women have played key roles in the church for centuries in many ways. I am thankful that First Lutheran has welcomed and called many women pastors in our history. Of course, women today are found in all branches of science, law, the church, and so on. Justice, gender fairness, has come, with much sweat and tears – even if it took centuries. Still, there is work to be done.

This fall, October 11th, we’ll have a Bread for the World Sunday “Offering of Letters” asking our legislators to give heed to the cries of hungry people in our nation and around the world. We will ask them to enact legislation that “works for justice” for hungry Americans and to be public *servants* “for the common good.” Like Justice Ruth Ginsburg, and all who are called into a faith relationship with God, we are *stewards of God*, called by God’s grace into a loving relationship with the Lord of the Universe. That we might use *all that God has entrusted to us*, in our various callings, to proclaim the praise of God. A steward is one who manages something *for another*. We are called to steward what God has entrusted to us to serve God by seeking a better world for all people. This year we are looking at, and some of us speaking about, ways we are “Stewards of God’s Love” as the church. As God’s beloved people, we are called to be stewards of God’s grace, of our talents, of “stuff,” of money, of “the story,” of creation, of time, of local and global community, and *of justice*. Yes, a high and holy calling it is! We are all “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” (I Cor. 4:1). God is counting on us....

Pastor Dan

YOUTH EDUCATION INFO!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) service for those youth wishing to affirm their Baptism into Christ will be at 9:30am on October 4th at the service in the parking lot.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

First Communion Instruction for 5th and 6th graders and a parent/or parents will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 10:45am (right after worship) in the Fellowship Hall. We'll use social distancing and masks. 45 minute session.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

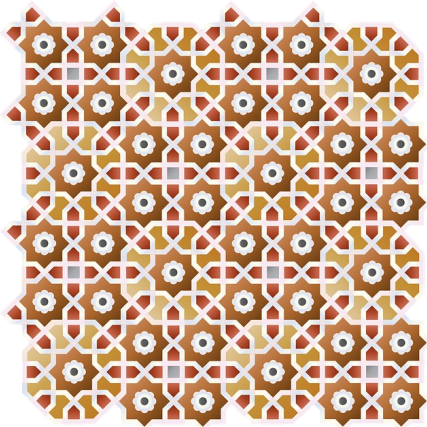
Because of the pandemic, and our current outdoor worship schedule, the Education Committee has decided to wait for now until we know more about how things go at the public schools in September. We will inform you (soon) about the start of Sunday School and details relating to teaching and learning. One of the possibilities is an online Sunday school with Luther Crest.

Bread for the World

Church without Walls 2020: Advocacy

Sunday, October 11

Bread for the World, www.bread.org, is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad, this guide is designed to inspire those moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, to reach out to our neighbors—whether they are next door, in the next state, or on the next continent.



*Bread for the World's 2020 Offering of Letters to Congress:
Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow*

Meet Gita.

Gita, a woman in India, gave birth a month prematurely to her daughter who weighed just 900 grams or slightly less than two pounds.

Last year, Congress passed legislation to increase global nutrition funding by \$5 million for a total of \$150 million--demonstrating the substantial support Bread members have fostered on Capitol Hill for global nutrition.

First Lutheran Church will be participating in this advocacy for this year's God's Work Our Hands service.



Meet the food insecure.

In the U.S., 1 in 7 children live in food-insecure homes.

Due to centuries of inequitable public policies in our nation's history, communities of color reside in these areas at significantly higher rates. One in 2 Indigenous, 1 in 4 African Americans, and 1 in 6 Hispanics live and go to school in areas of concentrated poverty compared to 1 in 13 whites.

*Bread for the World's 2020 Offering of Letters to Congress:
Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow*



A simple gesture

Scriptures portray the Lord as upholding the cause of those who are oppressed and providing for hungry and poor people.

God provides out of God's abundance.

All creation is reconciled with God through Jesus Christ, and we are to be agents of reconciliation.

We work toward a just world, showing God's love and honor the dignity and worth of our neighbors.

First, we are to love God.

Second, we are to love our neighbors.



Our government is more divided than ever, but access to good nutrition for mothers and children should not be a partisan issue. By investing in domestic and international nutrition programs, we can help children get off to a good start and make the future better for all of us.

Bread for the World's 2020 Offering of Letters to Congress: Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow

God loves justice and requires us
to do **justice**
and **love kindness**.

**God calls people
into community
and sets the expectation
that leaders should care for their
people.**

We hear God's voice in Scripture and respond with the faithful use of our own voices.

Proverbs says, **“Speak out for those who cannot speak.”** Proverbs 31. God has a role for government to play in the protection and development of people.

Leaders are servants for the good, **whether or not they acknowledge that their authority comes from God.** Christians can advocate for government to protect and provide for all its people (Acts 21-26.)

→ **Relate**

Heavenly Father, I pray for the one in seven children in our country who lives in a family that struggles to get enough to eat. Grant patience and wisdom to parents who work so hard to see that their children have the food they need to grow and learn. Amen.

→ **Compare**

Therefore, we also reflect God's love by challenging individuals and institutions given the power to change laws and structures that keep people vulnerable.

SAMPLE TEXT for a LETTER

Dear Senator _____, or Dear Representative _____,

I urge you to make strong investments in nutrition programs for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad, especially mothers and children.

Federal nutrition programs help U.S. families lead healthy lives. Congress should increase funding for the Summer EBT program so more children can access nutritious food during the summer months--the hungriest time of the year for children.

I also urge you to support legislation that strengthens U.S. leadership on global nutrition and increases funding for global nutrition programs. Too many children globally are malnourished and suffer from stunting. Stunting affects physical and cognitive development.

My faith calls me to stand alongside women and children around the world. Our government should provide leadership toward a well-nourished world.

Sincerely, {your name} [your address] [city, state zip]

For the *field addresses of congressional senators and representatives, please visit <https://whoismyrepresentative.com/>*

For Morris Area residents:

Sen. Amy Klobuchar
1200 Washington Ave., So., Room 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Main Line: 612-727-5220

Sen. Tina Smith
60 Plato Blvd. East Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55107
Phone (651) 221-1016

Rep. Collin Peterson
1700 Technology Drive Suite 119
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: (320) 235-1061

MISSIONARY FOR THE DAY

Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

Pastor Alex LaChapelle is the pastor at Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation in Kenya, Africa. Address of congregation is: Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation, PO Box 34089, Nairobi, Kenya 00100 Website: www.nilc-nairobi.org. We continue to provide him with needed support through our Missionary for the Day contributions. **Here's how to participate:** Contact Rita to select a calendar day support and make a payment of \$15. She will record your choices on a calendar along with your dedication to sponsor in honor of a passing, birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc.

- Sept 1 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Penny Freeman
- Sept 2 In memory of Chuck Seip from Penny Freeman
- Sept 3 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Skip & Vicki Maanum
- Sept 4 In memory of Dan Luthi from Skip & Vicki Maanum
- Sept 5 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Emilie Brustuen
- Sept 6 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Arlene Fellows
- Sept 7 In memory of Chuck Seip from Arlene Fellows
- Sept 8 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Ken & Noreen Grunig
- Sept 9 In memory of Chuck Seip from Eugene & Cathy Anderson
- Sept 10 In memory of Dan Luthi from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- Sept 11 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Dolores Crow
- Sept 12 Happy Birthday Ben Ehlers & Emily Nelson from Mom and Dad
- Sept 13 In memory of Chuck Seip from Dolores Crow
- Sept 14 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Mary Krattenmaker
- Sept 15 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Jim & Marian Thraen
- Sept 16 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Cheryl Higgins
- Sept 17 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Lauren Carlson
- Sept 18 In memory of Chuck Seip from Emilie Brustuen
- Sept 19 In memory of Chuck Seip from Dick & Judy Bluth
- Sept 20 In memory of Chuck Seip from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- Sept 21 In memory of Chuck Seip from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- Sept 22 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- Sept 23 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Steve & Sherry Wagner
- Sept 24 In memory of Don Fellows from Arlene and family
- Sept 25 In memory of Dan Luthi from Arlene Fellows
- Sept 26 In memory of Dennis Johnson from Muriel Lindbeck
- Sept 27 In memory of Dan Luthi from Evelyn Warnes
- Sept 28 In memory of Dan Luthi from Jo Solvie
- Sept 29 In loving memory of John Solvie from his family
- Sept 30 In memory of Chuck Seip from Jo Solvie

What is Missionary for a Day?

Sometimes we've done something important for so long that we forget what it is! Such may be the case with Missionary for a Day. For more than 50 years First Lutheran has been engaged in missionary support by individual sponsorship rather than as a budgeted item. Originally the day sponsorship covered most of the daily cost of missionary support. Currently the \$15 per day support must be combined with many others but still reflects our commitment to the great commission. Over the years members have supported medical missionaries in east Africa, evangelizing missionaries in Senegal, the ELCA Hunger and Disaster appeals, a hospital in the Holy Land and other mission activities.

COUNCIL MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Council Board Meeting September 23, 2020

The September meeting of First Lutheran's Church Council met by teleconference through Zoom and was called to order by Vice President Eugene Anderson on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 7:35pm. Present: Allyn Plattner, Peggy Jergenson, Tony Feuchtenberger, Naomi Fynboh, Jason Reed, Eugene Anderson, Rheanne Kline and John Dosedall, Absent: Bob Dalager, Gary Wagner, and Terry Dybdahl. Staff present: Pastor Dan Belgum and Rita Bye.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from August were emailed to each council member. No corrections or additions were needed. John moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Allyn.

Treasurer's Report: Naomi reported that giving has been down, but we have been keeping up with benevolence. Next month will be tight keeping up with the bills if giving doesn't pick up. Naomi has been staying in contact with the bank concerning the loan forgiveness application once it becomes available. Rheanne moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jason.

Pastor's Report: A written report was emailed to each council member. Pastor spoke on some of the highlights of his report.

Committee Reports

- Stewardship Committee is busy working on Consecration Sunday with plans to hold it in November or December.
- Mission & Evangelism Committee has been working on the Church Without Walls/Bread for the World Sunday be held on October 11. Olivewood will be sold on two Sundays, October 4 & 11.
- Worship & Music Committee has not been meeting.

Old Business

- Council Member Biographies: still in need of a few bios which will be printed in upcoming newsletters.
- Discussions have been held with Bob Heck about having him do some of the snow removal this coming winter.
- In-Person or Indoor Worship services were discussed at length with input from the Task Force meeting. It was decided that if the weather permits,

outdoor worship will be held through the month of October. More plans will need to be worked on for some form of indoor worship starting in November.

- The annual fall dinner will be held this year, but will look different from other years. Lutefisk will not be served and there will be no indoor dining. A ham meal will be served as take out only. The Silent Auction portion will also be held.

New Business

- The Church Council plans on serving the Thanksgiving meal at LuMin on November 19th. Naomi, Allyn and Eugene will recruit others to help and plan the meal.
- Rita's desktop computer needs replacement. Allyn made a motion to accept the bid from Mobiz Computers for \$729.00, seconded by Tony. Motion carried.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, at 7:30pm. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Bye, Recording Secretary



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|  <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">October</h1> | | | | | | |
| <p>4 Affirmation of Baptism Service 9:30am Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) Olivewood for sale following worship 6:00-7:30pm Sr. High Fusion at FIRST Lutheran (9-12 grade)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Sunday morning worship services are streamed live via Facebook. The recorded service will also be available on our website and YouTube channel later in the day.</p> | 5 | 6 | 7 6:00-7:30 pm Element at FAITH (6-8 grade) | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| <p>11 Bread for the World Sunday 9:30am Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) Olivewood for sale following worship 6:00-7:30pm Sr. High Fusion at FIRST Lutheran (9-12 grade)</p> | 12 Fall Theological Conference (on-line) | 13 Fall Theological Conference (on-line) | 14 Youth Rake & Run Service Project (TBA) | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| <p>18 9:30am Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) Sr. High Fusion Service Project (TBA)</p> | 19 | 20 | 21 6:00-7:30pm Element at FAITH (6-8 grade) 7:30pm Council Meeting | 22 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting (Zoom) | 23 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due | 24 |
| <p>25 9:30am Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) 6:00-7:30pm Sr. High Fusion at FIRST Lutheran (9-12 grade)</p> | 26 | 27 | 28 6:00-7:30pm Element at FAITH (6-8 grade) | 29 | 30 | 31 Youth Halloween Bonfire & Hayride (TBA)  Happy Halloween |

THIS N' THAT

Thankofferings are a tradition that goes back to the 1800's or earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Women would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. Then they would come together and join their offerings to support ministry of many kinds.

We will continue the tradition of collecting a thankoffering this fall with money collected to go to support the life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. You can collect your loose change this fall to donate or simply make a donation by check or cash during a special offering on Sunday, November 22. If you will not be present at worship, you may drop off your donation at the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Women of the ELCA!

Project Olivewood We will once again be selling Olivewood following the worship services on Sunday, October 4 & 11. These make great gifts for the upcoming holidays!

Newsletter Deadline for the November newsletter is noon on Friday, October 23.

2020 KMRS Radio Broadcast dates are: Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 24. Help support the ELCA Worship Hour by sponsoring a broadcast (\$65) in memory or in honor of a loved one. Contact the church office for more information.



- Oct 1 Tony Feuchtenberger
- Oct 2 Lindy Ekola, Stephanie Hoberg
- Oct 3 Irene Fuhrman, Jackie Thymian
- Oct 4 Bobbi Siegel
- Oct 5 Judy Bluth, Leroy Fahje, Nina Overland
- Oct 6 Peter Sarlette
- Oct 8 Arlene Fellows, Aidan Lebrija, Eleanor Pochardt
- Oct 9 Greg Fynboh
- Oct 10 Laurie Feuchtenberger, Mark McCormack
- Oct 11 Jackie Krosch, Jo Solvie
- Oct 13 Randee Hokanson
- Oct 14 Brady Jergenson
- Oct 15 Magen Feuchtenberger, Natasha Mortenson
- Oct 19 Kellie Hentges, Hunter Ketterling
- Oct 20 Sally Utech
- Oct 21 Corrie Erdahl, Noah Grove, Mackenzie Just, Dick Mahoney
- Oct 23 Joe Holland
- Oct 24 Eugene Anderson
- Oct 25 LeAnn Dean, Lucy Feuchtenberger, Rob Jergenson
- Oct 26 Naomi Fynboh
- Oct 27 Ryan Anderson, Bryce Jergenson
- Oct 28 Scott Hentges, Mark Nemmers, Mark Smith, Jill Van Kempen
- Oct 30 Arora Nemmers

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Ushers/Greeters

- Oct 4: Dick Smith, Linda Holland, Tim Grove
- Oct 11: Steve & Michelle Just family
- Oct 18: Bob Heck, David Jungst & Lindy Ekola
- Oct 26: Al Harris, Dennis & Natalie Ketterling

Communion Assistants

- Oct 4: Bob & Vicki Dalager
- Oct 18: Laurie Feuchtenberger, Steve VanKempen

Happy Anniversary

- Oct 4 Jon & Heidi Anderson
- Oct 7 Bob & Nadine Heck
- Oct 7 Leroy & Sheila Fahje
- Oct 10 Kevin & Lori Wevley
- Oct 12 Herb & Marlene Nelson
- Oct 23 Glen & Kahla Gillespie

Supporting recovery after California wildfires

CHICO, CALIF.
ELCA.org/disaster

In late 2018, wildfires raged across both northern and southern California, destroying thousands of homes and nearly wiping out the town of Paradise. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are walking alongside Californians impacted by these devastating fires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the ELCA synods in California to respond to the fires. Your gifts have already helped survivors with essentials like groceries. In the months to come, we will continue to work with our partners to address long-term needs, such as rebuilding homes, replacing lost property and providing emotional and spiritual care. Lutheran Disaster Response also works alongside other organizations to fill unmet needs. In northern California, the furniture company Living Spaces worked with Faith Lutheran Church in Chico to enroll more than 200 survivors in a program to receive free mattresses.



When trucks from southern California arrived carrying the donated mattresses, the people of Faith Lutheran distributed them to evacuees who had secured a place to sleep. But the people of Faith didn't just deliver a bed; they offered a loving presence, an opportunity for prayer and a \$100 gift card from Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, so evacuees could buy sheets, a pillow and a blanket to go with their new mattress.

"As soon as I got the bed, I bought myself sheets and a comforter with the gift card," said Julia, who was staying with a friend. "That night was the first night since the fire that I slept for more than five hours. For the first time since the fire, I had something that was truly my own."

The road to recovery from the wildfires is expected to be a long one. Thank you for standing by survivors for as long as it takes.

WHF19

Mail

Make your check payable to "Lutheran Disaster Response." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/disaster/donate
Phone 800-638-3522



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response (DDG0060).

- I have enclosed my gift of \$100.
 I have enclosed my gift of \$250.
 Other \$ _____

Mothers fight for their daughters' education

GUATEMALA
ELCA.org/hunger



"Will you take me with you?" As Pastor Karen Castillo prepared to leave Playito Cerro Alto, a secluded community along Guatemala's Rio Chixoy, she felt the tug of a regular request from one of the village's young girls. Pr. Karen knew the situation: If the girl stayed, she would likely be married soon and then pregnant, without the option of continuing her education. Yet Pr. Karen also knew the girl could not come with her to Guatemala City.

This girl's situation is common among the indigenous, rural communities served by the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG in Spanish). Families tend to be large, and due to poverty, cultural traditions and other factors, daughters are often given away for marriage early. At 12 to 14 years old, girls are matched with husbands who are at least twice their age and sometimes older.

However, with the church's help and your support, the women in these communities are starting to speak up, calling for better futures for their daughters and granddaughters. The lack of educational opportunities for women and girls is a frequent concern Pr. Karen hears. Schools

are often far from people's homes, and if instruction is available, boys are often given precedence.

With the urging of parents and leaders in these communities and the support of partners, including ELCA World Hunger, ILAG is providing the tools to break the cycle of poverty for this generation and many to come. Now Pr. Karen can say "yes" to some of the girls longing to complete their education before starting a family.

Opened in 2018 at the Augustinian Lutheran Center in Guatemala City, the MILAGRO ("miracle") Women's Education Center is a place for young women from these rural communities to continue their secondary education, faith formation and development of vocational and life skills — among them sewing, cooking, baking, artisanal handicrafts, carpentry, masonry, music and gardening — that will help them be financially independent in the future.

WHF19

Mail

Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/hunger/donate
Phone 800-638-3522



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038).

- I have enclosed my gift of \$100.
 I have enclosed my gift of \$250.
 Other \$ _____

Fall Dinner

and Silent Auction



First Lutheran Church
200 E. 5th St., Morris MN

Drive up/Take Out Only

No inside dining and no Pre-Sale Tickets

*Silent Auction items will be listed on our website at www.flcmorris.org
or can be viewed in the church basement foyer. Bidding instructions will be posted on our website.*

Wed., November 4th
serving from 4:30-7:00pm

(or until food runs out)

On the menu:

Ham, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
choice of Corn or Candied Carrots,
Rye Bread, and Pumpkin Roll.

Packaged homemade lefse will be for sale (4 rounds for \$12)

Tickets: \$12 for Adults

Youth \$8 (ages 12 and under)

Payment options: Cash, Check or Venmo



COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES

Bob Dalager Biography

My true, full and correct name is Robert Vincent Dalager. I was named after my mother's father, Robert. My middle name comes from my father, whose first name was actually Karl, as was his father's. To avoid confusion, my father took one of his two middle names, Vincent, as the name he called himself. He had another middle name which was his mother's original maiden last name.

I was born in the Morris Hospital over on the West side of town, so I'm a lifelong "native" of Morris. I was baptized on May 8th of 1949 by Rev. Elmer H. Podell, the minister at the Federated Church in Morris at the time. My mother was a Methodist and my father was Lutheran, so our family started here in Morris as Methodists.

But when I was about 5 or 6, my parents joined the First Lutheran Church where Lowell Larson was the leader. My father was a Lutheran. His parents were both Norwegian Lutherans. Pastor Larson was highly charismatic and a leader with great vitality, so changing churches was not extremely difficult to do, but my mother sometimes remembered her Methodist roots when her training conflicted with Lutheranism!! My father was an electrical contractor, and he wired the Education Wing of our church when it was constructed. They remained at First Lutheran for the rest of their lives, and saw to it that my two younger brothers and my older sister were all confirmed as Lutherans.

I was confirmed by Pastor Cliff Grindland on October 13th, 1963, along with about a dozen others, including my friend, Mick Rose. We had an afternoon first communion, and I remember getting hit by a car as I raced across California Avenue from the parking lot to the church that afternoon as my family and I were going to the afternoon confirmation. The driver of the car braked quickly, so the impact was more of a tap than something serious, but I rolled in the street from it. I wasn't hurt, just a little, tiny bruise on my hip, but I also got a tear in my pants, so my first communion was truly "holey"!!

In 1977, 17 days after I first met Vicki, I asked her to marry me, and she said "Yes"!! We had to wait four months to use her church, but it was worth it!! (Vicki was a Methodist, just like my mother.) That was 43 years ago, and, in spite of ourselves, there's still "nothing but big ol' hearts dancin' in our eyes". We have two adult children, Bree and Michael. Bree lives and works in the Twin Cities in Human Resources/recruitment. Right now, Michael, our world traveler, is in Alaska on a salmon fish processing boat. He visited all seven continents before he was 30, after having been bitten by the travel bug when he studied the Chinese language in China one semester.

I retired from the practice of law in September, 2019, and Vicki retired from her daycare occupation in May, 2019. I still do family law mediations and Early Neutral Evaluations, but only on a part-time basis. I spend more of my time hunting, fishing, working with my dogs and watching the Twins, now that they are back to playing baseball. Vicki and I hope to travel during our retired lives, but the pandemic has dampened that aspiration, so far.

Church council members writing these biographies are supposed to identify one or two things we like or love about First Lutheran in their biographies. First and foremost for me is the fellowship, and I've really missed the opportunity to socialize at coffee hour after church. I don't think I ever realized how much it meant to "just visit" until that was taken away by the pandemic. I also love the Easter window at the front of the church. I cannot imagine a better message for every Sunday than the message of that stained glass window. I enjoy it every time I view the sanctuary.

My hope for First Lutheran Church in Morris is that our congregation continues, grows and flourishes when this pandemic ends, and that we will be able to find relevance in the community. I hope that we will be able to cause First Lutheran to become the place where people want to be, want to worship, want to serve, want to give thanks and give praise to God. Peace to all. Stay healthy. See you on the other side of this pandemic!!

COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES

Gary Wagner Biography

I was born in Morris, MN and have lived on our homestead farm my entire life. My parents were Richard and Dorothy Wagner.

Rose and I have been married for 28 years. We have four children: Nicole, Benson, MN, Megan, Duluth, Rachal, Moorhead and Josh, Morris.

I started helping my Dad with farm chores when I was 9 years old and knew that was what I would do for a living. Our farm is part of the original homestead of my Great Grandfather. I am the 4th generation to farm this land. My Great Grandfather was a founding member of First Lutheran. I'm a 4th generation member of First Lutheran. Fishing is my favorite hobby and enjoy spending time with family.

My hope for the future is that there is still a church. It may be necessity for two or three churches to consolidate as the public schools have been forced to do. This isn't an issue that people want to talk about, but with fewer attending church members and greater costs, it will need to be addressed. Keeping the church operating will be more challenging in the future.

Allyn Plattner Biography

I was born and raised in northeast Kansas. I went to college in Decorah, Iowa and graduated from Luther College in 2009. I met my wife Hannah at Luther College and we moved to Minnesota shortly after we got married in 2012. We have 3 children, Jayce 5, Zayne 3 and Genevieve 1. They are extremely active and truly complete our lives. We have lived in Morris for 8 years, where we have attended services at First Lutheran for most of that time. I am currently an animal nutrition consultant for a feed company called Big Gain. Hannah is currently a 1st grade teacher for the Morris area school district. We also raise and sell pheasants in our free time.

Our hobbies are mostly consumed by our children, but Hannah and I enjoy golfing, reading, skiing, outdoor activities, fishing, and spending time at the cabin. There are many things we value about First Lutheran in Morris. Most of them are surrounding the people we meet and the interaction our family has with creating an extended family in First Lutheran. We have grown to truly love our church. My hope for the church and being on church council, would be that we are the church of the future that encompasses a welcoming, warm, loving church family, which is the preferred place of worship for people of all races, colors, creeds, backgrounds, and socioeconomic status.

Jason Reed Biography

I am originally from Moorhead, MN. Growing up, my family attended Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. I was confirmed there in October of 1991, and Selena and I were married there in October of 1999.

Selena and I moved to Morris in April 2001 when I started my career with the Morris Police Department. I joined the Stevens County Sheriff's Office in December 2015, where I am currently the Chief Deputy. I have also started working as a Real Estate Agent at Prairie Real Estate in March of this year. Selena and I have two girls. Claire just started her senior year at Morris Area High School, and Ellen is in the 8th grade.

Selena and I have been members of First Lutheran Church since 2003. Both of our daughters were baptized in our church, and Claire was confirmed in 2016. I volunteered to join the church council this year because I wanted to serve the church in a greater capacity and gain a better understanding about the day to day functions of the church. So far it has been a great experience and I look forward serving out the remainder of my term.



I would like to introduce you to a new program that has been created specifically for the 6th-8th graders in our churches! Element is a joining of Confirmation and Fusion Youth: the best of both worlds. Learning the elements of your faith in a fun and engaging space! This has been a collaboration between the pastors of Faith Lutheran, First Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Federated and St. Johns/Kongsvinger of Donnelly, Heather Black (Fusion Youth Ministry Director) and with the blessing of the various church councils! Our goal is to teach the 6th-8th graders to learn and

experience the elements of a Christian life. To believe, know and experience God, connect with others, serve others in love and live out our faith daily!

Wednesday Night Schedule (In Person): 6pm-7:30 on Wednesday evenings @ Faith Lutheran
6:00-6:15pm – arrive and check into your small group location – snack and catch up time.
6:15-6:30pm – Large Game/Worship time and/or the hook to the lesson
6:30-7:30pm – Teaching and small group discussion time

Monthly Schedule There will be three Wednesday nights a month of teaching times, once a month service project and once every other month a fun activity. The kids will participate and attend Lent and Advent services in their churches.

The Staff (all of whom will be helping teach, lead small groups and advise content)

Heather Black: Fusion Youth Ministry Director
Pastor Chris Richards: Trinity Lutheran Church of Cyrus
Pastor Dell Sanderson: Faith Lutheran Church Of Morris
Pastor Dan Belgum: First Lutheran Church of Morris
Pastor Matt Orendorff: Federated Church
Pastor Rochelle Anderson: St. John's/Kongsvinger of Donnelly

Our Amazing Volunteers! Danielle Lesmeister, Naomi Fynboh, Amy Swanson, Elissa Breuer, Mike Odello, Nick Milbrandt, David Black and Hannah Michaelson

Element Jr. High Youth Ministry: Wednesdays 6-7:30pm @ FAITH Lutheran Church

Save the dates: Wednesday, October 7th – Element Youth meets @ FAITH from 6-7:30pm
Wednesday, October 14th – Service Project: Rake & Run and Apple Picking (TBA)
Wednesday, October 21st – Element Youth meets @ FAITH from 6-7:30pm
Wednesday, October 28th – Element Youth meets @ FAITH from 6-7:30pm
Saturday, October 31st – Halloween Bonfire & Hayride (TBA)

Sr. High Youth Ministry: Sundays 6-7:30pm @ FIRST Lutheran Church

Sr. High will meet on Sunday nights! Our goal for Sr. High youth is to provide a place to learn about Jesus, connect with friends, have a place to be open and real and just have fun! We have amazing volunteers ready to mentor and engage the youth in a small group style of ministry!

Save the dates: Sunday, October 4th - Sr. High Fusion meets @ FIRST Lutheran from 6-7:30pm
Sunday, October 11th - Sr. High Fusion meets @ FIRST Lutheran from 6-7:30pm
Sunday, October 18th - Service Project (details TBA)
Sunday, October 25th - Sr. High Fusion meets @ FIRST Lutheran from 6-7:30pm

*All dates and times are subject to change due to Covid related issues that may or may not come up. Please watch your email, the church websites or the Fusion Facebook Page and Instagram Page for any updates or changes that may occur!

First Lutheran Church
200 East 5th St
Morris, MN 56267
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #83
Morris, MN

First Lutheran Church ELCA

200 East 5th Street
Morris, MN 56267
Phone: 320-589-3242
website: www.flcmorris.org
email: office@flcmorris.org

Worship Schedule

*Sundays: 9:30am
Outdoor Parking Lot Worship
broadcasted via Facebook Live;
also available on our website
and YouTube channel*

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danelbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director heather.kill14@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist
Brad Miller, Choir Director bamiller@morris.umn.edu
Rheanne Kline, Contemporary Director rheannekline@gmail.com
Pastor Alex LaChapelle, Missionary

CHURCH COUNCIL

Bob Dalager President
Eugene Anderson Vice-President
Naomi Fynboh Treasurer
Gary Wagner Secretary
John Dosdall
Terry Dybdahl
Tony Feuchtenberger
Peggy Jergenson
Rheanne Kline
Allyn Plattner
Jason Reed