

First Lutheran CHURCH (ELCA)

200 East 5th Street, Morris MN 56267
320-589-3242
www.flcmorris.org



Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

January 2020

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 9:30am Worship
10:15am Sunday school (January 5 & 19)
10:30am Fellowship/Coffee Hour

LEAP Participation

Leap into participation this leap year

Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 8:30am to 3:30pm
at Vinje Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran Churches, Willmar MN

Keynote Speaker is Pastor David J. Lose, Senior Pastor serving Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Entering the Bible with Heart, Mind and Soul

Lutherans eagerly affirm that Scripture is the Word of God. But what do we mean when we say that? Given the gamut of ways of reading Scripture, running from “it’s a collection of human wisdom” to “it’s inerrant and inspired”, what do Lutherans really believe? In what ways, that is, do we believe the Scripture is true? How does it function as a useful guide and norm for our faith and life? What do we do with “difficult passages” that seems violent or exclusionary? Answering these questions is crucial if we are to allow our lives to be shaped by God’s Word and invite others into our faith communities anchored in preaching and teaching of the Scriptures. Join us for a day of learning, practical exercises, and discussion as we immerse ourselves in God’s living and dynamic word.

WORKSHOPS

Just a few of the workshop titles. A finalized workshop list will be available online on the SW MN Synod’s website. You can attend your choice of 3 out of the 24 available.

- The Rules of Improv Comedy for Everyday Ministry
- From Candidacy to Call Committee: A Journey of Discernment
- ELCA Youth Gathering
- The Living, Breathing, Ever-changing Document: The Church Constitution
- Hearing Voices: Creative Uses of Memory and Story in the Congregation
- Farm and Rural Stress: Origins and Ways to Help
- Elders Rising: “Ministry with Older Adults on the New Frontier of Aging”

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Congregational Members
- Council Officers
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors
- Everyone!

Childcare Available!

Contact the church office for registration information

(Registration fees will be paid by the church.)

PASTOR'S PAGE

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' Mark 4:30-32.

I recently saw a movie at the Morris Theatre with a friend. "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" portrays the remarkable life of Fred Rogers and his T.V. show.

Beloved by children and adults, Fred Rogers kindness and compassion for people was his forte. In the midst of the country's mean, polarized politics, the angry, self-righteous tweets of politicians, predatory capitalism, and news of climate changes devastating impact, this inspiring movie came at just the right time, and just before Christmas. He wasn't flashy, which itself, was refreshing. Mr. Rogers reminded me of the power of kindness, a smile, respecting my own and other's feelings, seeing the beauty of children. Mr. Rogers loved kids and spent his life creating TV shows to reach them, and teach them. It turns out that Mr. Rogers read his Bible and prayed. He was even ordained as a Presbyterian minister. However, T.V – and not a church – was Mr. Rogers medium to share the love of God with children. He was subversive like a mustard seed.

That is, the movie and his life reminds me of Jesus's parable about the Kingdom of God being like a mustard seed. Our efforts to live out the love of God may not have the impact of Mr. Rogers, who had an audience of millions. Yet, the kingdom of God was revealed in Mr. Roger's Neighborhood.

And our efforts to live out God's love, and follow Jesus, may seem small, inconsequential, by comparison. The mustard seed is a very small seed. Some would say more of a weed. What!? The kingdom of God is like a weed? Maybe we need to reexamine our view of the kingdom. The good news is that God uses our "mustard seed efforts" to plant the kingdom and make it grow. (Some would call this the *Kin-dom of God* since we who are part of it are "kin" and we invite others to enter the kin-dom). Like the kingdom of heaven, mustard plants are rather subversive. They pop up where we may not expect. They don't look like much, as they are a shrub, not a tree. The kingdom, like mustard plants, may be despised, overlooked, inconspicuous.

Jesus was also overlooked by many. He was despised by some. His death on a cross seemed a most tragic event, and was... *Except*, God was hidden and at work, and had more to do, raising him to life, and defeating death once and for all. Resurrection life – like seeds lying dormant; yet, in spring, springing to life.

The good news is that God uses "mustard seed efforts" to feed the hungry, to bring justice to those oppressed, to energize people to be responsible citizens, to forgive sinners, to build communities of grace and love. As we scatter seeds of prayer, advocacy, kindness, mercy, miraculously, the seeds germinate and grow and new life arises. We cannot predict how our smallest actions – (see previous sentence) may impact others, and the world God loves; and hopefully for good. Surely, Mr. Rogers got it right: kindness and mercy build life and community. Thank you, Mr. Rogers!

As we enter the New Year, may Mr. Rogers show us the way...! Kindness and mercy, mustard seed qualities, still have great currency to bless.

Peace, Pastor Dan

FIRST THINGS & ETC.

Zipporah Bible will meet on Thursday, January 16th at 2:00pm at First Lutheran Church Gathering Room. All are welcome!

Newsletter Deadline for the February newsletter is noon on Thursday, January 23.

Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00pm in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran Church.

Annual Reports are due by noon on Wednesday, January 15. If you are a committee chairperson, or if you have reports that need to be included in the 2019 Annual Report, please turn them in to the church office by January 15. The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 9th

Women of First Lutheran meet four times per year. The next meeting will be at Common Cup on Saturday, January 11, at 9:00am. Together we will both speak and listen. Please choose 1+ action from the list below to rely on the Holy Spirit to bring life to the ministry of women in our congregation and community:

1. Attend. Encourage yourself or someone you know to share wisdom as plans begin for 2020. No one has all the wisdom; everyone has a different piece of the wisdom; everyone has some of the wisdom.
2. Pray. Contemplate and pray, alone and together, focusing on God's will and actions. In prayer, open the lines of communication between us and God.
3. All of the above.

(Sharing Wisdom: A Process for Group Decision Making by Mary Brent McKinney.)

Soap Drive—Lutheran World Relief

Commercially wrapped soap needed! This soap is used over-seas for schools, hospitals, clinics, households and refugee camps. This is an ongoing drive, so please continue to donate. A collection basket is located on the table in the lower Narthex area.



BURGERS, BEVERAGES & BLESSINGS Wednesday nights at 7:00pm

(meets in the side room of the Met Lounge)
Please join us, along with Faith Lutheran, for *Burgers, Beverages and Blessings* every Wednesday night in the side room of the Met Lounge. We will sing hymns and songs of peoples' choice, have informal sharing and end in prayer. You can have a meal, drink beverage (yes, you can have a beer if you want), and be blessed by the fellowship.

*Thanks to the Grace Service Group
for their help during the month of February
as coffee hour servers.
Your help is much appreciated!*

Justin & Lori Anderson
Ryan & Summer Anderson
Ray & Robi Bowman
Judy Buro
Matt & Cari Burnett
LeAnn Dean
Kellie Hentges
* Jim & Jacqui Hills
Linda Holland
Craig & Katie Knochenmus
Gary & Corrine Knochenmus
Matt & Natasha Mortenson
Dave Nelson
Dale Peterson
Allyn & Hannah Plattner
Charles & Marlene Seip
Chris & Bobbi Siegel
Greg & Julie Thymian

**Make plans to attend our
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 9th
following the worship service**

FIRST THINGS & ETC.

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

Pastor Alex LaChapelle has a new call as pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation in Kenya, Africa. His most recent assignment was in South Africa. We continue to provide him with needed support through our Missionary for the Day contributions. Contact the church office to sponsor a day “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone.

- Dec 1 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Mary Alyce Krattenmaker
- Dec 2 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Arlene Fellows
- Dec 3 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Dick & Judy Bluth
- Dec 4 In memory of Betty Kolden from Al & LaVonne Watson
- Dec 5 In loving memory of Dewey Solvie on his birthday
- Dec 6 In memory of Betty Kolden from Cheryl Higgins
- Dec 7 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Cheryl Higgins
- Dec 8 In memory of Betty Kolden from Jim & Sharon VanAlstine
- Dec 9 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Evelyn Warnes
- Dec 10 In honor of Vicki Maanum’s retirement from Evelyn Warnes
- Dec 11 In memory of Jim Thraen’s sister Betty from Jim & Marian Thraen
- Dec 12 In memory of Barb Thraen from Jim & Marian Thraen
- Dec 13 In memory of Greg Staples from Robert Staples and family
- Dec 14 In memory of Betty Kolden from Evelyn Warnes
- Dec 15 In memory of Gary Goulette from Emilie Brustuen
- Dec 16 In memory of Geesian “Gay” Kill from Emilie Brustuen
- Dec 17 In memory of Betty Kolden from Charles & Marlene Seip
- Dec 18 In memory of Sylvia Yarger from Doug & Sharon Ehlers
- Dec 19 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Eugene & Cathy Anderson
- Dec 20 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Gary & Corrine Knochenmus
- Dec 22 In memory of Sylvia Yarger from Barry & Nancy Erdahl
- Dec 21 In memory of Carol Day’s daughter from Randee Hokanson
- Dec 23 In memory of Sylvia Yarger from Marilyn Smith
- Dec 24 In memory of Sylvia Yarger from Zipporah Bible Study
- Dec 25 In celebration of Christ’s birth
- Dec 26 In memory of Gordon & Caroline Smith from their family
- Dec 27
- Dec 28
- Dec 29
- Dec 30
- Dec 31

Missionary Alex LaChapelle has a new call as pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation in Kenya, Africa. His most recent assignment was in South Africa. We continue to provide him with needed support through our Missionary for a Day contributions. You may reserve a day(s) with Rita. Address of congregation is:

Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation
PO Box 34089
Nairobi, Kenya 00100
www.nilc-nairobi.org



YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

Confirmation Schedule (7th and 8th grade)

Wed., January 8:	3:30–5:00pm	Serving snack: Ulrich family
Wed., January 15:	3:30–5:00pm	Serving snack: Hilbrands family
Wed., January 22:	3:30–5:00pm	Serving snack: Erdahl family
Wed., January 29:	3:30–5:00pm	Serving snack: Mortenson family
Wed., February 5:	3:30–5:00pm	Serving snack: Werk family

Sunday School Schedule (Pre-school through 6th grade)

Sunday, Jan 5	10:15–11:00am Class
Sunday, Jan 19	10:15–11:00am Class
Sunday, Feb 5	10:15–11:00am Class
Sunday, Feb 16	10:15–11:00am Class

Fusion Youth Ministry Jr. High Youth (6-8 grade) Sr. High Youth (9-12 grade)

- * **Sunday, January 5:**
 - 5:00–6:30pm: Jr. High Student Leadership Meeting at Faith Lutheran
 - 6:30–8:00pm: Jr. High Youth Group at Faith Lutheran
- * **Wednesday, January 8:**
 - 5:30–6:30pm: Fusion Adult Leadership Meeting at Federated Church
- * **Sunday, January 12:**
 - 5:00–6:30pm: Sr. High Youth Leadership Meeting at First Lutheran
 - 6:30–8:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group at First Lutheran
- * **Wednesday, January 15:**
 - 5:30–6:30pm: Mission Trip Meeting at Federated Church
- * **Sunday, January 19:**
 - 6:30–8:00pm: Jr. High Youth Group at Faith Lutheran
- * **Sunday, January 26:**
 - 6:30–8:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group at First Lutheran

Fusion Youth Ministry Ski Trip To Andie's Tower Hills

Saturday, February 29th
5pm-12am Cost: \$20
Open to 6th-12th Grades

Sign up by
February 9th
with \$20 (checks
written to Trinity
Lutheran Church)
and the signed
waiver to secure
your spot!

CONTACT Heather Black on social media
@fusion56267 or heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com

Sp Adobe Spark

COUNCIL MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Sunday, Dec 15, 2019

Council members present: Kevin Williamson, Tom Schneider, Bob Dalager, Eugene Anderson, John Dossdall, Terry Dybdahl, Naomi Fynboh, Sandy Grove, Allyn Plattner. Absent: Skip Maanum, Gary Wagner. Staff Present: Pastor Dan Belgium

Meeting began at 7:37am. Pastor Dan led us with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan gave a written report and is on file.

Treasurer's Report: Consecration Sunday was a success! Thank you to Adrienne Hilbrands for compiling all the number data from Consecration Sunday so quickly! Among the 45 members/families who completed the estimate of giving cards, 40 increased their pledges for 2020. This reflects a 10.8% increase in committed giving for 2020.

Concerning 2019, we still need to pay our committed \$20,000 in benevolence to the synod. We do not currently have the funds to do this, so we're making plans to send a letter out to the congregation to address this issue.

Allyn Plattner and Bob Dalager will work to prepare a budget for 2020. Bob plans to attend a workshop on finances at the Equipping Congregations Day Conference in Willmar in February.

Motion by Sandy to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Tom. Motion passed.

Property Committee: We have hired people to do snow removal on the sidewalks. We are asking for volunteers to do this on Christmas Eve, however, as the cost is three times higher on holidays.

Rob Thompson has been doing maintenance projects behind the scenes, including painting, patching holes, putting stainless steel up on the wall by the dishwasher, etc. Thank you, Rob!

Old Business: Sandy made a motion to pay Rita an additional \$100 per month in 2020 to go towards her health insurance costs. Second by Kevin. Motion passed.

New Business: Council needs to read the Support Staff Personnel Policy and Personnel Committee Policy before the next meeting (January 12 at 7:30am) so we can update and approve these documents.

Tony Feuchtenberger and Steve Wagner visited to address the media needs at church. The video recorder is not working, so church can't currently be broadcasted on TV. Mike Cihak was consulted and he came up with a few options for First Lutheran to consider. At this time, we cannot afford the options, but they are something keep in mind for the future.

Luther Crest is launching a new campaign for fundraising. It is a three year campaign effort. We hope to donate to this in the future.

Four council members will end their terms soon. It is tough finding replacements. We discussed the necessity of having so many council members. Sandy will check to see how many council members are needed according to the church's constitution.


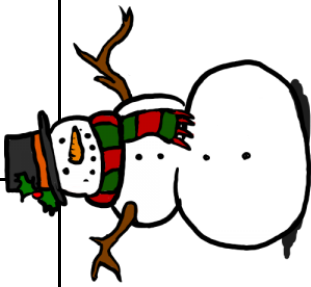
The date for First Lutheran's Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 9.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn; second by Sandy. Motion passed. Pastor closed with prayer at 9:08am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naomi Fynboh (Substitute Secretary)

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

<u>Sunday, January 5</u> 9:30am Worship 10:15am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour	<u>Sunday, January 12</u> 9:30am Worship No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour	<u>Sunday, January 19</u> 9:30am Worship 10:15am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour	<u>Sunday, January 26</u> 9:30am Worship No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee Hour
LECTOR: LeAnn Dean	LECTOR: Dorwin Tschetter	LECTOR: David Jungst	LECTOR: Allyn Platter
USHERS: (H) Barry Erdahl Nancy Erdahl Brian Erdahl Aidan Lebrija	USHERS: (H) Al Harris Kyle Dougherty Family	USHERS: (H) Dick Smith Jon Ulrich family	USHERS: (H) Skip Maanum Dennis Ketterling family Damien Warner
GREETERS: Ann Erdahl Corrie Erdahl	GREETERS: Dougherty Family	GREETERS: Ulrich Family	GREETERS: Ketterling Family
ACOLYTES: Ethan Lebrija Olivia Lebrija	ACOLYTES: Jazlyn Hilbrands Jaxon Hilbrands	ACOLYTES: Durgin Decker Brandon Jergenson	ACOLYTES: Claire Reed Ellen Reed
COMMUNION PREP: (silver tray) Jane Johnson	COMMUNION PREP: (silver tray) Elizabeth Harris	COMMUNION PREP: (pouring chalice) Sandy Grove	COMMUNION PREP: (pouring chalice) Vicki Maanum
COMM SERVERS: Emilie Brustuen Tim Grove Steve Van Kempen	COMM SERVERS: Laurie Feuchtenberger Doug Ehlers Sharon Ehlers	COMM SERVERS: Paul Grove Jackie Krosch Ward Voorhees	COMM SERVERS: Bob Dalager Jane Johnson Dick Smith
NURSERY: Pam Wiese	NURSERY: Amy Dougherty	NURSERY: Lindy Ekola	NURSERY: Jone Anderson
VIDEOGRAPHER: —	VIDEOGRAPHER: —	VIDEOGRAPHER: —	VIDEOGRAPHER: —

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">January</h1>						
5 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee/Fellowship 5:00-6:30pm Fusion Jr. High Leader Meeting at Faith 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Jr. High Fusion at Faith	6	7 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 7:00pm Mission & Evangelism Meeting	8 10:00am Staff Meeting 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm Fusion Adult Leader Mtg at Federated 7:00pm BBB	9 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 3:00pm Pastor at West Wind Village (worship)	10	11 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran 9:00am Women of First Meeting at Common Cup
12 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee/Fellowship 5:00pm Sr. High Fusion Leader Meeting at First 6:30-8:00pm Sr. High Fusion at First	13	14 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	15 10:00am Staff Meeting 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm Fusion Mission Trip Mtg at Federated 7:00pm BBB	16 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study at FLC 6:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting	17	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
19 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Sunday school 10:30am Coffee/Fellowship 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Jr. High Fusion at Faith	20	21 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 2:00pm Pastor at West Central Christian Homes (worship)	22 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Pastor at Skyview (worship) 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm BBB	23 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due	24	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
26 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion No Sunday school 10:30am Coffee/Fellowship 6:30-8:00pm Sr. High Fusion at First	27	28 11:00pm Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	29 10:00am Staff Meeting 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm BBB	30 9:00am Kitchen Cleaning		

THIS N' THAT



- Jan 1: Grant Anderson, Owen Anderson,
Brenda Boever, Peggy Jergenson
Jan 3: Doug Ehlers, Jane Johnson,
Julie Thymian
Jan 4: Ashlyn Williamson
Jan 5: Andrew Hutchings
Jan 6: Ron Rosen
Jan 9: Ryan S. Anderson, Neil Suess
Jan 10: Honor Knochenmus, Shiloh Knochenmus
Jan 11: Philip Ask, Denny Neisius, Jayce Plattner
Jan 12: Doug Beyer, Aubrey Williamson
Jan 13: Jazlynn Hilbrands
Jan 14: Cheryl Higgins, Glen Gillespie, Tyler
Schneider
Jan 17: Jone Anderson
Jan 19: Steve Just
Jan 21: Jayson Galligan-Halbe
Jan 25: Jeanne Halbe, Adrienne Hilbrands
Jan 26: Mark Gunderson
Jan 27: Luella Anderson
Jan 28: Nicholas Miller, Brian Williams
Jan 29: Gwyneth Hanson
Jan 31: Jamis Burnett, Blaine Hills, Zoe Krosch

Happy Anniversary

- Jan 5: Ana & Brad Miller
Jan 6: Greg & Naomi Fynboh
Jan 15: Al & Lavonne Watson
Jan 17: Jeri & Warrenn Anderson
Jan 28: John & Marie Eblen

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS



How it works...

As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. More than 85% of your gifts directly support programmatic work. Your gifts support work in 77 countries and is tax-deductible.

Choose your gift on-line at ELCA.org/goodgifts or stop by the church office to browse through a catalog.

Some popular gifts include:

- Goat \$60
- Chicks \$15
- Piglet \$50 Honeybees \$20
- Water Filter \$30
- School supplies for a child \$10
- Fruit-tree seedling \$10
- Seeds and gardening tool \$50
- Mosquito net \$10
- Health care for a child \$10
- Vaccination for a child \$30
- Warm meals at a soup kitchen (feeds 10 people) \$20
- Latrine \$150
- Family farm (cow, goats, chicks, pigs, tools, seeds) \$715
- Stock a health clinic for 1 week \$75



Birthday Lunch!

The ladies of First Lutheran get together once a month to celebrate birthdays on the first Thursday of each month. We rotate restaurants and you don't have to have a birthday that month to join us. There are no cards, no gifts, no dancing, no singing, no RSVPs and it's Dutch treat. Guests are welcome. The next birthday lunch will be on Thursday, January 2nd at 11:00am at Old #1.

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 Worship
10:15am Sunday school
(check calendar for dates)
10:30am Fellowship/Coffee Hour

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor danielbelgumblad@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

Kevin Williamson President
Tom Schneider Vice-President
Bob Dalager Treasurer
Gary Wagner Secretary
Eugene Anderson
John Dosedall
Terry Dybdahl
Naomi Fynboh
Sandy Grove
Skip Maanum
Allyn Plattner