

July 2024

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

Rich Reflections

The biggest weekend of the summer is coming. We celebrate the Declaration of Independence. We celebrate freedom! Fireworks, hamburgers, brats, potato salad, watermelon and ice cream will all be part of the celebration. (bug spray too) We'll celebrate the way we want to, because we're free!

The question is, as followers of Jesus, are there limits to freedom? Or, does freedom mean we get to do everything or anything we want to do?

A few years ago, a pastor recalled that on January 6, 1942, a month after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt gave his "Four Freedoms" speech. The four were Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. Pr. James Smith, preaching on Galatians 5, said that one more freedom should be added, that was more important than the other four. This is the Freedom from Sin. A freedom from self. A freedom from the world's sinful nature.

Do we have freedom to do what we want—when, where and how we want? Our culture will tell us, "Yes, that's why we have freedom." Left to our own desires we tend to use our freedom to improve our standing in the world, "to get ahead" (of others). The higher we climb the ladder of success, the more freedom we have, right?

Or... do we use our freedom to love God with all our heart, mind and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves? Contrary to society's message, freedom is not about me. Christ sets us free to fulfill God's God given purpose for us. The supreme test of freedom is what do we do with it. How do we use our freedom for the benefit of others?

We cannot by sheer willpower rid ourselves of selfish ways. There's only one way. We must surrender our will, and our lives to the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5 Paul writes that we are to walk by the spirit, be led by the spirit, and keep in step with the spirit. The world is no longer our master. As we surrender to the Spirit, we are set free to live by the Spirit under her direction.

How does the spirit direct our lives? The Holy Spirit helps us to see the people around us, and around the world, with the compassionate eyes of Jesus. When we see others, and ourselves, with empathy, the Spirit will begin to develop and grow in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are the "**Fruits of the Spirit**" in Galatians 5:23.

During the last many years, there seem to be less and less of these fruits in our world. So as First Lutheran prepares for its next chapter of life and mission, how can we live in new ways? How can we live our lives as much for others as we do for ourselves? How can our mission be directed out into the community to show the love of Christ, in tangible ways? What can we do to make others' lives better—even if only a few at a time?

As we share the Fruits of the Spirit with and for others, then the Spirit will produce fruit in others' lives. The fruits of love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When that happens, we all will be truly free and the world will know what true freedom is, and what it is for!

Let's celebrate & live our Freedom in Christ,

Pr. Rich Fitzer

Vacation Bible School 2024

Monday, July 22 through Thursday, July 25

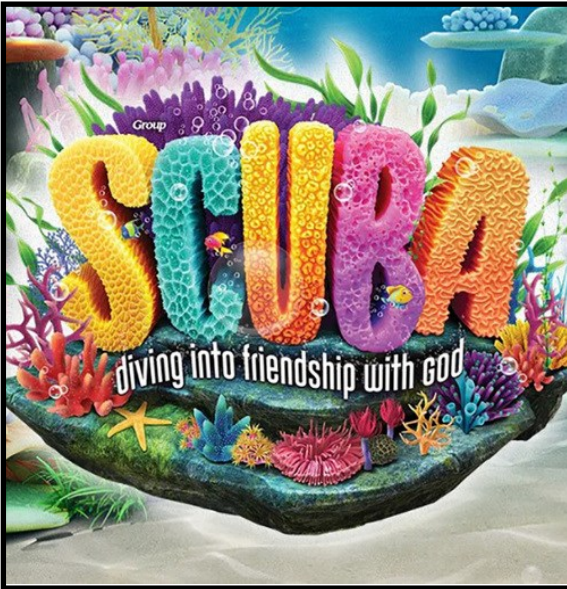
8am to 12pm

at Faith Lutheran Church, 108 W. 8th St., Morris

SCUBA will take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

Registration is open to all Preschool (at least 3 and potty trained) through 6th grade. Adults and older youth are encouraged to volunteer!

Register on-line at: vbspro.events/p/faith2024



Women of First WELCA News

Pie Fundraiser Donations

Thank you for supporting our pie fundraiser this spring! The First Lutheran Church WELCA voted at their June meeting to donate money raised from the pie sales to the following: Someplace Safe, Stevens County DAC, Eagles Healing Nest, Common Cup, Burnett family, First Lutheran Fusion Youth and First Lutheran Share & Care Quilting.

WELCA SCHOOL KITS

While you are out shopping for school supplies for the next school year, please consider purchasing items to donate for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) School kits. ***This list of items needed is printed below.*** We will hold a Packing event on Sunday, September 8. The Sunday School students will be helping us pack these school kits in addition to Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and Global Health Ministries Newborn kits.

Donations of used white sheets would also be appreciated. These are used for rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries. Donation boxes will be in the church Narthex. Thanks for your help!

School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief

Believe it or not, school supplies will be on sale soon! When you are purchasing for your school supplies for your kids, please consider purchasing extra for Lutheran World Relief.

Donations of school supplies can be dropped off in the box in the church Narthex. Cash donations will also be accepted, but please leave in the church office.

Listed below are the items that will be put in each School Kit. **Please do not substitute any of the items, as we can only use what is listed.**

- Four (4) 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½". No loose leaf paper
- One (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One (1) pencil sharpener
- One (1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secured together with a rubber band
- Five (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secured together with a rubber band
- One (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One (1) 2½" eraser

July Worship Servants

Sunday, July 7: 11:00am Worship

Ushers: Steve Just family, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

Nursery: Michelle Just

Video: Steve Wagner

Lector: Ward Voorhees

Acolyte: Skott Anderson & Jacoby Burnett

TV slides: Braeden Huebner

Sunday, July 14: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Dick Smith, Scott Staples, Jon Ulrich

Communion: Vicki Dalager (*bread*)

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Video: Mike Odello

Lector: Shana Ulrich

Comm Servers: Linda Holland, Ward Voorhees, Judy Buro

Acolyte: Owen & Lily Nesvig

TV slides: Jaxon Hilbrands

Sunday, July 21: 11:00am Worship

Ushers: Bob Heck, Al & Julie Monroe

Nursery: Lindy Ekola

Video: Dave Jungst

Lector: Dorwin Tschetter

Acolyte: Abigail Anderson & Connor Siegel

TV slides: Brenna Jergenson

Sunday, July 28: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Blue Hymnal)

Ushers: Al Harris, Dennis Feuchtenberger, Micheal Bjorklund

Communion: Judy Buro (*wafer*)

Nursery: Jone Anderson

Video: Kyle Dougherty

Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger

Comm Servers: Emilie Brustuen, Laurie Feuchtenberger, Bob Dalager

Acolyte: Ellen Reed & Aubrey Williamson

TV slides: Grant Anderson

HAPPY
birthday



July 1: Sharon Ehlers
July 2: Justin Anderson, Cheryl Hawkinson
July 3: Dorwin Tschetter, Al Watson
July 4: Dolores Crow, Natalie Ketterling, Steven Sarlette
July 6: Lori Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Reid Ketterling
July 7: Laura Anderson
July 8: Terry Erholtz, Dennis Fuhrman, Ben Staples
July 9: Rich Buro
July 10: Dustin Anderson, Jacoby Burnett, Brekk Huebner, Derek McFall-Boegeman, Victor Youle
July 11: Shelley Beyer
July 12: Todd Staples
July 13: Brittany Harrison, Thomas Wulff
July 15: Rebecca Holland
July 16: Ardell Anderson, Gordon Dalseide, Brian Erdahl, Jacob Ulrich
July 17: Charles Henrich Jr.
July 18: Jennie Odello, Hannah Zehringer

July 20: Ian Grove
July 22: Mason Williamson
July 23: Kendra Buro, Joel Harrison
July 24: Beckett Reese
July 25: Genevieve Plattner
July 26: Damien Warner
July 27: Carole Johnson, Nikki Krosch, Skye Krosch
July 28: Robi Bowman, Durgin Decker, Tyson Grove, Connor Siegel
July 29: Thomas Holland
July 30: Jon Amundson, David Nelson
July 31: Rhonda Lair, Greg Thymain

HAPPY
Anniversary!



July 1: Jon & Shana Ulrich
July 6: Cheryl & Keith Hawkinson
July 8: Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
July 9: Matt & Cari Burnett
July 18: Brian & Ann Erdahl
July 20: Eugene & Cathy Anderson
July 23: Bob & Vicki Dalager

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 11:00am Pastors' Text Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	3 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Just Chillin' in Morris	4  Church office closed	5	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<i>Rita on vacation until Monday, July 8</i>						
7 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship	8 1:00pm Fusion Youth Mondo Mondays	9 11:00am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1	10 4:15pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00-8:00pm Wednesday Night Alive at Old #1	11 9:00am Share & Care (quilting group)	12	13 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
14 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship with Holy Communion	15 1:00pm Fusion Youth Mondo Mondays	16 11:00am Pastors' Text Study	17 6:00-8:00pm Wednesday Night Alive at Old #1	18 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	19	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
21 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship	22	23 11:00am Pastors' Text Study 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due	24 6:00-8:00pm Wednesday Night Alive at Old #1	25 9:00am Share & Care (quilting group) 1:00-3:00pm Respite Group	26	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
28 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship with Holy Communion	29	30 11:00am Pastors' Text Study	31			

All worship services are streamed live via Facebook (Morris-First Lutheran Church) and YouTube (First Lutheran Church - Morris MN). Recorded services available on our website at www.flcmorris.org

Rita is in the church office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm by phone call or text (320-287-2384) or email (office@flcmorris.org)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

2024

WHAT IS WNA:

WNA (Wednesday Night Alive) is time to gather together to hear stories from life that connect the messages of God's love for all people. All people are welcome – period.

Come for the stories – shared by speakers who know and have experienced God's powerful love in the face of life's many challenges. Come hear the message of God's mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Come for community, come for the food!

Meal starts at 6pm
Speaker at 7pm
Meal is FREE!
Bring a friend or two!
All ages and people
are welcome!

LOCATION:
Old #1 Bar & Grill, Southside

SCHEDULE:

Speakers from Minnesota Youth Alive

June 19th – Joey Orlando

June 26th – Jessie Nelson

July 10th – Jon Pritikin

July 17th – Reggie Dabbs

July 24th – Ruthie Bolton

July 31st – Terrence Talley

Location:

Old #1 Bar & Grill, Southside
412 S Atlantic Ave
Morris, MN 56267

No time for a meal before
Wednesday Night Alive? Join us
for a **FREE** meal at Old #1
Southside! Our gift to you!
Meal starts at 6pm.

Jesus says:

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life." –
John 14:6*

YOU are a special person:

*"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew
all about you. Before you saw the light of
day, I had plans for you." – Jeremiah 1:5*

God has a plan for YOU:

*"For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and
not harm you, plans to give you hope and a
future." – Jeremiah 29*

- ☐ **Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall before the worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The **CHARITY Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of July. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. Those in this month's Service Group are:

* Doyle & Jone Anderson	Lauren Carlson	Bob & Vicki Dalager
Barry & Nancy Erdahl	Cheryl Higgins	Brent & Jackie Huebner
Steve & Michelle Just	Dick & Suzanne Smith	Kevin & Jeanne Williamson
- ☐ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wed., July 3rd at 11:30am at Just Chillin' in Morris. All are welcome to join us!
- ☐ **2024 KMRS Radio Broadcast** available dates are: Aug 25 and Nov 17. 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.
- ☐ **Newsletter Deadline** for the August newsletter is noon on Tuesday, June 23rd.
- ☐ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, July 18 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.
- ☐ **Stop in at Common Cup!** Need a break from cooking this summer or maybe just a coffee break? Common Cup has some major expenses consisting of a new roof and water damage to one of the apartments. We could use your business over the summer since this is a quiet time for us. Please consider stopping by and supporting this non-profit business that supports the community.
- ☐ **Pastoral Visit** If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church office and a pastor will be contacted to visit you. Even though you may be asked your religious affiliation during check-in, the hospital staff can not share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.
- ☐ **Seniors on the Move** No event is planned for the month of July, but watch for details of an August trip! We still have a need for baby blankets and prayer shawls. If you can help out, please contact the church office or Jo Solvie. Hope all of you have a fun and safe Fourth of July!
- ☐ **Social Hour at Legacy Living** is held each Wednesday at 2:30pm for residents and friends. On the third Wednesday of each month, friends from First Lutheran supply the treats/goodies. Help may be needed occasionally....a batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us anytime. If interested in helping out, contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700 or Marlene at 320-589-3879.
- ☐ **Donate with Venmo!** You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe and easy way to transfer money) Check out and download the app on your smart phone (available for Android and Apple) or check out their website at www.venmo.com.

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

June 1	In memory of Helen Yerigan from Judy Bluth
June 2	In memory of Irene Fuhrman from Marlene Seip
June 3	In memory of Helen Yerigan from Mary Krattenmaker
June 7	In honor of LaVonne Watson's 90th birthday from Cheryl Higgins
June 8	In memory of Jean Anderson from Marlene Seip
June 11	In memory of Kim Gunderson from Cheryl Higgins
June 12	In memory of Helen Yerigan from Jo Solvie
June 13	In memory of Liz Hanky from Jo Solvie
June 14	In memory of Jean Anderson from Jo Solvie
June 15	In memory of Gary Eckel from Jo & Cathy Solvie
June 16	In memory of Irene Fuhman from Jo & Cathy Solvie
June 30	In honor of Ward & Carol Voorhees on their wedding anniversary from Carol Day

You can sponsor the missionaries of the ELCA for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor of someone. Contact Rita in the church office if you need more information.

Makers Space for Kids

Thank you to those who volunteered their skills and shared them with youth that attended the Markers Space for Kids, three sessions, April, May and June. Special thanks to Tammy Roth for her generous donation of twenty beginner crochet kits, which inspired these events.



Get Together Gatherings

Federated Church would like to pair together with First, and maybe even other churches in the area, and create a group of individuals/couples/families that would like to gather together to do a variety of activities and/or share a meal with the goal of becoming more involved with our church community. One or two people from each congregation would need to coordinate and plan the events. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, either as a coordinator or to just be part of the group, please contact the church office at 320-589-3242.

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights: June 18, 2024

Committee Reports:

- Worship & Music: looking into possibly purchasing an Olivewood crown of thorns to be used during Lent, considering using contemporary songs this fall, looking into creating a combined choir with other churches.
- Property: the faulty boiler is scheduled to be replaced; waiting for an electrician to switch lights over to LED; cabinets in the kitchen need some hinge repair; holes in cement have been filled

Old Business:

- Call Committee: 7 people have confirmed their willingness to serve, 2 of them are youths alternating with each other. Hoping to find 1 or 2 more people to serve.

New Business:

- payment and/or continued work for Pastor Emmy's leadership on the Transition Team/MSP
- the purchase of 2 computer monitors for the church office was approved
- Federated Church would like to create a combined group of individuals/families to gather together for activities/meals. Information to be added to the newsletter
- A Council Retreat is in the planning phase for this fall
- A motion was made and passed to continue with the monthly \$1800 in benevolence.
- Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00pm. Devotions to be given by Matt.

MAY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$18,414.75 May Income

\$19,769.19 May Expense

\$95,782.17 Year-to-Date Giving

\$89,020.75 Year-to-Date Expenses

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

Facebook:

Morris-First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Sundays: 11:00am

Broadcasted live via Facebook
and YouTube; recorded services
available on our website.

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 1:30pm

MediaCom: Channel 8

STAFF

Interim Pastor Rich Fitzer	rich_fitzer@yahoo.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director	heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com
Rita Bye, Office Manager	office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian	
Deb Mahoney, Accompanist	

CHURCH COUNCIL

Cari Burnett	President
Bob Heck	Vice-President
Denise Odello	Treasurer
Matt Hilbrands	Secretary
Bob Dalager	
LeAnn Dean	
J. Mark Nesvig	