

January 2025

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm writing this during the first real snow storm of the season. So I hope we were able to safely enjoy a white Christmas Eve, and then the first 7 days of Christmas. You know! The 12 days of the Christmas season in the church is December 25 - January 5, and then the Day of Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the Magi is January 6.

We have a new year at hand. It may seem like things are mostly the same. HOWEVER, we have some new work to do this year! We need to explore new ways to live and thrive in a changed and changing world. We may not enjoy some of those challenges, but challenges are always opportunities seek positive responses. Which congregations in our larger area could we visit and learn what is helping them thrive?

Where and what are the needs in the larger community where we can be the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbors? Who can we partner with to be a helpful presence for others? How does the community experience us, and are we satisfied with that?

How do we identify, invite, support and encourage new leaders? How do we free them up from past expectations, and develop an environment of freedom to try doing new things and do "old" things in new ways? Okay, enough with the probing questions. :-)

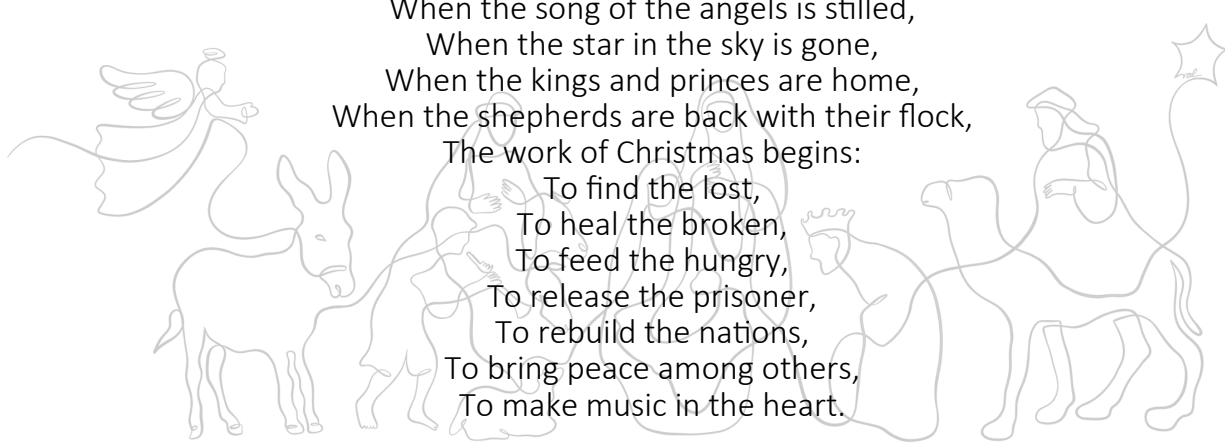
You, here at First Lutheran, are a wonderful mosaic of caring and committed people who are a joy to be around. You are a joy and privilege to work with and to be among. I want the very best for you as one expression of the Body of Christ.

With that in mind, I am going to be a little more direct about some needs that I have seen and experienced. So if you wonder if I'm getting a little bit cranky, I'm not angry or disappointed. Yet, if I don't share with you the growing edges of the congregation, and challenge you to continue to let Christ form you into a new creation, I would be remiss and feel like I've let you down.

This new year presents us with possibilities. I'm confident that you, the people of First, have been equipped by God to live fully into a time like this, and live creatively faithful lives.

New Year's blessing's to each of you,
Pr. Rich

The Work of Christmas



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

ANNUAL MEETING

First Lutheran's Sunday, January 26

First Lutheran will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26 following the 11:00am worship service. For those on committees, annual reports need to be submitted to the church office by Sunday, January 5. We are also in need of 4 new church council members starting in 2025 (3 year term), along with various delegates and committee members. Please contact a current council member if you are interested in any of the open positions, or for more information.

A Budget Meeting with the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 10:00am. Please attend!

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

Rochelle Anderson	Judy Bluth	Emilie Brustuen
Terry & Jill Dybdahl	* Doug & Sharon Ehlers	Rob & Peggy Jergenson
Dennis & Natalie Ketterling	Tom & Heather Schneider	Heidi & Neil Suess
Kent & Erica Swenson	Dorwin & Millie Tschetter	Jamie & Rochelle Van Kempen
- ❑ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wednesday, January 8 at 11:30am at Old #1. All are welcome to join us!
- ❑ **Newsletter Deadline** for the February newsletter is noon on Thursday, January 23.
- ❑ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, January 16 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.
- ❑ **2025 KMRS Radio Broadcast** Help support the ELCA Worship Hour by sponsoring a broadcast (\$65) in memory or in honor of a loved one. These worship services are broadcasted Sunday mornings at 11:04am on the KKOK/KMRS radio station (AM 1230 or FM 107.7), with First Lutheran sponsoring 9 services during the year. Eight local ELCA churches participate (First, Faith, Our Savior's, Our Redeemer's, St. John's/Konsvinger, Trinity Cyrus, Fron & Inherred). **The 2025 Broadcast dates for First Lutheran are: January 19, February 16, April 13, May 25, June 29, August 24, October 12, November 30 and December 24.** Contact the church office for more information or to sponsor a date.
- ❑ **Share & Care Quilters** meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00am in the church's sewing room (lower level) to sew and put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Come and join the group! Sewing skills are NOT required as there are other talents needed. Questions? Contact the church office.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Stevens County Food Shelf** supplies a 5-day emergency or supplemental food package to residents of Stevens County. There is no fee for this service, but clients must provide proof of residency. The food shelf welcomes people's donations of food to support our community. Monetary donations are also very helpful in purchasing food supplies. The Food Shelf is located on the corner of 7th Street and Iowa Ave and their hours are: Mondays: 2:30pm - 3:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays: 5:30pm - 6:30pm; Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30am - 11:30 am. You can reach the food shelf at 320.589.7436.
- ❑ **Daily Grace** Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Just go to the Women of the ELCA website (www.womenoftheelca.org) and sign up for the "Daily Grace." Reflect, pray, and prepare for the day.
- ❑ **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.

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

Dec 5	In loving memory of Dewey Solvie on this birthday
Dec 6	In memory of Darlene Ross from Jo Solvie
Dec 7	In memory of Shirley Squier from Jo Solvie
Dec 8	In memory of Kay Grindland from Jo Solvie
Dec 9	In memory of Charles Fjord from Jo Solvie
Dec 10	In memory of Dick Hufford from Jo Solvie
Dec 11	In memory of Marcella Hansen from Jo Solvie
Dec 12	In memory of Donald Schaefer from Emilie Brustuen
Dec 24	ELCA Lutheran Worship radio broadcast given in memory of J. Allan & Marvel Anderson from Kathy & Gary Wilde and in honor of our congregation from Jo Solvie

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



When necessary, weather cancellations will be communicated primarily through the local radio station, which is KKOK (FM95.7) and KMRS (AM1230).

We will however, strive to also have this information available on the church's Facebook page and website. If time allows, emails and text messages will be sent out to those with current email/cell phone information on file with the church office.

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights: Dec 17, 2024

Committee Reports:

- **Education:** no report
- **Property:** no report; working on annual report
- **Mission and Evangelism:** no report; working on annual report
- **Worship and Music:** written minutes were given out to the council

Old Business:

- possible new council members for the ballot were discussed
- council and Transition Team met

New Business:

- Annual meeting date was set for Sunday, January 26, with an addition budget meeting with the congregation on Sunday, January 12
- Next council meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00pm with Matt giving the devotion.

NOVEMBER'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$22,361.46 November Income	\$23,697.79 November Expenses
\$200,214.64 Year-to-Date Giving	\$227,283.60 Year-to-Date Expenses

January Worship Servants

Sunday, January 5: 11:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday school

Ushers: Steve Just family, Kent & Erica Swenson

Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger

Acolyte: Aubrey & Ashlyn Williamson

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Video: Tony Feuchtenberger

TV Slides: Sarah Dougherty

Sunday, January 12: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Dick Smith, Brian Erdahl, Ward Voorhees

Lector: Jennie Odello

Acolytes: Zoe Krosch & Kenzie Just

Nursery: Jone Anderson

Communion: Judy Buro

Communion Servers: Linda Holland, Millie Tschetter, Emilie Brustuen

Video: Mike Odello

TV slides: Micah Ulrich

Sunday, January 19: 11:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday school

Ushers: Al Harris, Jon & Micah Ulrich

Lector: Allyn Platter

Acolyte: Connor Siegel & Chance Buro

Nursery: Lindy Ekola

Video: Dave Jungst

TV slides: Skott Anderson

Sunday, January 26: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion Blue Hymnal

Ushers: Bob Heck, Doug & Sharon Ehlers, Michael Bjorklund

Lector: Sharon Ehlers

Acolyte: Sawyer Fynboh & Abram Suess

Nursery: Amy Dougherty

Communion: Liz Harris

Communion Servers: Ward Voorhees, Laurie Feuchtenberger, Linda Holland

Video: Kyle Dougherty





HAPPY birthday

- 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: Makayla Flower, Ron Rosen
- Jan 9: Ryan S. Anderson, Neil Suess
- Jan 10: Honor Knochenmus, Shiloh Knochenmus, J. Mark Nesvig
- Jan 11: Philip Ask, Jayce Plattner
- Jan 12: Doug Beyer, Emerson Flower, Aubrey Williamson
- Jan 13: Jazlynn Hilbrands
- Jan 14: Cheryl Higgins, Glen Gillespie, Tyler Schneider

- Jan 17: Jone Anderson
- Jan 19: Steve Just
- Jan 25: Adrienne Hilbrands
- Jan 26: Mark Gunderson
- Jan 27: Luella Anderson
- Jan 28: Brian Williams
- Jan 29: Gwyneth Hanson
- Jan 31: Jamis Burnett, Blaine Hills, Zoe Krosch

HAPPY Anniversary!

- Jan 6: Greg & Naomi Fynboh
- Jan 15: Al & Lavonne Watson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY			1 	2	3	4 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
5 10am Coffee/Fellowship 10am Sunday school 11am Worship	6	7 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	8 11:30pm Lunch Bunch at Old #1 No Element 6:30-8pm Fusion Bible Study at Faith	9 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	10 7:15-8am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	11 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
12 10am Coffee/Fellowship 10am Budget Mtg. 11am Worship HC	13	14 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/Widowers at Old #1 4:15pm Worship & Music Mtg	15 6:30-8pm Element at First 6:30-8pm Fusion Service Project	16 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	17 7:15-8am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	18 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
19 10am Coffee/Fellowship 10am Sunday school 11am Worship	20	21 11am Pastors' Text Study	22 6:30-8pm Element at First 6:30-8pm Fusion Bible Study at Faith	23 9am Share & Care (quilting group) 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	24 7:15-8am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	25 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
26 10am Coffee/Fellowship 11am Worship HC Annual Meeting following worship	27	28 11am Pastors' Text Study	29 6:30-8pm Element at First 6:30-8pm Fusion Movie Night at Faith	30	31 7:15-8am Fusion Bible & Breakfast	

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)



ELEMENT SCHEDULE (Grades 6 - 8)

- Wed., January 15: 6:30-8pm Element at First Lutheran
- Wed., January 22: 6:30-8pm Element at First Lutheran
- Wed., January 29: 6:30-8pm Element at First
- No Element on February 5
- Wed., February 12: 6:30-8pm Element at First Lutheran

SR. HIGH FUSION SCHEDULE (Grades 9 - 12)

- Wednesday, January 8: 6:30-8pm Bible Study and New Year Activity (at Faith Lutheran)
- Wednesday, January 15: 6:30-8:00pm Service Project. More information to come...time could be adjusted!
- Wednesday, January 22: 6:30-8:00pm Bible Study (at Faith Lutheran)
- Wednesday, January 29: 6:30-8pm Movie Night (at Faith Lutheran)

Fusion BIBLE and BREAKFAST: 7:15-8:00am | Morris at Faith Lutheran and Hancock at Alberts

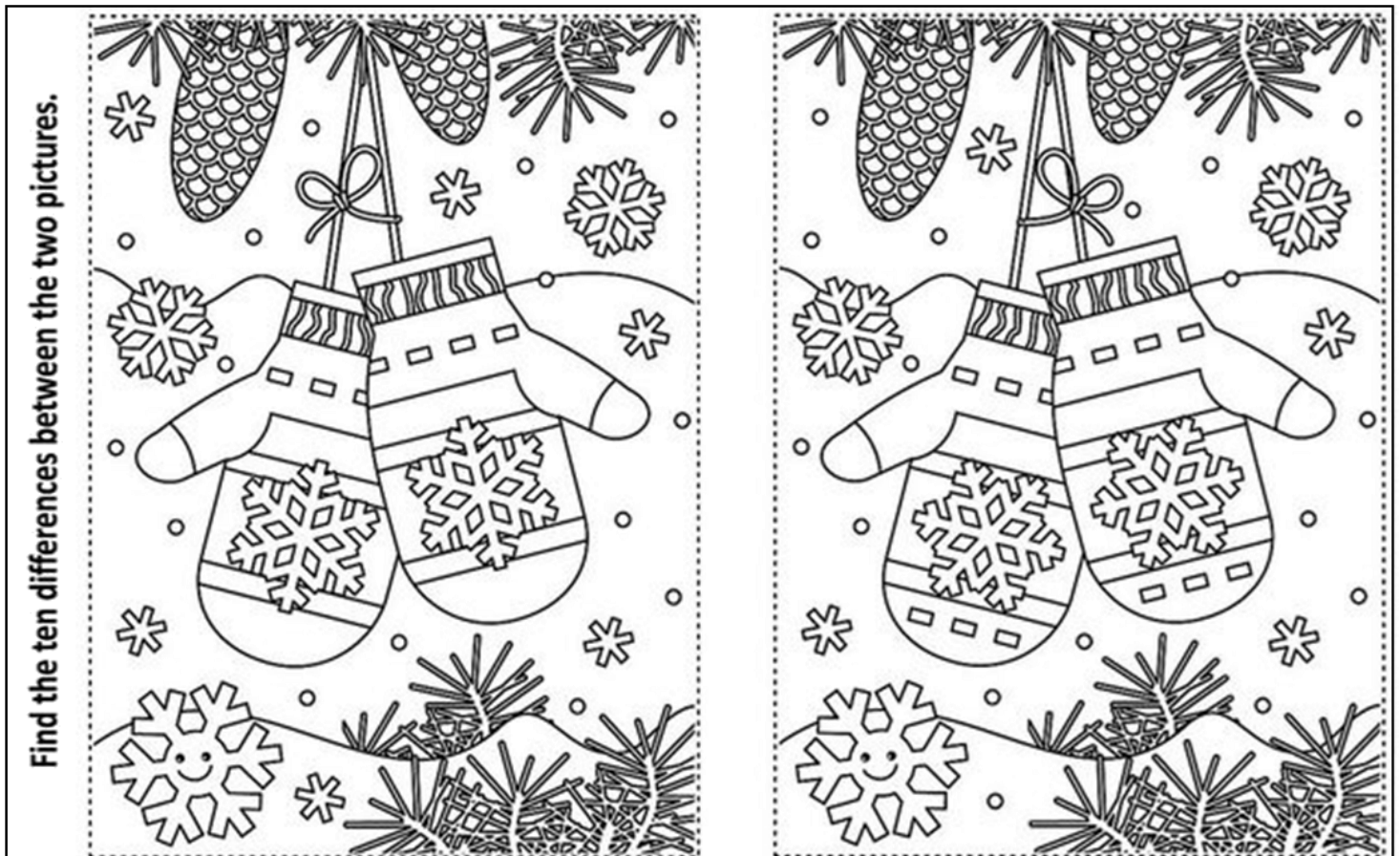
- Friday, January 10: Bible and Breakfast
- Friday, January 17: Bible and Breakfast
- Friday, January 24: Bible and Breakfast
- Friday, January 31: Bible and Breakfast

Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information.

www.fusion-ministry.com Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267 Email: fusionministry.connect@gmail.com



Cancellations: Winter is here! Any notifications for cancellations will be via email and on Social Media.



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
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	