**June 2024** 

### First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

Friends in Christ,

The first 8 days of my time as interim pastor have been a whirlwind of activity and learning for me. And in the midst of that, it's been a time of joyful discoveries. I imagine those things will continue for many more days to come. Certainly the Day of Pentecost was one of the joyful discoveries with wonderful music and beautifully adorned worship space.

Two people who have been a great help to me so far are office manager Rita Bye, and council president Cari Burnett. Cari has done a great job of facilitating conversations with the council, me and the synod office. At the same time she has coordinated and a great number of details—all while working with the senior class at Hancock and being a parent to 4 active children. When I first contacted Rita before starting, she replied quickly, professionally and with an abundance of information. Much of it was above and beyond what I requested, but all of it was very helpful. As most of you already know she is a great asset to First Lutheran.

I will be focusing my time and energy in some particular areas in the upcoming months.

- Learning some of the history of FLC, Morris and Stevens County
- Listening to the joys, dreams and possible concerns of yours
- Reminding ourselves of the resources and opportunities of the community
- Asking questions to understand and sometimes to challenge
- Forming some goals and possible plans for the next couple of years

In other words, helping you all set the table for your future with your next regularly called pastor. Part of the preparation is trying some different things along the way: in worship, during meetings, through education, and in community engagement. To put it plainly, we'll try out some things that "we've never done it that way before." Not change for the sake of change, but exploring what can make our life together more enjoyable, effective and even life-giving to us and those we haven't met yet.

My approach, and I hope yours, will be with gratitude and appreciation for God has been doing in and through all of you. And then some creative curiosity asking several "what ifs" along the way. Along the way we'll also ask, what do you want more of? What do you want less of? What new thing(s) can we add for the sake of the Gospel and the people around us?

I'm working 60% time for the next three months: most Sundays, along with Tuesdays and Wednesdays usually. Watch the bulletin and future newsletters for any changes. Part of Wednesday afternoons you can find me at the Common Cup. In coming months it may be at some other location. We'll keep you posted!

Excited for our time together, Pr. Rich Fitzer

	<b>Coffee Hour</b> is served in the fe	${f Coffee\ Hour}$ is served in the fellowship hall before the worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The						
	GRACE Service Group is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of June. Please sign up on the							
	bulletin board across from the church office. Those in this month's Service Group are:							
	Justin & Lori Anderson	Ryan & Summer Anderson	Ray & Robi Bowman	Judy Buro				
	Matt & Cari Burnett	LeAnn Dean	Kellie Hentges	Linda Holland				
	Craig & Katie Knochenmus	Gary & Corrine Knochenmus	Dave Neslon	Allyn & Hannah Plattner				
	Chris & Bobbi Siegel							
	Lunch Bunch meets on Wedne	esday, June 5th 11:30am at Fi	reside in Morris. All ar	e welcome to join us!				
	<b>2024 KMRS Radio Broadcast</b> available dates are: June 30, Aug 25, Oct 6, 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.	C ,	,					
	Newsletter Deadline for the July newsletter is noon on Thursday, June 20th.							
	<b>Pastoral Visit</b> If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the							
	church office and a pastor will		•	• •				
	affiliation during check-in, the ho	•	•	, -				
	they contact your church.		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,					
	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							
occasionallya batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us								
	interested in helping out occasion		·	-				
	Donate with Venmo! You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not							
	familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe							
	smart phone (available for Andro	' '	• •	• • • • •				
	<b>RUSC Kinship Mentoring</b> is							
	young person. All mentors are re	· ·	•					
	personal interview, background	·	• .	• •				
	www.rusckinship.org or by conta	-	• • •					
	7872 or by email at rusckinship@							
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### Women of First WELCA News

### **WELCA Meeting**

A brief meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 16 at 10:00am to make decisions of support from the recent Pie Fundraise. All are welcome to attend.

### Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Global Health Ministries Kits

We have once again received a First Lutheran Church endowment fund donation which makes it possible to host a packing event scheduled for the first day of Sunday school, September 8, 2024. This is a nice way to kick off the Sunday School year as the students enjoy the opportunity to help pack kits. This fall we will be packing Personal Care Kits and School kits for LWR. We will also be packing Newborn kits and rolling bandages for GHM. Information for these kits can be found on their websites, <a href="https://lwr.org">https://lwr.org</a> and <a href="https://www.ghm.org">https://www.ghm.org</a>. You can also search our church website under the member tab and click on Women of First. Please consider donating items for these kits. Some easy items to donate include school supplies, as theses are often on sale starting in July and bath size bars of soap. If you like to crochet, knit, or sew, we need newborn stocking hats and receiving blankets for the newborn kits. These kits are packed for shipping in pillowcases of any color. We need white sheets donated for the rolled bandages. Fabric donations for quilts are needed and of course, monetary donations are always appreciated as well. Please check the websites for additional specific requirements. Please contact Sharon Ehlers 320 808- 4500 or Emilie Brustuen 719 440-8575 if you have any questions.

### June Worship Servants

Sunday, June 2: 11:00am Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Linda Holland, Al & Julie Monroe Lector: Allyn Plattner Nursery: Bobbi Siegel
Acolyte: Dane Dybdahl & Connor Siegel Video: Steve Wagner TV slides: Skott Anderson

Sunday, June 9: 11am Worship HC

Ushers: Steve Just, Dennis Feuchtenberger, Michael Bjorklund Lector: Vicki Dalager

Nursery: Pam Wiese Acolyte: Isaac Just & Giana Feuchtenberger

Communion: Vicki Dalager (bread) Comm Servers: Laurie Feuchtenberger, Millie Tschetter, Liz Harris

*Video:* Tony Feuchtenberger *TV Slides:* Mackenzie Just

Sunday, June 16: 11am Worship

Ushers: Dick Smith, Jon Ulrich, Scott Staples Lector: Lindy Ekola Nursery: Vicki Dalager Acolyte: Abram & Kye Suess Video: Dave Jungst TV slides: Micah Ulrich

Sunday, June 23: 11am Worship HC Blue Hymnal

Ushers: Bob Heck, Greg & Naomi Fynboh Lector: Sharon Ehlers

*Nursery:* Jone Anderson *Acolyte:* Wes Odello & Sawyer Fynboh

**Communion:** Sharon Ehlers (wafer) **Comm Servers:** Emilie Brustuen, Doug Ehlers, Ward Voorhees

*Video:* Mike Odello *TV slides:* Jennie Odello

Sunday, June 30: 11am Worship

Ushers: Al Harris, Judy Buro, Dave Jungst, Lindy Ekola Lector: Cathy Anderson Nursery: Amy Dougherty Acolyte: Maddy Schneider & Sarah Dougherty Video: Kyle Dougherty TV slides: Chance Buro

bithday

June 2: Scott Erdahl

June 3: Deanna Rosen, Madelyn Siegel,

Jon Ulrich, Everett Van Kempen

June 4: Amy Dougherty

June 5: Deb Decker, Gary Wagner June 7: Jen Buchanan, Ann Erdahl,

Kent Swenson, LaVonne Watson

June 8: Heather Schneider, Morgan Wevley

June 9: Jean Anderson

June 10: Eric Buchanan, Marian Thraen

June 12: Lydia Fynboh

June 16: Denner Dougherty, Joleen Hanson
June 20: Corrine Knochenmus, Jim Thraen,
William Peterson, Zayne Plattner

June 22: Audrey Anderson, Rebecca Nemmers

June 23: Connie Anderson, Karli Siegel June 24: Sherry Anderson, Lana Burnett

June 25: John Huebner

June 27: Olivia Morris-Durkee, Jeanne Richards

Anniversary

June 1: Arnie & Verna Sharstrom

June 4: Heather & Brad Krosch

June 6: Michelle & Steve Just Dick & Suzanne Smith

June 7: Katie & Craig Knochenmus

June 8: Greg & Julie Thymian
June 10: Jim & Marian Thraen
June 11: Skip & Vicki Maanum

June 17: Adrienne & Matthew Hilbrands

June 21: Ryan & Summer Anderson

June 22: Jared & Britney House
Corrine & Gary Knochenmus

June 29: Tim & Kristin Grove
June 30: Ward & Carol Voorhees

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	He	llo	ine			8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran  9:30-11:00am Makers Space for Kids at First
2 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship	1:00pm Youth Frisbee Golf at Pomme de Terre (gr.6-8)	4 11:00am Pastors' Text Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	5 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Fireside in Morris	6	7 1:00pm Mission & Evang. Mtg	8 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
9 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship with Holy Communion 2:30-4:00pm Girl Scouts	1:00pm Youth Movie & Ice Cream at First (gr.6-8)	11 11:00am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1 7:00pm Council Meeting	12	13 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 4:15pm Worship & Music	14	15 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
16 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 10am WELCA Mtg in fellowship hall 11am Worship	1:00pm Youth Painting Party at First (gr.6- 8)	18 11:00am Pastors' Text Study	6:00-8:00pm Wednesday Night Alive at Old #1	20 12:00pm Newsletter Articles Due 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	21	<b>8:00am</b> Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
23 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship with Holy Communion	24	25 11:00am Pastors' Text Study	26 6:00-8:00pm Wednesday Night Alive at Old #1	27 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)  1:00-3:00pm Respite Group	28	29 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
30 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship		hip services are stro and YouTu Recorded services	<b>be</b> (First Lutherar	n Church - Morris	MN).	hurch)

# **SCHEDULE:**

Speakers from Minnesota Youth Alive

June 19th – Joey Orlando

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Jessie Nelson

July 10th - Jon Pritikin

July 17<sup>th</sup> – Reggie Dabbs

July 24<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## 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!

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



2024

### 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

### ABOUT OUR 2024 SPEAKERS:

Joey Orlando – June 19<sup>th</sup>



Joey began his ministry career as a youth pastor and evangelist. He moved onto the business world but did not move away from this faith. Joey has spent the

last 20 years showing people how to live out their faith in the business world. His decisions and relationships were built on the foundation of asking the Lord what was the right thing to do. That has changed the lives of those he works with and an example to believers to follow. Joey and his wife Kirsten live Rosemount, MN and have two grown children, Gabriel and Lexi.

## Jessie Nelson – June 26<sup>th</sup>

Jessie is the lead youth pastor of a Crossroads Church in Woodbury. She is an excellent communicator of truth for students as well as adults. She

humorous style that will keep you laughing until you cry...sometimes literally. Jessie has spoken at WNA in the past and we are privileged to have her back to speak to our community!

Jon Pritikin – July 10<sup>th</sup>



the most sought after inspirational speakers.

As he shares his personal story of perseverance, he takes the audience on a journey from laughter to tears, and ultimately they are inspired to never give

up. Jon has travelled the world for over two decades inspiring over 10 million people across 40 different countries. Jon resides in Northern California with his wife, Rhonda, and their daughter, Jaden. He and Rhonda are also cofounders of a nonprofit anti-bullying school assembly program called Feel the Power. In 2007 outside of London, England, Jon broke and set two Guinness World Records. The title that landed his picture in the 2009 Guinness World Record Book is "The Tightest Circumference of Two Aluminum Frying Pans Rolled Together with His Bare Hands in Less Than 30 Seconds."

## Reggie Dabbs – July 17th



We are so excited to have this dynamic man of God back to speak to our community! Reggie is a well-known and respected communicator of the incredible love and healing

power of Jesus. You will

## Ruthie Bolton – July 24<sup>th</sup>



Ruthie is one of the most accomplished female athletes in the world. She is a 2-time Olympic Gold Medalist, and one of only 4 players to be named the Women's Basketball

Hall of Fame Class of 2011. But Ruthie believes that her gifts are to be used for a higher purpose: to inspire other to let their light shine and perform at their best. "If I am only remembered for being a basketball player, I believe that I will have failed in my job on this planet." She makes a practice of encouraging and inspiring others to keep the faith and push through obstacles with determination.

## Ferrence Talley – July 31st



Terrence is a premiere school assembly speaker spreading hope to youth and adults alike. If you have attended WNA before and heard Terrence speak, you

know what an experience it is to listen to his stories and walk out encouraged no matter what you are facing in life. Terrence lives in Milwaukee, WI with his wife Courtney and three daughters: Gracie, CeCe and Emory.



leave feeling encouraged by his words.



## Congratulations class of 2024

### Owen Anderson



**Parents**: Ryan & Summer Anderson

Future Plans: University of Duluth for Business and Economics

**Interests/Activities:** Football, Basketball, Baseball

### Jason Christians



Parents: Amy & Steve Werk, Adam Christians

**Future Plans**: Returning to Fort Moore, GA to complete his military training before returning home to pursue a career.

Interests/Activities: MN Army National Guard, Football, Trap Team and Hunting

### Owen Hentges



Parents: Kellie Hentges and Scott Hentges

Future Plans: working for CPKC Railway

**Interests/Activities:** *Fishing and hunting* 

### Tyler Schneider



Parents:

Tom & Heather Schneider

### Future Plans:

Diesel Technology-Case IH Program at Lake Area Tech College in Watertown, SD

### Ruby Swenson



Parents: Kent & Erica Swenson

**Future Plans**: University of North Dakota - Psychology to specialize in Child Psychology.

Interests/Activities: Volleyball, Track,

Student Council, BPA, National Honor Society

"I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope."



### MAKER'S SPACE FOR KIDS

**Registration is FREE** and open to all students in Grades 3 through 8. Register on-line at <a href="https://forms.gle/XtD5mvwnqCsVe7mS7">https://forms.gle/XtD5mvwnqCsVe7mS7</a> This link can be found on our website at www.flcmorris.org.

Final session will be on **Saturday**, **June 1 from 9:30am to 11:00am** at First Lutheran

**June's session to include**: Wobbles Kits (crocheting) Woodworking, Lefse, Paper Artwork with Color and Pens 9:30am: Worship/Devotional time | 9:45 to 10:45am: Workshop sessions | 10:45am: Snack | 11:00am: Dismissal















### ELCA World Hunger | God's Global Barnyard

\$560 was collected by our Sunday school students and the congregation! Surpassing our \$300 goal, we were able to have our new interim pastor kiss a pig! Thank you to all that donated! For more information on ELCA Good Gifts, please visit www.ELCA.org/goodgifts



### **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

### Mondo Mondays: A fun activity for those who've completed grades 6th - 8th!!

- Une 3: Frisbee Golf at Pomme De Terre 1:00-2:30pm. Bring a water bottle. We will have frisbees provided.
- Une 10: Movie & Ice Cream at First Lutheran Church 1:00-3:00pm. Bring your favorite topping for ice cream!
- ② June 17: Painting party at Faith Lutheran Church 1:00-3:00pm. Bring your own canvas to paint on (can be a piece of cardboard or a canvas!)
- Une 24: TBA (check the Fusion website for more information!)
- Uly 8: Frisbee Golf at Pomme De Terre 1:00-2:30pm. Bring a water bottle. We will have frisbees provided.
- Use July 15: TBA (check the Fusion website for more information!)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email or give Heather a call: heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com or 320.349.0103. Check out our website www.fusion-ministry.com.

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

May 1	In memory of Myron Syverson from Al & LaVonne Watson
May 2	In memory of Marilyn Mahoney from Al & LaVonne Watson
May 3	In memory of Steve Van Kempen from Al & LaVonne Watson
May 4	In loving memory of Chad David Henneberg from Emilie Brustuen
May 5	In memory of Merrill Carlson from Cheryl Higgins
May 6	In memory of Gerald Grenier from Cheryl Higgins
May 7	In memory of Diane Nelson's brother Gerald from Marlene Seip
May 8	In memory of Lauren Carlson's brother Merrill from Marlene Seip
May 9	In memory of Lauren Carlson's brother from Emilie Brustuen
May 10	In honor of our granddaughter Anna on her high school graduation from Deanna & Ron Rosen
May 11	In honor of all veterans from Deanna & Ron Rosen
May 20	In loving memory of Dale Crow from his family
May 27	In memory of my grandparents from Jo Solvie



First Lutheran now has a banner that can be displayed at various events, complements of the Worship & Music Committee and the Zipporah Bible Study group. We thank you for this gift!

### First Lutheran Church Council Highlights: May 14, 2024

### **Committee Reports:**

- Worship & Music: working on possibly having an organ recital this summer. Church without Walls is
- scheduled for September 8.
- Education: VBS will be at Faith Lutheran this year. \$560.25 was collected for the God's Global Barnyard and the Sunday school students will choose which animals to buy.
- 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; outside handrails to be painted; holes in cement to be filled and the courtyard mulch will be replaced.

### **Old Business:**

• Call Committee: 6 people have confirmed their willingness to serve on the Call Committee with 2-3 more people needed.

### **New Business:**

- An Interim contract with Pastor Rich Fitzer was finalized and signed.
- A motion was made and passed to send \$2,000 in benevolence this month.
- Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00pm. Devotions to be given by Pastor Rich.

### APRIL'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$17,340.65 April Income \$16,354.72 April Expense

\$77,340.65 Year-to-Date Giving \$69,251.56 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 Pastor's cell: 320-859-3816 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 Wyatt Vavra, Custodian Deb Mahoney, Accompanist

office@flcmorris.org

### CHURCH COUNCIL

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