**First EDITION**

**MARCH 2024**

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”



**My apologies to the congregation for not putting together an article for January.  What I'd like to do for this newsletter is to give you an update on happenings with our confirmation classes and a short update on Pastor Erik Rundquist and his families status.**

**Prior to leaving, Pastor Steve helped us create a new curriculum where in year one, the kids would be introduced to stories from the Old Testament:**

    +    **Adam and Eve and the introduction of sin**

    +    **God's faithfulness to Abraham, Sarah and their son's Jacob and Esau.**

    +    **The great stories of Moses:**

            -    **Slavery**

            -    **Baby in a basket**

            -    **Murder**

            -    **Fear/Freedom**

            -    **Burning bush**

            -    **God's law**

            -    **The Exodus/Idolatry**

    +    **God's Judges**

    +    **Ruth and Naomi**

    +    **David (Here's where we ended 2 weeks ago)**

    +    **Solomon and the Rebuilding of Jerusalem**

    +    **Jonah and a big fish!**

**Year #2 will be a New Testament review and #3, a look at the Catechism and Creeds.  This year, our mentors are Donna Wachsmuth, Mindy Johnson, myself and our confirmands parents who've been sitting in on Wednesday nights to help and to hear what their children are working on with us.  Our group has been able to continue the Old Testament review after Pastor Steve left in late December and we're proud of what the kids are retaining as we've moved through very important stories and life lessons.**

**As most of you are aware, our Call Committee and Church Council made an offer to hire Pastor Erik Rundquist and he has accepted.  His plan is to start preaching March 24th on Palm Sunday and he'll slowly work his way into all the things our pastor has on his plate.  Council members and church staff will be very important "teachers" as he looks at all the needs of our congregation and it will take time for him to get up to speed on the many facets of work we have at First Lutheran.  I'd ask everyone to keep Pastor Erik and his family in your prayers as they're still working on purchasing a home.**

**Thank you for your patience with us through this process.  Losing a minister means the loss of one quarter of our staff and the leader of our congregation.  Many people have filled small roles of the pastor but none of us can do it as well and I know I've missed things along the way.**

**Finally, I wish for all of us to know God's goodness as we've started the Lenten Season and are moving towards Easter!**

**God's Peace,**

**Chairman Rick**

A hands holding a pile of objects

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**The Noisy Offering for MARCH goes for the Food Shelf.**

**Text

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**Prayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~Craig Moline (son of Sharol Huggett), John Seegebarth, David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, and Lana Jensen.

**For firefighters, EMT’s, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace**. **For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



Logo

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**Women’s ongoing mission project-**

We ask members to join us and bring **toothpaste** during the month of **March** for the homeless.

A group of colorful tulips

Description automatically generatedPlease put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in the Narthex.



*Kettle River Conference*

*Spring Gathering*

*Saturday, April 13*

*Emmanuel Dell Grove Lutheran, Sandstone*

*More information later.*



*Until All Are Fed*

NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA

2024 Summer Convention/Gathering

Monday, June 10- Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN

If interested, you can pick up forms and information in the office.

A stethoscope with blue text

Description automatically generatedA group of women standing in front of a yellow circle with text

Description automatically generatedWomen on a Mission and the Faith Community Nurse will be collecting donations of any unwanted or unused medical supplies for Global Health. Crutches, slings, dressings, walkers, canes etc.

**NO MEIDICATIONS!!** Drop off at the Church and put in Women on a Mission closet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



A blue and orange text

Description automatically generated**Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

*Giving statements are available to be picked up on the table in Narthex, also just a note to let you know, that offering envelopes for giving are always out on the bulletin table. If you need a bigger amount, please contact Kathy Thompson.*

*Kathy Thompson - Financial Secretary*





Logo, company name

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Please Join us for the Community Meal

5-6 pm on Tuesday, March 5th.

(Scott Jensen Family)



A white and red sign with black text

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**Out to Lunch Bunch March 21st is at the Crystal Bar and Grille, Mora.**

**11 am Meet at church to carpool to Mora.**

Text

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The Faith Community Nurse will be doing blood pressures for anyone who would like one, Sunday, March 17th during Coffee Fellowship.



A purple and white sign

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**The April Newsletter Deadline needs to be in by 9 am on Monday, March18th**



**Don’t forget to direct Thrivent**

**Choice Dollars**

Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funds can help support organizations you care about.

Don’t let your designated Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars.

Let Kathy Thompson know where you want the money to go, that way she has your verification of where it should go.

Help support First Lutheran.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836



A colorful text with a cake and decorations

Description automatically generated**RESCHEDULED ALL-CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**BY EVANGELISM/STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

**SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 24,2024**

No, it’s not First Lutheran’s birthday It’s a celebration of all our birthdays!

There will be food, fellowship and fun, Chili, cornbread, Cake and candles and Happy Birthday wishes to all.

Everyone is invited, from infants to centenarians.

**It’s not a potluck,** *but we need a few volunteers…*

*More about that later!*

Sunday, March 24th following worship.

A sign with text and a red circle

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The [Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign](https://www.mnfoodshare.org/marchcampaign)brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over $18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund.

The Food Shelf does receive food distribution from Second Harvest Food Bank weekly, but Sandstone Food Shelf depends on and is grateful for food and monetary donation-personal or businesses. March is specified ad Food & Fund Drive month. Some suggested donations are personal care items (shampoo, body wash, conditioner, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc.); baking items (flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, etc.); Ramen noodles; Cereal.

A shelf with baskets and a plant

Description automatically generatedThe Evangelism/Stewardship board will have donation bags for your convenience, if desired.  Please place your donations of non-perishable food in the box marked "Food Shelf" in the narthex **or** place your monetary donations in your offering envelope and check the food shelf box and write "food shelf" on the memo line of your check. There will be a large "thermometer" in the narthex also to track our progress toward our goal of 500 pounds of donations.  All food will go directly to the Sandstone shelf.  Let's exceed that goal like we did last year!



Many gifts….

Many thanks to those who give their time, talents and blessings for others. Several of our member put these bins and container all together to serve the food shelf, the homeless, Blessing Box, Women on a Mission and “A Place for You”

Many thanks…….

**A logo for lenten classes

Description automatically generated**

Attend 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Wednesday Worship.

Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20 and 27.

9:30 am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

March 3, March 10, March 17

A religious symbols and objects

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Tentative depending on if the new Pastor

agrees and if he is here.

Sunday, March 24-Palm Sunday- 9:30 am Worship with Holy

Communion.

Wednesday, March 27-6:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday, March 28- 6:30 pm Worship.

Good Friday, March 29- - “Stations of the Cross”-6:30 pm

Easter Sunday March 31- -7:30 am Worship with Holy Communion.

8:30-9:15 am Breakfast

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion.

Please pick up the Lenten Devotions on the table in the Narthex.

The three cornerstone spiritual disciplines of Lent are:

prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

From the “Seed of Joy” Daily Devotional Guide

***SCHEDULE FOR MARCH***

***Remember if you cannot serve, to please find your***

***own substitute. Thank You.***

***Acolytes***

*Sunday, March 3- Jaeden Blesener*

* *Jaxon Thom*

*Sunday, March 10- Claire Linden*

*- Maddie Anderson*

*Sunday, March 17- Brittyn Stiel*

*-Brooklyn Storlie*

*Palm Sunday, March 24-Thomas Wachsmuth*

*-*

*1st Easter Sunday Service, March 31-Jaeden Blesener*

*-Jaxon Thom*

*2nd Easter Sunday Service -March 31-*

*-*

***Wednesday Confirmation Parent Assist***

*Confirmands meet with Lenten Faith Mentors until end of March.*

***Lectors***

*Sunday, March 3-Carole Lahti*

*Sunday, March 10- Donna Wachsmuth*

*Sunday, March 17-Christie Dunkley*

*Palm Sunday, March 24- Paul Olson*

*1st Easter Service March 31-Diane Ausmus*

*2nd Easter Service March 31-Linda Libra*

***Kitchen Cleaning*-** *Mary Jabe*

***Ushers*-***Robert Kinblom and Tom Wachsmuth*

***Altar-*** *N/A*

*March Birthday's*

**3/3 Trevor Johnson**

**Grace Richards**

**3/4 Nicki Mans**

**Karen Rensvold**

**3/5 Mike Edin**

**3/8 Crystal Mans**

**Larry Edin**

**3/11 Scott Grice**

**3/13 Audrey Storlie**

**3/16 Max Mans**

**3/17 Kelly Johnson (Kadous)**

**3/18 Ron Smith ✝**

**Robert Anderson**+

**Patty Olson**

**3/20 Jay Ostrand**

**3/21 Scott Jensen**

**3/22 Lainey Johnson Sophie LeTourneau**

**3/23 Pat Anderson (Robert)**

**3/24 Colton Thompson**

**Mason Thompson**

**Bayleigh Bowman**

**3/26 Dale Mans**

**3/27 Sarah (Nicholson) Ward**

**3/28 Juanita Zamora**

**3/29 Austin Lindner**

**Brooke Golly**

✝ **Octogenarians**

**Please let us know if there are any corrections or additions.**

**Thank You!**

A group of cupcakes with candles

Description automatically generated



**Women’s Bible Study’s** **ongoing mission project**.

We ask members to join us and bring a **granola bars** during the month of **May** for homeless packets. Please put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in Narthex.

Thank You.



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **March 2024**  \*\*Subject to Change\*\*  **Worship Service is available Live on Facebbok, You Tube, and Website.**  **Wednesday Night Youth Schedule (see below)** | | | | | | |
| **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** |
| **Wednesday Night Youth Schedule**  4:30 pm FiA Choir (k-6).  5-6:30 pm FiA  5:30 -6 pm Confirmation Dinner  6 pm Large Group Confirmation  6:30 pm Worship/HC  7 pm Small Group Confirmation  7:30 pm Youth Group | | | |  | 1 | 2  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 3  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Worship | 4 | 5 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  11:15 am Evangelism  Stewardship mtg. | 6 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship | 7 7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s Text Study | 8 | 9  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 10  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Worship/ Bells | 11  4 pm Women’s Ruth Bible Study  5:30 pm All Boards | 12  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 13  9 am Library  6:30 pm Holden evening Prayer Worship | 14 7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s Text Study  9:30 am Quilting | 15 | 16    8 pm AA mtg. |
| 17  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship with BP √;  9:30 am First Word Worship  Church Council | 18  **April**  **Newsletter**  **Deadline** | 19  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 20  6:30 pm Holden  Evening Prayer Worship  Mission Trip mtg. after Worship | 21 7 am Men’s Coffee  Fellowship  7:30 am Men’s  Text Study  Out to Lunch Bunch, Crystal Bar & Grille, Mora  Meet @ 11 am at church | 22 | 23  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 24 **Palm Sunday**  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Palm Sunday Worship/HC/  Bells  All Church Birthday Party after Worship | 25 | 26  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | 27  6:30 pm Wed. Worship | 28  6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship | 29  6:30 pm Good Friday Worship- Stations of Cross | 30  8 pm AA mtg. |
| 31 **Easter Sunday**  7:30 am Easter Worship/HC  8:30 am Breakfast  9:30 am Easter Worship/HC |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Youth and Family News!

All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

***Isaiah 54:13***

**Faith in Action and Youth Group:** Reminder that Faith in Action will be every Wednesday night from 5-6:30 pm and youth group will be from 7–8 pm and will follow the same schedule as FiA.

**Valentines’ dinner:**  Thank you to all who supported the youth – it was a great fundraiser to support youth mission trip.

**Mission trip meeting March 20th after worship:** for both mission trip options for the summer – Memphis with service-learning camp and National youth gathering in New Orleans and Duluth Go - Share - Love mission trip.



Bottom of Form

**Camp Connect is an opportunity for K-6th grade kids to come and spend the day learning, singing, and playing games all in the beauty of Luther Point’s campus.**

**Please stay tuned for dates that will be offered in June.**

**Confirmation Class will meet with 1 to 1 mentors from 5:45 -6:30 and attend worship together every Wednesday evening during Lent – thank you to all of our mentor volunteers.**

**“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say, how you live, how you love and what you believe” Timothy 4: 12**

**Council Minutes December 17th, 2023**

**Those present:** Rick Bicking, Rick Dunkley, Nancy Stephenson, Kevin Stephenson, Robin Hendrix, Tom Wachsmuth, Donna Wachsmuth, Dwaine Palmer, Paul Shober, Amy Tvedt, Pastor Steve, Mindy Johnson.

**Call to Order:** 10:30 AM. We were led in devotions by Rick. D.

**Secretary Minutes:** motion to accept the minutes made by Tom, second by Dwaine, motion carried.

**Financial Secretary’s Report:** motion to accept made by Tom, second by Paul, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rick B. stated that the general fund is negative $38,185.39. We will work on balancing our accounts at the annual budget meeting on Jan. 3, 2024.

**Board Reports:** Motion to accept made by Robin, second by Nancy, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Building Fund:** the building fund is negative $7096.63. We will balance this account with money from the Edwin fund. Motion made by Robin, second by Amy, motion carried.

**Counting Procedure Update:** one counter will come in on Wednesday or Thursday to count with Kathy.

**Handicap Door Update:** St. Germaine requires ½ (of $4225) down as a deposit before they will order the door, and ordering takes 6 weeks. Rick B. will write them a check, and Tom will coordinate Live Wire electrical with St. Germaine when the door is scheduled to arrive. The quote Kevin received from Live Wire is $1400.

**Garbage Disposal:** It looks like this is an electrical issue, so we will have Live Wire fix this when they come out to do the electrical for the handicap door.

**Tim Davis’ Property, the tree and the fencing:** Scott took a look at the tree and advised the neighbor that they may want to move their trailer before the tree is removed. There is no further news for now.

**Telephones Update:** Six phones are needed, all with Hold and Transfer features. Kevin will look into different models.

**Update on Lawn Service:** Tom will cancel our current service, and Rick D. will contact our insurance provider about any liability issues involved in hiring a teen or adult.

**Snow Plowing Service Update:** Jordan Volden will now snowplow for us.

**Christmas Tree Thank You:** we will send a thank you card to Frye’s Tree Farm for donating our tree. We will all sign the card at the next meeting.

**Council Membership Concerns:** some members of the congregation are concerned about having multiple members of the same family on Council. We will announce to the congregation that anyone that is interested in holding a Council position can have their name included in the vote at January’s Annual Meeting.

**Pastoral Update:** the call committee interviewed a candidate that seems quite interested in the position. Rick D. called Susan at the Synod about helping us with Pulpit Supply now that Interim Pastor Steve will be leaving to become the Interim Pastor at Mora.

**Confirmation:** Pastor Steve will pass on his notes and Rick D. will take over and follow the same program that the Pastor has started.

**NEW BUSINES:**

**Constitution Adjustments:** In our Constitution we will now move the Annual meeting to the Bylaws section, and quorum for the annual meeting will be changed to 30, however, the Council President can still retain the power to declare quorum. Motion made by Tom, second by Kevin, motion carried. The requirement of a youth representative on Council will be omitted. The cemetery Committee will be moved to Bylaws. At the Annual meeting, amendments may now be proposed by at least 10 voting members. After the Synod approves of these changes, we will make the Constitution and Bylaws available for the congregation to see.

**Staff Job Descriptions:** to be consistent, the supervisor for all staff will now be the Pastor. There was mention of having Donna create the slide deck for services. Kevin feels that the service needs to become a coordinated effort between the service notes, the music, and where people will be standing at each point in the service, etc. For Mindy’s job description, we need to specify youth age range and write out what she really does. Rick D. and Mindy will meet to clarify her job description. For our custodian, we need to add the extra pay for funerals, etc., to the job description. Pastor also suggested that the hours allowed and compensation be added to all of the job descriptions. Motion to accept the changes made by Tom, second by Paul, motion carried.

**Details on Coverage during continuing interim period:** we have not received anything from the Synod. Pastor Steve will contact the Synod and also send us a pdf list of Pulpit Supply Pastors. We will check with Pastor John in Pine City about covering any hospitalizations or funerals that may come up.

**Garage door opener:** we discussed possible options for getting a garage door opener installed. Kevin will obtain an estimate from Live Wire to run electricity to the garage.

**Budget Meeting:** we will have a meeting to create our 2024 budget on January 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

**Parish Nurse Report:** Robin said she has still been busy setting up rides for a member’s son to go to the cities for cancer treatments. She has also given rides to the food shelf and has been working on the next Community Dinner.

**Director of Youth and Family Ministries Report:** the Christmas Program went well and we had a large turnout. FIA and youth group have been going well, and the youth have performed a lot of service projects in December. Please see her report.

**Interim’s Report:** Pastor has been laying out what he’s leaving for whoever becomes our next Pastor. Pastor feels that our church is a place that the new Pastor will be lucky to come to. Please see his report. We discussed that we will need to purchase a computer for the next Pastor. Kevin will delete Pastor Steve from the email list.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25.

**These notes respectfully submitted by Nancy Stephenson.**

**Office Hours:**

Mindy Johnson, Director of Youth, Family and Education-call 320-384-6393

[firstlcyouthdirector@scicable.com](mailto:firstlcyouthdirector@scicable.com)

Donna Martin, Church Secretary:

Tuesday-Thursday 9-3

[firstlcsecretary@scicable.com](mailto:firstlcsecretary@scicable.com)

Kathy Thompson, Financial Secretary: Wednesday & Thursday 9-3

[fincancialsecretary@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:fincancialsecretary@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com)

Rick Bicking, Treasurer: Tues. or call 320-384-6393

[treasurer@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:treasurer@flchinckley.onmicrosoft.com) or [firstlctreasurer@scicable.com](mailto:firstlctreasurer@scicable.com)

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