



# The Visitor

April 2022  
Spring Edition

## **PARISH STAFF**

### **Pastor**

Erik Roth

### **Secretary**

Rian Johnson

### **Organist**

Elaine Sweeney

### **Custodial Services**

Melissa Peterson

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Lynn Schweiberger

Nancy White

Gen Lervik

Mary Maki

Stephanie Skraba

David Peterson

Sandy Carlson

Kay Dague

Connie Bryant

Sheryl Tokarczyk

## **CONGREGATIONAL**

### **TREASURER**

Sandy Carlson

## **CHURCH CAMPUS AND EVENTS**

- **Building is open to the public**  
We are open for **in-person**  
Worship Sundays at 9:30 am
- Sunday services are also available  
live and rebroadcast on local  
channel 5, through the HPAT in-  
ternet channel and the church's  
YouTube channel
- Hand sanitizer is available in mul-  
tiple areas of the church and  
masks are recommended.
- **Check out our new website!**  
**The address is still the same,**  
**but it is definitely new and**  
**improved!! The website will**  
**continue to be updated and**  
**be a source for all of our up-**  
**coming events and links!**

## **WORSHIP & MINISTRY**

### **Sunday Morning Service**

Sundays at 9:30 am

Telecast live HPAT channel 5

Rebroadcast:

9:30 pm Sundays

8:00 pm Wednesdays

2:00 pm Thursdays

HPAT internet channel

First Lutheran's YouTube channel

### **Weddings:**

Make arrangements in advance by  
contacting the church office.

### **Baptisms:**

Make arrangements in advance by  
contacting the church office.

### **Pastoral Care:**

Contact the office.

## **CONTACT US**

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**MONDAY: 8:00-4:00**

**TUESDAY: 8:00-4:00**

**WEDNESDAY: 8:00-4:00**

**THURSDAY: 8:00-4:00**

**FRIDAY: 8:00-12:00**

**2201 3rd Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746**

**Tel: 218-263-8388**

**Pastor email: [pastor@firsthibbing.org](mailto:pastor@firsthibbing.org)**

**Office email: [office@firsthibbing.org](mailto:office@firsthibbing.org)**

**Website: [www.firsthibbing.org](http://www.firsthibbing.org)**

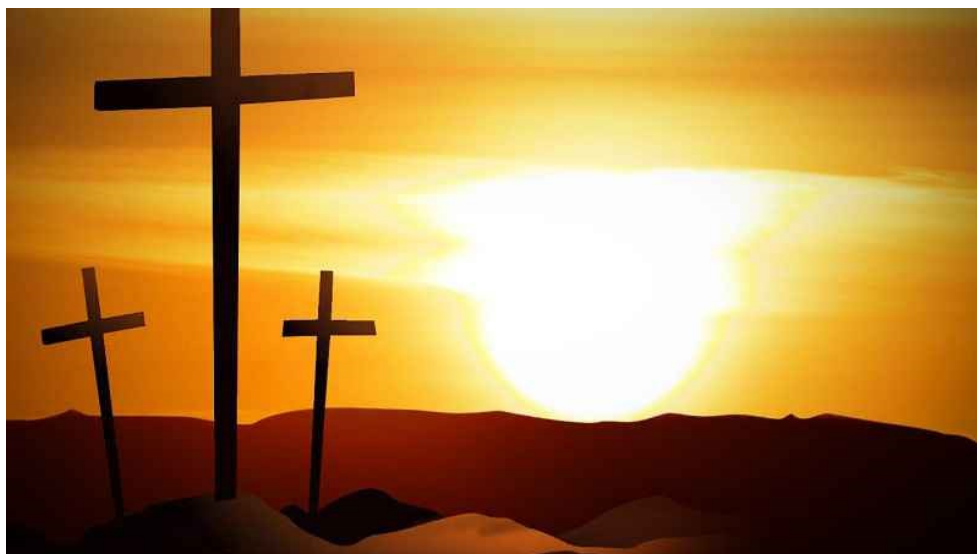
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**Subscribe to First Lutheran Church's YouTube channel**

Have you ever noticed how children ask the best questions? Their questions sometimes sound simple on the surface, but in reality are deep. Their questions are rarely, if ever rhetorical. These questions are asked because the inquisitive mind behind them is looking for answers which they will use to help make sense of the world. They demand clear answers. Logical answers. Answers that satisfy. The other day, I was asked a very good question, “why is the week before Easter called *Holy Week*?” At the time it seemed like a simple question, and I replied by retelling some of the main story points of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I thought my answer was clear and sufficient... was I ever wrong. My Palm Sunday recap was met with the follow-up questions, “what’s so *holy* about entering a city? What’s so *holy* about a crowd cheering? Afterall, people enter cities all the time and people cheer all the time too.” Hmm, good point I said. Then I thought maybe my Maundy Thursday recap would explain *holy* better. I was met with more follow up questions. “What’s so *holy* about being humble and washing feet? What’s so *holy* about commanding people to love each other? Does *holy* simply mean helping and being nice?” It was at this point that I tried to give an advanced theological response which my 8 year old interrogator didn’t appreciate. Ok, so maybe telling the events of Good Friday would answer the question. Nope. Of course there were follow up questions of “why is betrayal, cruelty, desertion, corruption, mocking, violence and the death of an innocent man *holy*?” It shouldn’t be called *Holy Week*, it should be called Terrible Week.“

It has taken me a couple days to process these questions and the best answer I have is that we call it *Holy Week* because in the stories we read before Easter we see that all the terrible things that happened to Jesus happened because of Jesus’ unrelenting love for us. That is *holy*. It is *holy* because we clearly see God entering into our lives, and becoming one of us, relating to us by experiencing the worst this world can dish out. So, we know that no matter whatever we do or not do in life or whatever happens or is done to us- Jesus understands. But mostly, *Holy Week* is called *Holy* because of what it leads to, Easter. With Jesus’ resurrection on Easter we receive the promise of everlasting and abundant life. We see that Jesus has defeated all enemies, even death. We see that Jesus has gifted us with grace upon grace and has declared us worthy to share in his victory. Jesus not only comes to meet us where we are, but also promises to bring us to where he is. As Christians, we call it *Holy Week* because we have faith that when we share this story of Jesus, others may “come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing have life in his name” (Jn. 20:31b).

Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter to you,  
Your co-worker in Christ~Pastor Erik





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## Happy Birthday to the following congregants!!!

4/2-Barb Wray, Aaron Foster, Jace Soderberg  
4/3-Linda Smith  
4/6-Landon Tokarczyk  
4/7-Luca Soderberg  
4/8-Caroline Rue  
4/10-Sandra Fairbanks  
4/11-Lillian Rue  
4/12-Phyllis Frand  
4/13-Charlene Olson  
4/14-Courtney Schnortz  
4/16 Carol Cummings, Maynard Elg, Lori Marinac, Max Bautch  
4/17-Frederick Schwartz, Rudy Bautch  
4/18-Evelyn Hoaglund, Keith Schweiberger, Tyler Rutherford

4/19-Louis Demillo, Brittany Johnson, Jack Bautch  
4/20-Brittany Kopeciw, Candy Clark  
4/21-Shirley Scofield, Ava Weyrauch  
4/22-Joan Rhude  
4/25-Derek Bautch, Sue Chacich  
4/26-Delores Sikich, Hannah Anderson, Jill Johnson, Mary Gargano  
4/27-Clem Williard  
4/29-Carol Kopelciw, Savannah Haataja  
4/30-Vivienne Mandt

### Church Finances

Many thanks to all who support First Lutheran Church and its extended ministries. FLC's General Fund contributions fuel this congregation's operational needs and extended ministries. **General fund offerings are shared** with our NE MN Synod and the ELCA Church-wide office to help ELCA Bible camps, youth ministry, seminaries, global outreach, various endeavors to promote peace and justice, and administrative costs. **Thank you to everyone who continues to support the ministry at our church!** Please continue to send in your offerings to help us continue to operate in our community.

#### **Ways to give:**

- 1) Mail in offering to the church
  - 2) Drop off offering in our mail slot on the office door
  - 3) Give online- Download the Give Plus app or find the link on our website: [www.firsthibbing.org](http://www.firsthibbing.org)
- Again, thank you for all the ways you support the ministry here at First Lutheran!

February: \$6,065.50

March: \$12,215.00

**GIVE  
PLUS+**

### "Strengthen Our Foundation"

**As of March 31st, 2022** the total amount that has been contributed to the campaign is **\$52,281.00**. We would like to thank everyone who has continued to donate to this fund, but at this time until this COVID-19 is over, we will suspend the campaign so we can focus on the day to day general expenses of the church. We will continue to give updates in the bulletins and newsletters on our campaign efforts and funds raised so that all are aware of the progress and how close we have come to our goal when all is said and done. Our goal for this campaign will be to raise \$150,000 to help cover some of the costs of the repairs and projects that were recently completed (and for future projects). We appreciate any and all help we can get in helping maintain our beautiful building! God bless!



www.VLMcamps.org • vlm@VLMcamps.org  
• 800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465  
Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Road,  
Deer River, MN  
Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Road,

**Upcoming 2022  
VLM Young Adult  
Ministry Events**

Located in Northern Minnesota

 **March 5 Guided Snowshoe Hike**  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
Jay Cooke State Park  
Snowshoes available for use

**May 20-21 'Backyard' Camping and Canoeing**  
7pm Friday-3pm Saturday  
Historic Scott House  
Carlton, MN 

 **July 23 Superior Hiking Trail: Bean & Bear Lake**  
Explore the Northshore on the Superior Hiking Trail  
Roughly 7 mile loop trail

**August 7-13 Boundary Waters Canoe Trip**  
Based out of Camp Vermilion  
Paddle and Portage through the BWCW in Minnesota 

 **Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Fall Retreat at Camp**  
Camp Hiawatha  
7pm Friday-11am Sunday  
Rest, Renew, Recharge

**All Events Open to  
Young Adults Ages 18-35**  
vlmcamps.org/yam

**thrivent**

## Invested in a different kind of wealth

At Thrivent, we believe humanity thrives when people make the most of all they've been given. That's why we're committed to helping churches, nonprofits and individuals make financial choices based on Christian values.

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### **March Council Meeting recap**

Called to order by Nancy White @ 11:02 am. Present: Pastor Erik Roth, Lynn Schweiberger, Stephanie Skraba, Nancy White, Kay Dague, Mary Maki, Connie Bryant, Gen Lervik and Rian Johnson. Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczyk. Absent: Sandy Carlson and Dave Peterson.

Property Committee Report: Wall in the basement by quilting area has damage possibly by a leak, needs to be taken apart to determine damage and source. North side door is not sealing, needs to be addressed.

Old Business: Paul Tokarczyk unable to participate as chairman, but will be included on the call committee. Stephanie Skraba will chair. She spoke to Deacon Brenda Tibbetts who approved on person on the council to be on the call committee.

Maundy Thursday service will be at 5:30pm, there will be a sign up sheet for those wanting to strip the altar. Good Friday service at 5:30pm, Easter service at 9:30am, Fellowship and Easter egg hunt to follow.

Pastor Erik's vacation change to: Monday, April 18th-Thursday, April 21st.

New Business: Need Vice Treasurer in absence of Sandy Carlson. Nancy nominated Mary Maki, Gen seconded, vote unanimously approved. Nancy made a motion to add Mary to bank for signing, Kay seconded, vote unanimously approved.

Salvation Army Soup kitchen account was closed due to inactivity of Soup Suppers-money returned to WELCA and distributed to Salvation Army and Helping Hands account.

Michael Edwins Estate donation to the church general fund since it was undesignated. Mary made a motion, Sheryl seconded.

Coverage for Synod assembly Sunday, may need a reader for service. April 24, 2022 is next Council Meeting.





## Holy Week Services

### Palm Sunday~April 10th, 2022 at 9:30am

In-person worship, Live broadcast on local channel 5, **HPAT internet channel** or **First Lutheran's YouTube channel**

### Maundy Thursday~April 14th, 2022 at 5:30pm

In-person worship or Live broadcast on First Lutheran's **Facebook page**

### Good Friday~April 15th, 2022 at 12:00pm and 5:30pm

Live broadcast at 5:30pm on local channel 5, **HPAT internet channel** or **First Lutheran's YouTube channel**

### Easter Sunday~April 17th, 2022 at 9:30

In-person worship, Live broadcast on local channel 5, **HPAT internet channel** or **First Lutheran's YouTube channel**. Easter Sunday will also be First Communion for the kids that participated in Pr. Erik's class.



After Easter Sunday service there will be caramel rolls and coffee served and an Easter egg hunt for the kiddos! Take a little breather with some fellowship and delicious caramel rolls before your Easter festivities begin! There will be eggs hidden around the church for the kids! Weather permitting this will be outside. If the outdoors don't cooperate, we will have the kids searching through the church. We look forward to celebrating and worshipping with you during Holy week and Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.



### Easter Flowers

35 Easter flowers have been ordered from Range Floral again this year to decorate the sanctuary for Holy Week. The donation amount is \$17.00 which covers the cost of each plant. Your gift may be designated to be "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone important in your life. Any money left over will be donated to the Salvation Army. Please call the church office if you would like to purchase an Easter flower for a loved one. You will be able to take your flower home after Easter Sunday service.





WELCA stands for Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. If you are a woman and part of the church then you are part of WELCA. Our mission is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. This organization functions in local, synod, and churchwide settings. Here at First Lutheran we have an active group of women who support each other and the church in doing God's work. We actively raise monies that go back into our community to help others. All women are welcome. To find out more, ask in the church office for the number for the president.

### WELCA Updates

- WELCA donated \$300 to the Ukrainian Crisis. At that time all donations up to \$50,000 were doubled, so ours became \$600!
- To donate to the Ukrainian Crisis, go to [ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster). Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. There are forms in the Narthex at the church if you would prefer to mail a check.
- We are currently taking donations for the spring garage sale. As of now, we are still in need of "stuff" in order to hold the sale. If you are doing some "spring cleaning" in your home and are looking to get rid of items in your house, please consider donating them to the church for our sale. You can also request a tax donation form. If you need help getting it to the church, call the office and Rian will connect you to someone who can help.
- This year we will not have an "All Daughter's Banquet". Instead, we would like to have a girl's night out at a restaurant. We are planning this for mid-May, during the week, in the evening. We hope to have a good turnout. We are looking to have a good time with our ladies of the church, where no one has to clean the kitchen! Keep a look-out for more news in the bulletin and next newsletter.

### WELCA Laurentian Conference Spring Gathering

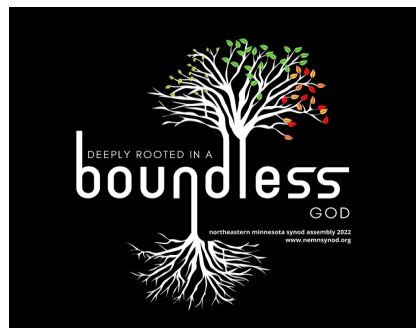
**Saturday, April 23, 2022 ~ Zion Lutheran in International Falls**

The theme for the day is "Garden of Prayer" and Worship. Registration will begin at 10:00am with the Gathering to be convened at 10:30am. Lunch will be \$7.00. RSVP by April 16 to Donna Barg, Zion WELCA president, at 218-283-2401 or Zion Church office at 218-283-9865. Storyteller Gloria Hegg will share a story after lunch. **In-kind offering:** The recipient will be Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County. They provide emergency and temporary housing. Items requested: Paper products, toilet paper tissues, paper toweling, kitchen garbage bags, large bottles of laundry detergent, kitchen towels, dishcloths, hot pads, dish soap, cleaning supplies, bathroom hand and bath/shower soaps. **Penny offering** will go to the Falls Hunger Coalition which serves food needs throughout Koochiching County in partnership with Second Harvest. **Daily offering:** Half will go to the LSS Family Resource Center in Virginia. Questions may be directed to: Julie Lepisto-Coordinator at 218-276-3020 [lepistol@paulbunyan.net](mailto:lepistol@paulbunyan.net) or Candace Bischoff-Secretary at 612-723-5627 [candacebischoff@gmail.com](mailto:candacebischoff@gmail.com)



### **"Solidarity for Ukraine Quilt"**

This beautiful quilt, displayed in the Fellowship Hall, was made by Barb Tanem. This quilt along with another that Barb made, will be going to the Synod Assembly for auction. All monies will go to World Hunger. This year's Synod Assembly will be held at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd on April 29th-May 1st. To see the quilts or to place a bid go to: [nemnquilts2022.givesmart.com](https://nemnquilts2022.givesmart.com)







# EARTH Fest

IRON RANGE 2022  
ENERGIZING OUR future

FREE  
ADMISSION



**SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**MOUNTAIN IRON COMMUNITY CENTER  
MERRITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**



- Children's Activities
- Local Marketplace & Silent Auction
- Demos, Exhibits and Speakers
- Phenology Walk with John Latimer
- Local Lunch - by Go Figur's 
- Music by Nadair (Sara Softich/Ryan Lane)



Don't miss Saturday's  
feature presentation by  
Macalester College's  
Dr. Roopali Phadke on  
"Recycling Precious  
Metals from  
e-waste"

MACALESTER  
COLLEGE



Don't miss Saturday's  
concluding presentation by  
Robert Blake of Solar Bear  
"Native Nations Leading  
the Way in Renewables"



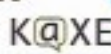
Electronics recycling outside of Mtn. Iron Community Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Accepting ONLY computers (laptop and desktop), monitors, and TVs under 19".

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