



The Visitor is the monthly newsletter for the members and friends of First Lutheran Church

April 2023

Parish Staff

Pr. John Dietz, pastor
Rian Johnson, secretary
Melissa Peterson, custodian
Elaine Sweeney, musician

Parish Council

Barb Bautch
Connie Bryant
Kay Dague
Pr. John Dietz
Gen Lervik
Mary Maki
Dave Peterson
Lynn Schweiberger
Stephanie Skraba
Sheryl Tokarczyk
Nancy White

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 2:00 pm
After 2:00 pm by appointment

Contact Us

2201 Third Avenue East
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Call the office: 218-263-8388
Email Rian: office@firsthibbing.org
Email Pr. John: pastor@firsthibbing.org

First Lutheran Church is one of the nearly 9,000 congregations of the 3.3 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Join us!

Sundays

9:00 am Choir Practice
Second and Fourth Sundays
9:30 am Worship
Service of Holy Communion
10:30 am Fellowship
Conversation and refreshments
10:30-11:30 am Sunday School: Age 3 – Grade 5
Second, Fourth & Fifth Sundays
12:00 pm Parish Bowling
Second Sundays

Mondays

9:00 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Quilting

Wednesdays

10:00 am Midweek Bible Study
6:30 pm Confirmation Class: Grades 6 +

Baptisms, Weddings & Pastoral Care

Please contact the church office to schedule a Baptism or a Wedding in advance. If you are seeking pastoral care for yourself or a loved one, please contact the church office to set up an appointment or call the pastor directly in an emergency. Always leave a message at 218-969-5108.

Hibbing Public Access TV

Watch on channels 805 or 118-5 or on the website: hpat.org – go to *Educational Access* and scroll down to *First Lutheran Church*
Live on Sundays at 9:30 am
Rebroadcast on Sundays at 8:30 pm, Wednesdays at 8:00 pm, and Thursdays at 2:00 pm



Follow us on Facebook at:
[firsthibbing](https://www.facebook.com/firsthibbing)



YouTube Channel:
First Lutheran Church- Hibbing, MN

Pastor

In sacristies all over the world, you can find a little sign that reads: “Celebrate this Mass as if it is your first Mass, your last Mass, and your only Mass.” It is intended to remind the ministers of the liturgy to celebrate reverently and mindfully, or at least not carelessly. We should never approach our liturgical practices with boredom or disregard for what’s happening in Word and Sacrament. I once had a pastor friend tell me, “They don’t all have to be winners.” And that’s true. Not every service or sermon is going to be great. But knowing that shouldn’t give us permission to be lazy about our planning, preparing, or participating.

I would suggest this little sign would serve as a reminder to all of us — not just the ministers of the liturgy, but to everyone present for worship: that we should be *present* for worship. No matter how many times you’ve been to worship, heard this particular gospel reading, sung that hymn, or received the Sacrament, we should come ready to actively participate. But more than that, I think we really need to come expecting something to happen in worship and to remember that in the Word and Sacrament we are in the real presence of Christ, crucified and resurrected.

I think about all the times in the gospels when people were in need and they went to Jesus asking him to heal them or someone close to them. They wouldn’t have asked if they didn’t believe it was possible for him to do something. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, shows us this in the gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent when she says: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. *But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him*” (*John 11:21*). There was a confidence and an urgency to their faith ...

And then there were times when there wasn’t. When everything seemed pretty much wrapped up along with the dead body of Jesus in the tomb. As those

women walked to the cemetery to anoint the dead body of their friend, they weren’t hoping for much of anything — just another sad reminder of his death. It

was in that vacuum of hopelessness that the risen Christ appeared. They didn’t come expecting an encounter with Jesus, but an encounter with the risen Christ is exactly what they got.

Which is to say: Christ will show up when and where it pleases him, regardless of how present we are in worship, or how urgent or confident our faith is. But I think we are more apt to recognize him when he does show up if we are actually looking for him. Had Mary Magdalene gone there looking for a living Jesus, she might not have mistaken him for the cemetery sexton.

I’m looking forward to celebrating — as if it was for the first time, the last time, and the only time — the liturgies of

Holy Week and Easter with you. I will be on the lookout for Christ showing up in the gospel proclaimed in scripture, preaching, song and prayer. I’ll be expecting to encounter him in the real presence of the Holy Communion. And I’ll be looking for you, gathered to worship the one who has the power to lay down his life and the power to take it up again for the life of the world (*John 10:17*).

Peace and all good.

+ Pastor John Dietz

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a loved one would like me to visit in your home, the nursing home, or in the hospital, please call and let me know. Because of HIPPA regulations, care centers do not contact clergy about their patients’ circumstances. You can call me at the office at 218-263-833 or on my cell phone at 218-969-5108 – and please always leave a message with your name and number and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I don’t normally answer calls from unfamiliar phone numbers because of scam calls.




Worship God

*We are called together to worship God in prayer and song,
to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments*

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, and prayer, in scripture and sacrament. All are welcome here!



Palm Sunday + April 2

9:30 am Service of Holy Communion
with the Blessing and Procession of Palms
Worship begins in the fellowship hall

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week

9:30 am the Sanctuary is open for Morning Prayer

Holy Thursday + April 6

6:00 pm Service of Holy Communion
with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday + April 7

6:00 pm Service of the Word
with the Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday + April 9

9:30 am Service of Holy Communion
with Fellowship and a Youth Easter Egg Hunt
following Worship

Sunday Worship

Join us in person for worship every Sunday at 9:30 am. Services are broadcast on channels 805 or 118-5 or on the website: hpat.org – go to *Educational Access* and scroll down to *First Lutheran Church* live on Sundays at 9:30 am and rebroadcast on Sundays at 8:30 pm, Wednesdays at 8:00 pm, and Thursdays at 2:00 pm

Sponsor a TV Broadcast

Let Rian know if you'd like to sponsor a broadcast of a worship service in honor or in memory of someone. TV broadcast money is used to update our camera and sound equipment.

Strengthen Faith

*We are called to pass on the faith which we have received
and to strengthen our faith through life-long learning*



Sunday School

All kids age 3 through Grade 5 are encouraged to be part of Sunday School. We are excited to be offering a Sunday School where students learn the Bible, enjoy making crafts and music, and have fun with activities and games. We meet on the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of each month. In April, because of Holy Week and Easter, we will be changing things up a little bit . . . All Sunday School kids are encouraged to be with us on **April 2** as they will be **leading the Procession with Palms into the sanctuary and singing their Palm Sunday song**. We won't have a class on April 9, Easter Sunday, but we will have an **Easter Egg Hunt** for kids following worship and we hope to see you all there! No class on the third Sunday (Apr 16) but we will have classes on both April 22 and 30.

Camp/ Camperships

Find information about our church camps on the *Welcome Table* or checkout their website: vlmcamps.org There are camping opportunities for every age and comfort level from a day-long visit for little kids to a week-long boundary waters trip, family camp, canoe camp, and hockey camp. Members of First Lutheran who are registering for camp will pay the \$100 deposit per camper, and then let the office know to apply the campership funds that help cover the difference.

Caramel Roll and Game Night

All Confirmation students are encouraged to gather on Friday, April 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm to help make the Caramel Rolls for our April 16 Fundraiser. There will be snacks and games as well. Please call and let us know you'll be there!

Confirmation

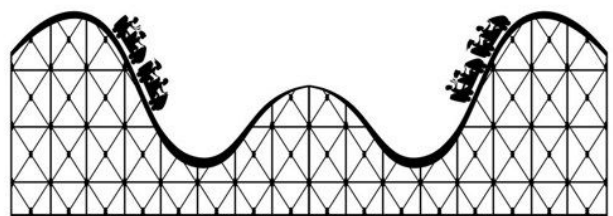
Students in grades 6+ are welcome to be part of the three-year rotation of classes, worship and service, activities and events that lead to the Rite of Confirmation. We normally meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm, but we won't be resuming that schedule until Wednesday, April 19. We are in our home stretch of classes for the Spring, so make sure to get to every one! Remember to come in through the red office door and go directly to the third floor classroom.

Confirmation Sunday

We are excited to be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation with two of our young people this Spring. Following three years of active participation in Confirmation, both Emma Kangas and Kamryn Mandt will be confirmed on Sunday, May 21. Please join them for this special day!

Faith & Fun Summer Trip to Valleyfair

We're excited to announce the details of our 2023 Youth Summer Trip: we will be going to the Cities for a day at Valleyfair, an overnight at a hotel, and a morning learning event before heading home. We are looking at mid to late June. More info to follow. Adult chaperones/ drivers needed – and they attend for free (first volunteers taken). Our sign-up is open now through May 10. Deposit per person of \$50 is due by May 10.



Build Community

We are called to build up the community of faith – the Body of Christ – through fellowship, mutual care, and genuine love for one another

Caramel Roll Fundraiser: April 16

Caramel Rolls will be on sale on Sunday, April 16 after worship. This is a fundraiser for our youth group which is going on a summer trip to the Cities in June. Any donation is appreciated!

Parish Bowling: April 23

Because Easter is on the second Sunday of April, we will be moving parish bowling to the Fourth Sunday - April 23 this month. We hope you can join us ... did you know about 20 people have been coming out each month to bowl together? Each person covers their own shoes and games, and we take a free-will donation to pay for the pizzas.

Painting Party – Thank you, Kay!

Thank you to Kay Dague for leading our recent Painting Party! About a dozen folks came out on March 18 to dabble in some water coloring, enjoy desserts, and each other's company. Expressing ourselves creatively is one way we share in the image of God, the creator of all there is, seen and unseen. We have some art kits available for anyone interested who would like to take one home.

3F Upcoming Spring & Summer Events

We are looking forward to offering some 3F First Family & Friends events as the weather warms up. A few of the Summer events in the plans are: **Parsonage Patio Parties, Vista Fleet Cruise, and a First Lutheran Day at the Movies.** If you're interested in being part of any of these, please sign up in the narthex at the *Welcome Table*. If you have other ideas for a 3F Event, let Pastor John or a member of the council know. For now, we are planning an April event: Cardinal Room Lunch (more details below).

Cardinal Room Lunch: April 26

Hibbing Culinary Arts students are providing this unique dining experience in the Cardinal Room: a mock restaurant as an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and abilities in a sit-down dining experience. We are signing up for an **11:00 am lunch on Wednesday, April 26.** (Note, this is in place of Midweek Bible Study.) Reservations are required, so please sign up at the *Welcome Table* by April 12. Cost and menu details will come soon.



April 2nd:

Barbara Wray, Aaron Foster, Jace Soderberg

April 3rd:

Linda Smith

April 6th:

Landon Tokarczyk

April 7th:

Luca Soderberg

April 8th:

Caroline Rue

April 10th:

Sandra Fairbanks

April 11th:

Lillian Rue

April 12th:

Phyllis Frand, Vanessa Shuper

April 13th:

Charlene Olson

April 14th:

Courtney Schnortz

April 16th:

Carol Cummings, Maynard Elj, Lori Marinac, Max Bautch

April 17th:

Frederick Schwartz, Rudy Bautch

April 18th:

Evelyn Hoaglund, Keith Schweiberger, Tyler Rutherford

April 19th:

Brittany Johnson, Jack Bautch

April 20th:

Brittany Kopelciw, Candace Clark

April 21st:

Shirley Scofield, Ava Weyrauch

April 22nd:

Joan Rhude

April 25th:

Derek Bautch, Sue Chacich

April 26th:

Delores Sikich, Hannah Anderson, Jill Johnson, Mary Gargano

April 27th:

Clem Williard

April 29th:

Carol Kopelciw, Savannah Haataja

April 30th:

Vivienne Mandt

February 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Lynn Schweiberger, Steph Skraba, Pr. John, Gen Lervik, Kay Dague, Connie Bryant, Dave Peterson, Mary Maki
Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczyk & Nancy White

Property Committee Report:

- Painting this week-church & parsonage
- Paul Stavnes & Dave Rian meeting about roof & looking into steam conversion-getting info & quote

Old Business:

- Speaker on Earth Day-Sunday after Easter. Kristen Foster to help?

New Business:

- Quarterly report on finance instead of monthly
- Helping Hands Fund- \$3,897 for short term immediate help-Gen, Mary, Nancy & Sheryl will oversee
- Youth/Campership-\$5,084 for our church members. Steph Skraba will oversee.
- Memorial Fund- \$16,525 in checking and \$3,395 in savings.

Gen Lervik & Jean Crep will oversee.

- Endowment fund- \$3-5,000 spent each year to various charities
- Hillcrest next door-requested to use the building if ever there was an emergency-bring residents to FLC.
- Looking into new snow removal options for next year
- Dave Peterson will do lawncare again this year.
- Synod Assembly April 28th-30th

Next meeting is on March 26th, 2023



Serve the Neighbor

*We are called to use our gifts for leadership, to offer compassion,
and to serve to our neighbors near and far*

Quilting

Anyone and everyone can be part of the Hobby Quilt Club at First Lutheran Church. We gather each Monday at 1:00 pm to make quilts for Lutheran Disaster Response. Any and all talent is welcome. There are people here who can help you learn as well.

Care Cupboard

Easter Sunday, April 9, is our monthly Care Cupboard Collection Sunday. We are accepting **non-perishable food** items that can be used to make easy meals, **personal care items** (tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, etc), and **gift cards** to Walmart and SuperOne for groceries. We are grateful for all the donations that have been given!

Noisy Offering

On the second Sunday of each month we will be holding a Noisy Offering. The Noisy Offering is one more way we do ministry in the world and also teach our children the importance of giving and serving. On the second Sunday of each month, during the children's sermon, the kids will take buckets into the congregation to collect the spare change that was gathered during the month for a specific cause or ministry.

Lenten Offering

ELCA World Hunger piggy banks can be brought to the office or left in the basket at the doors of the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone who helped bring an end to hunger this Lent!

Offering Envelopes

The vendor who creates and sends out our Offering Envelopes has not been able to fill their orders. We appreciate your continued giving, and would ask that you use a pew envelope (or any envelope) and make sure your name and envelope number (if you know it) is included with your donation so it can be properly recorded.

First Lutheran Church Monthly offerings

Many thanks to all who support FLC and its extended ministries. **General fund** offerings are used for operational costs, and shared with our NEMN Synod and ELCA Churchwide office in various endeavors and outreach. Our **Building fund** is for covering costs of repairs and projects that we have done or need to have done to our beautiful building!

General offerings:

March: \$8,686.97

Building fund
offerings:

March: \$85.00



WAYS TO GIVE:

In Person



Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your donations in an offering envelope and drop them in the offering plate.

Online



Visit www.firsthibbing.org and click DONATE to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a payment.

Mobile App



Download the Vanco Mobile app from your app store to set up a one-time or recurring donation. Search HIBBING and then choose FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA.



QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



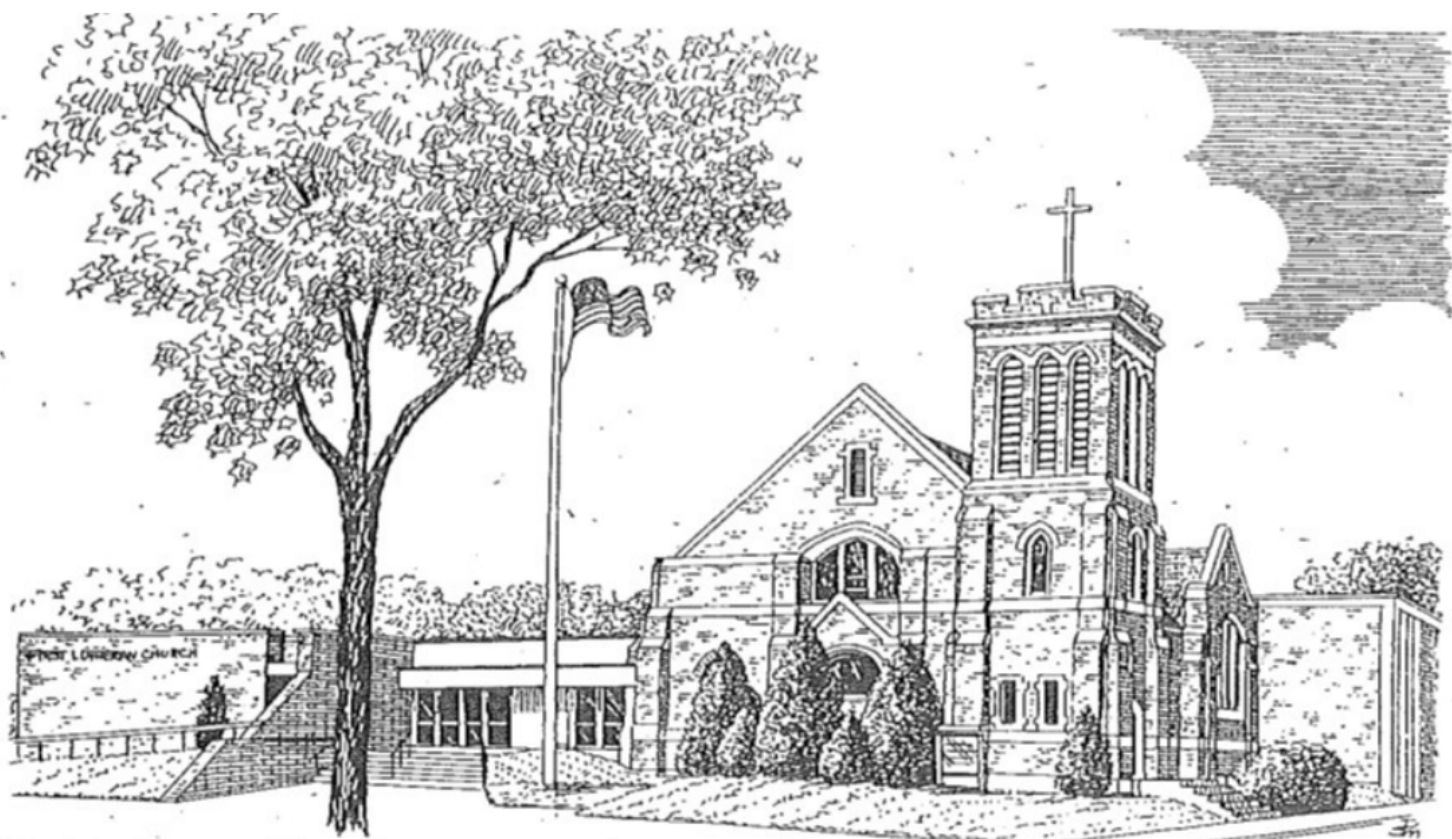
CALENDAR APRIL 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Service of Holy Communion with the Blessing & Procession of Palms 10:30 am Fellowship & Open Craft Table	3 Monday in Holy Week 9:30 am Sanctuary Open for Morning Prayer	4 Tuesday in Holy Week 9:30 am Sanctuary Open for Morning Prayer	5 Wednesday in Holy Week 9:30 am Sanctuary Open for Morning Prayer	6 Holy Thursday 6:00 pm Service of Holy Communion with the Stripping of the Altar	7 Good Friday 6:00 pm Service of the Word with the Veneration of the Cross	8
9 Easter Sunday 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Youth Easter Egg Hunt	10 Easter Monday – Office Closed	11	12 No Bible Study No Confirmation	13	14 6:00 pm Youth Caramel Roll Fundraiser Work & Game Night	15 EcoFaith Summit at Gloria Dei in Duluth
16 Easter 2 9:30 am Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship with Caramel Roll Fundraiser 10:45 am Council	17 9:00 am Staff Meeting	18	19 10:00 am Midweek Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	20 3:00 pm Lutheran Communion Service at Guardian Angels	21	22
23 Easter 3 9:30 am Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School Class 12:00 pm Parish Bowling	24 9:00 am Staff Meeting	25	26 11:00 am 3F Event: Cardinal Room Lunch 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	27	28 <i>Synod Assembly</i>	29 <i>Synod Assembly</i>
30 <i>Synod Assembly</i> Easter 4 Service of the Word 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School Class						

Contact Us: 2201 Third Avenue East | Hibbing, MN 55746 | 218-263-8388 | Email: office@firsthibbing.org



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First Lutheran Church

Hibbing, Minnesota