



FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

August 2023

Parish Staff

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

Parish Council

Lynn Schweiberger, president
Kay Dague, secretary
Barb Bautch
Connie Bryant
Pr. John Dietz
Gen Lervik
Mary Maki
Dave Peterson
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: rianjohnson@firsthibbing.org
Email Pr. John: pastorjohn@firsthibbing.org



Follow us on Facebook at:
firsthibbing



YouTube Channel:
First Lutheran Church- Hibbing, MN

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

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 am, Wednesdays at
8:00 pm, and Thursdays at 2:00 pm

First Lutheran Church – Hibbing is a parish of the
Northeastern Minnesota Synod, one of 65 synods of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is one
of the largest Christian denominations in the United
States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than
8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in
the Caribbean region.



ELCA

Pastor

I survived. Last month I boarded an airplane and headed to Arizona. The entire time I was there it never got below 95 degrees, and every day the high temperature was over 110°, but usually closer to 120°. Normally I would avoid the desert heat in the summer, but I was there to attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Rostered Ministers Gathering called: "Rekindle the Gift Within You."

The name of the event comes from Saint Paul's words to Timothy regarding his ordination. "I remind you," Paul writes, "to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:6-7). In Phoenix there were about 600 "rostered ministers" — the ELCA's term for ordained bishops, pastors, and deacons. We were there to be rekindled — like re-lighting a campfire that's going out. It needs dry wood, some newspaper or pine needles, more oxygen to get it going again.

Why are all these ministers feeling like smoldering campfires, you wonder? A lot of it has to do with the difficulties of leading a religious organization (whether it's a parish, a synod, or some other faith-based agency) when religion is quickly fading from the public sphere. Fewer and fewer people are participating in the life of the church, and then along came COVID which was like throwing water on an already weak excuse for a bonfire.

I suppose we all get a little discouraged or deflated at times, whether it's about our careers or vocations, our own successes and failures, our financial ups and downs, health concerns, relationships, faith and doubts and we all need to be rekindled, so to speak.

We need something or someone to get us burning again, to get the fire going so we can enjoy some S'mores!

I have found, in this last year of being back here at First Lutheran Church — Hibbing, that this parish has rekindled within me the gift of my ordination. As I am asked every so often if I'm glad I came back or if I made a good decision to return to First, I will tell you what I tell those who ask: Yes, absolutely, I am glad to be here and I believe the Holy Spirit was at work in all of it, in the transition from Pr. Fike, through your interim with Pr. Roth, to the call process that eventually brought Livia and Jack, Ashley and I back to be part of this community.

I love being a pastor, yes; but I love being your pastor. This is a church that comes together and makes God's love real. I've seen that in Sunday morning worship and fellowship, in the 20 kids on our Faith & Fun trip to Valleyfair and the Cathedral, in the group that gathers for Lunch & Learn, the Pollinator Plotters, the warm welcome extended to visitors and new members ... Well, I suppose, if you're looking for it you'll see it happening in all sorts of places and people — but you are the people and this is the place I see it so clearly. So, thank you for being who you are and doing what you do!

I hope First Lutheran Church is a place you feel rekindled. Where God is blowing that spark back to life, and the fire is starting to catch again, bringing you warmth and light and life and love.

Peace and all good.
+ Pastor John Dietz

Care for God's people, bear their burdens,
and do not betray their confidence.
So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth,
giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope.
Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people.
Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church.
And be of good courage, for God has called you,
and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

From the Rite of Ordination to Word and Sacrament Ministry

Worship God

Service of Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:30 am

Join us every Sunday for worship. We gather around the means of God's grace — the Word and Sacrament — every Sunday at 9:30 am. Doors are open by 8:30 am. Gathering for worship is at the heart of Lutherans identity. If you can't be with us in person, make sure to watch on Hibbing Public Access or YouTube (information on the front cover).

Volunteers and Ministers of the Liturgy

Every Sunday we gather for worship, you might notice that there are a lot of people who make it happen. Would you like to be one of them? Readers proclaim the reading and psalm. Assisting Ministers help distribute the Holy Communion. The Altar Guild sets up for and cleans up after the Communion. Ushers and Greeters welcome people into the sanctuary with a smile and a worship bulletin, and let them know when to go up for Communion. Altar Servers (usually kids, but they don't have to be) light the candles and carry the cross in and out of the sanctuary. Audio-Visual makes sure our services are broadcast on HPAT and YouTube. Fellowship Hosts make sure we all have coffee following worship. If you'd like to get involved in any of these ministries, please sign up and if you need help or encouragement, talk to the pastor.

August's Lectionary Readings

- ✧ August 6 — The Transfiguration:
2 Peter 1:16-21 + Ps. 97:1-2, 4-6, 9 + Matt. 17:1-9
- ✧ August 13 — Ordinary Sunday 19:
Romans 10:5-15 + Ps. 85:8-13 + Matthew 14:22-33
- ✧ August 20 — Ordinary Sunday 20:
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32 + Ps. 67 + Matthew 15:21-28
- ✧ August 27 — Ordinary Sunday 21:
Rom. 12:1-8 + Ps. 138 + Matthew 16:13-20

If you are volunteering to read, the readings for each week will be available right under the sign-ups on the Welcome Table.

Polka Mass

August 6

We are looking forward to hosting Steve Solkela — of the Steve Solkela's Over-populated One Man Band — on Sunday, August 6 for a Polka Mass. Steve plays and entertains all around the Iron Range, and many don't know that he is also the musician at two Lutheran congregations as well. We're hoping you'll enjoy this fun service, and feel free to invite a friend for worship and fellowship that day!

Hymn Sing Sunday

August 27

On Sunday, August 27, we'll have a more informal "Hymn Sing" Sunday. Parts of the sung liturgy (Gloria, Alleluia, Sanctus, etc.) will be replaced with hymns. We'll be looking at having a more informal "hymn sing" Sunday each month.

Choir

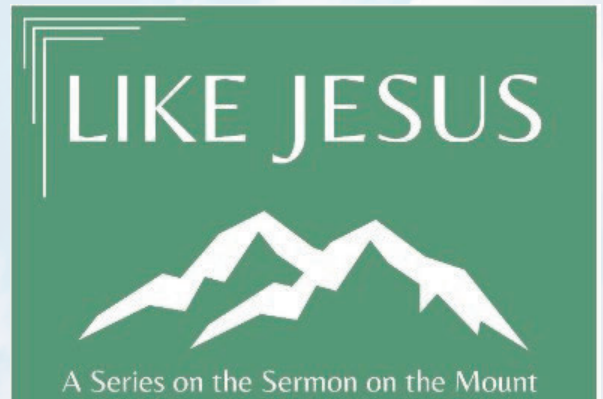
September 10

Our Sunday morning choir group will be reconvening soon. If you like to sing or play an instrument, we'll be meeting at 9:00 am just about every Sunday this Fall. There will be a more regular schedule out in September, but our first practice will be held on Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 am in the sanctuary; meet by the organ.

Fall Sermon Series

September — November

We're announcing a Fall Sermon Series based on Jesus' own Sermon on the Mount from Matthew chapters 5 — 7. Each week we'll look at what Jesus said about the upside down kingdom of God, and how following him will not only change our lives, but change the world we live in. Join us for "LIKE JESUS – A Series on the Sermon on the Mount."



Grow in Faith

Day Camp — Vacation Bible School

August 7-10

All kids in the community are invited to this year's Hibbing Community Day Camp being held right here at First Lutheran Church. Counselors from Camp Hiawatha will be here to lead us in the activities and games, worship and songs, and Bible studies. We will be having fun from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Thursday, August 7-10. Please pre-register by calling the church office or pick up a registration form at the Welcome Table. This event is free and open to anyone who has completed Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, so be sure to encourage your kids and grandkids, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to be part of this great experience!



Last Summer Lunch & Learn

August 15

There is one more Summer Lunch & Learn — Tuesday, August 15 at 11:00 am. Bring your own lunch to enjoy while we learn together. This month, on the Feast of the Virgin Mary, we'll talk about Lutherans and Mary, the Mother of Our Lord.

Rally Day Packet Picnic

September 10

Everyone is invited to kick off the beginning of a new academic year with us on Sunday, September 10. Following worship, we will have a potluck picnic for everybody (pure potluck — bring whatever you'd like). There will be games and activities for the Sunday School and Confirmation kids. At 11:15 am, Pastor John will hold a meeting with all the parents of Sunday School and Confirmation kids when packets of important information will be available. At least one parent/responsible adult must be present to enroll children into these classes.

Fall Lunch & Learn

September 12

Looking forward to the Fall, we will continue our Lunch & Learn events on Tuesdays at 11:00 am. We'll gather to check-in with each other and then dive into a topic. Bring your own lunch to enjoy; we'll have the coffee and water. Please note September's schedule: September 12, 19, and 26.

Sunday School Classes

September 17

We are so excited to be offering a Sunday School program this year for all of our members and friends ages 3 and up through grade 5. This year, Sunday School classes will be held every Sunday except for holidays and school breaks. Students will leave worship following the Communion and go directly to their classes with their teachers where they will enjoy snack and a Bible lesson, usually mixed in with some art, music, video, and games. Everyone is encouraged to join us for the Rally Day Packet Picnic on September 10 where there will be food and games and an important meeting with the pastor (see above). Classes will begin on September 17.

Teachers and Adult Helpers

If you are a parent, grandparent, or other caring adult and would like to help out in our Sunday School or Confirmation programs as a teacher or helper, often or occasionally, please talk to Pr. John, Ashley Dietz, or Jane Plese.

Confirmation Classes

September 17 | September 20

Confirmation is a three-year program of education, worship, service, and fellowship for all of our members' and friends' middle school youth. You can begin classes in the beginning of grade 6. There is a mandatory meeting for parents/ adults who are enrolling their children in this program on Sunday, September 10 at 11:15 am in the sanctuary. This year, we will offer two options for Confirmation classes — a Sunday morning and a Wednesday evening format. Families will need to choose which format will work for them. Our first classes of the year will be held on Sunday, September 17 from 10:30-11:30 am, and on Wednesday, September 20 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Classes will meet in the third floor classroom.

Women's Bible Study

September 27

Moms of school-aged children who are looking for a time to connect with each other and the Bible are welcome to this new group forming in the Fall. Women will be meeting a couple of Wednesdays each month from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. If you are bringing your kids, they are invited to play in the nursery. There is nothing to prepare before hand — just come and enjoy the time together. The first meeting will be held on September 27.



Breakfast Book Club

September 28

We are hoping to start a monthly Breakfast Book Club and would love for you to join in. Our first meeting will be at the Cardinal Room at the Hibbing college campus on Thursday, September 28. We'll meet at 8:30 am, enjoy a fine meal, and talk about a book (or parts of a book). If you'd like to just join us for breakfast and conversation, you'll be more than welcome! Sign up for the Breakfast Book Club's first meeting are at the Welcome Table. No Book for the first meeting – just an introduction and meal.

Confirmation Retreat

October 6-7

We will be heading to Camp Hiawatha for a fun evening of food and fellowship, campfire and worship on Friday, October 6. We'll stay the night and wake up the next day to a great camp breakfast and get involved in some of the service projects on camp workday, heading home after lunch on Saturday, October 7. All Confirmation students — put this on your calendars now! Parents, we will need drivers and chaperones — consider joining us for this great time!

Build Community

Fellowship

Be sure to do two things: 1.) sign up to host fellowship — it can be as involved or as simple as you'd like to make it. Coffee is the main thing, and everything else is a bonus. Sign-ups are at the Welcome Table. 2.) join us in the fellowship hall for the coffee and whatever else there may be and enjoy the conversation. It's so good to see so many people sticking around and building up the caring community we are here at First Lutheran. Remember, if there are name tags and markers at the tables, put one on so we can be intentional about getting to know our visitors and newer members and they can get to know us.

Organs in Revue August 2

First Lutheran Church is hosting the final Organs in Revue Recital at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, August 2. Featured Organist this day is Brian Kapp. These recitals are approximately half an hour, free, and open to the public. Donations are accepted to benefit the Claribel Hamilton Organ Scholarship Fund. A sandwich loaf lunch will be served following the recital for \$8.00

Sounds of the Northwoods

August 5 at Camp Vermilion — 2555 Vermilion Camp Road in Cook

A day of music, fellowship, food, and supporting the ministry of Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion! We are expanding our horizons with the Sounds of the Northwoods Festival and Fundraiser for Camp — we will see some of our traditional Bluegrass friends and welcome in some new sounds and bands as we gather under the tent on August 5th from 1:00-7:00 pm. Plenty of food and family activities will be included along with the Annual Basket Challenge and Silent Auction. This event is free and open to all ages.

Chapel of the Pines Fellowship

August 13

Following worship at Chapel of the Pines on August 13, whoever would like to is invited to meet at the Riverside Restaurant for lunch together. Pastor John is preaching there that day; worship starts at 11:15 am and will be done by 12:15 pm.

Parsonage Patio Party

August 30

You are invited to an evening patio party at the parsonage on Wednesday, August 30 from 5:30-7:30 pm. This will be a dessert and hors d'oeuvre potluck — you are invited to bring something to share. You are also invited to bring your own beverage of choice; coffee and water will be available. To make sure there is enough seating, please bring a lawn chair with you. Restrooms will be open at the church through the red door.

Sunday Morning Parking

As you know, here at First Lutheran we have limited parking spots directly around our building. If you can, please be considerate of those who may need to park closer to the building, near an entrance, or by the ramp by parking further down the street or in the AEOA parking lot across from Forte & Co. On Sundays, you can park in front of the building on both sides of the street (even in the yellow areas), on 22nd Street, in the south alley between the church and the nursing home (on the side closest to our building), and in the parking lot on 23rd Street. When parking on the streets and alley, please make sure you're not taking up more than one car length so as many cars as possible can take advantage of those parking spots. Also, unless you live there, please do not park in the parsonage driveway.

Serve the Neighbor

EcoFaith Ministry

First Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod's EcoFaith Network. We are glad to be partnering with others in the work of caring for creation and doing what we can to make a positive impact on the environment around us.

This summer you have noticed the Giving Garden and the Pollinator Plot as they progressed from ideas to actual spaces, filled with beautiful plants that are producing tomatoes, peppers, onions and providing habitat and food for bugs, butterflies, and birds. If you would like to get involved in our EcoFaith Ministry, please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table. There is also a schedule for watering if you'd like to take a turn or two watering the gardens. Thank you!

Second Sunday Collections -August 13

Thanks to everyone who has been donating items for the Care Cupboard and dropping their change in the Noisy Offering in the buckets on the second Sundays of each month. We are making a difference here and around the world. For the month of August, we would like to partner with the kids attending our Day Camp/ Vacation Bible School in donating items on the needs list at the new homeless shelter here in Hibbing — Home on the Range. On Sunday, August 13, we invite you to bring any of the following items: lotion, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, towels, twin bedding, pillows, brush/comb, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, hand sanitizer, sunscreen. In September, we will be collecting items for the High School's "room of requirements."

Other Housekeeping Notes

As we continue to tend to and mend our building, you will notice some work going on around the church this Summer – not least of which is a new metal roof and gutters on the sanctuary. There are other projects from window replacements, fixing sticky doors and locks, and some other basic updates to outdated carpet and paint. Especially during this work, but in general, we would ask that if you enter the building during the week, please do so through the red office door, or if you enter through a different door (we have six), please stop in the office and let us know you're here.

Campership & Youth Fund

We are excited to see young people active in our church programs and activities. Did you know this year we had 16 kids enrolled in Confirmation classes at First Lutheran? 20 kids and 7 adults went on our Faith & Fun Summer Trip to the Cities in June. This Summer, we have about 10 kids from First Lutheran involved in on-site programs at either Camp Vermilion or Camp Hiawatha and we're looking forward to hosting a VLM Day Camp here in August. With increased involvement in our youth and camp ministries, we've begun using the money from the Campership & Youth Fund again – a fund many probably haven't heard about in a long time, if ever. These funds make going to camp and attending youth trips possible for the kids in our parish. If you are able, any gift to the FLC Campership & Youth Fund will help make sure that these resources are available in the future, and that we can continue to offer fun and meaningful faith formation for another generation. Thank you for your generous support!

Service Opportunities

Are you looking for ways to serve your neighbor? There are lots of different opportunities we hope to highlight at our Packet Picnic in September — from projects in and around the church building and property, serving as a Sunday school teacher or Confirmation guide, a minister of the liturgy, or at one of our area agencies like the Chisholm Food Shelf, the Salvation Army, or the Home on the Range shelter, among others.

Lutheran Social Service

Did you know that our building gets used by Lutheran Social Service? They hold supervised visitation here quite regularly – so much so that we have offered them their own space to use (the former nursery in the basement) near bathrooms and a convenient entry and alley parking. We are glad to partner with agencies like LSS in offering space and support for their good work.

august birthdays!

August 4th:

Grace Giombetti

August 6th:

Ken Bryant

August 7th:

Connie Bryant Jr, Karen Panula

August 8th:

Vicki Knuckey, Kaitlyn McCarroll, Michael Torrel

August 10th:

Louise Perunovich, David Rian, Jean Nettle

August 13th:

Barb Bautch

August 14th:

Thomas Sampson

August 15th:

Ronald Knutson

August 16th:

Colten Perkins, Matt Benolken, Sarah Shuper

August 17th:

Sharon Estey

August 18th:

Tara Skarja, Nancy Middlestead

August 19th:

Dean Greenwood

August 20th:

Nancy Sundvick, James Grabanski

August 22nd:

Donald Larson, Joanne Zozgornik, Robert Willard

August 23rd:

Galen Erickson, Richard Bryant

August 24th:

Gayle Alms, Samantha Link

August 28th:

Beverly Hines

August 30th:

Greg Barto

August 31st:

Madison Larson



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:

July: \$6,720.47

Building fund

offerings:

July: \$113.29



July 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Nancy White, Barb Bautch, Kay Dague, Gen Lervik, Mary Maki, Connie Bryant.

Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczyk

Property Committee Report:

- Waiting for updated quote for kitchenette remodel
- Instant water heater for dishwasher-quotes TBD
- Service air conditioner in dining room.
- Steam traps in need of repair- 30 not working properly and 12 not working at all

Old Business:

- Looking for snow removal- Gen suggested Snow Shooter- looking into
- Community Day Camp with OSLC Aug 7-10. No numbers yet
- Options for chant to confirmation classes for next year-TBD possibly Sundays
- Ideas for God's Work Our Hands-Sept 10 collecting items and doing work for Homeless Shelter

New Business:

- Thrivent Report rescheduled to Sept. 17th
- Side door to office is having problems opening and latching. Rian will look into getting it fixed.

Pastoral Updates:

- Pastor John absent-at conference

Next meeting on August 20, 2023

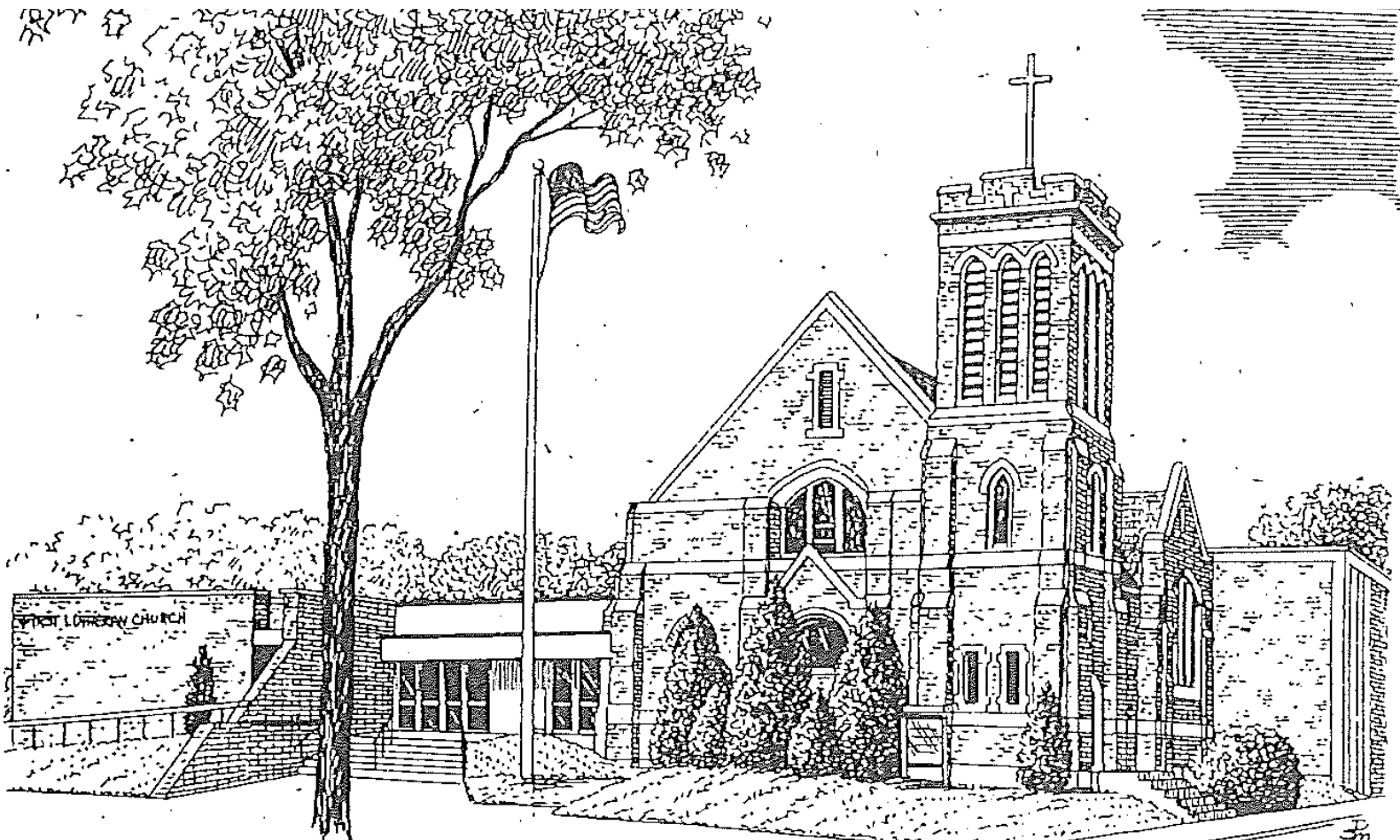


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THE VISITOR

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First Lutheran Church

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