



# The Visitor

**August 2022**  
**Summer 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)**

**"Like" our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/firsthibbing](https://www.facebook.com/firsthibbing)**

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every once in a while, I notice something happen in my day-to-day life that is deeply profound, personal, and extraordinary. Things that amaze me and prove to me that God is actively leading my life. I like to call these things "Holy Spirit moments." I want to tell you about one of these moments that happened here at First Lutheran.

First, some context. It must have been the year 2006. I was in Denver meeting with the Rocky Mountain Synod Candidacy Committee about me attending Luther Seminary the following year. All seminary students who want to become pastors must meet with their candidacy committee regularly while they are at school to talk about how things are going and to determine whether or not the student should continue on the path to become a pastor. The day of that meeting I remember being anxious and I remember the main question they asked me. They asked, "which scripture passage guides your call to become an ordained pastor?" I thought for a moment and recalled my grandmother's favorite goodnight blessing that she would say to me at the end of the day. I responded, "Isaiah 43:4, (God said) because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you." She taught me that this verse is remarkable because it is the only time in the Old Testament when God succinctly and clearly declares to the world those three simple words- I love you. I told the committee that for me, pastoral ministry is guided by God's love and honor for God's precious people. The way I understand church is that it is a community of people who are told by the pastor through preaching, sacrament, and ministry that they are precious, loved, and honored. Hearing this good news, the community embraces and lives fully into God's love which is revealed through faith, compassion and generosity to the neighbor. They liked my answer and gave permission for me to continue on the path to be a pastor.

2006 seems like an entire lifetime ago. Truth be told, before serving at First Lutheran, I was struggling with my sense of call. There had been a series of difficulties and challenges which made me wonder if I should do something else with my life instead of being a pastor. I wasn't sure if my understanding of church was accurate any more, and I was looking to God for help.

My first Sunday at First Lutheran was January 9<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday the Old Testament reading was Isaiah 43:1-7. Of all the Sundays on the calendar, that Sunday, I heard the verse that has impacted my life the most. God heard my prayer for guidance. God knew what I needed to hear and God delivered. Indeed, it was a Holy Spirit moment. I felt like God had set all God's attention on me that moment and reassured me of God's love and guidance. That day God reminded me of why I am called to be pastor. That day God reminded me of how I understood church to be in 2006 and that indeed church is still like that. That day, God reminded me of when I was a little boy seeing the smile on my grandmother's face as she played the organ at her church on Sundays. That day God declared to me again how much God loves me. And every day since then, all of you here at First Lutheran have shown me what it looks like for a community which embraces and lives fully into God's love.

Above all, I want to thank you for these past eight months. You have been a blessing to me and renewed my call to be a pastor. It has been a joy, honor and blessing to serve as your interim pastor these past eight months.

God said it first, and I feel the same way. You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.

Your co-worker in Christ~ Pr. Erik



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Happy Birthday to the following congregants!!!**

8/6-Ken Bryant  
8/7-Connie Bryant Jr., Karen Panula  
8/9-Vicki Knuckey, Kaitlyn McCarroll, Mike Torrel  
8/10-Louise Perunovich, Dave Rian, Jean Nettle  
8/13-Barb Bautch  
8/14-Thomas Sampson  
8/15-Ronald Knutson  
8/16-Colten Perkins, Matthew Benolken, Sarah Shuper  
8/17-Sharon Estey  
8/18- Nancy Middlestead, Tara Skarja

8/19-Dean Greenwood  
8/20-James Grabanski, Nancy Sundvick  
8/22-Donald Larson, Joanne Zozgornik, Rob Willard  
8/23-Galen Erickson, Richard Bryant  
8/24-Gayle Alms, Sam Link  
8/28-Beverly Hines  
8/30-Gregory Barto  
8/31-Madison Larson

## 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.

**"Strengthen Our Foundation"** is our campaign to raise \$150,000 to help cover some of the costs of the repairs and projects that we have done and projects that we will need to have done. We appreciate any and all help that we receive, helping to maintain our beautiful building! God bless!

### **General offerings:**

June: \$9,515.18

July: \$ 7,824.00

### **Strengthen Our Foundation:**

Total as of May 31st:  
\$52,921.00

**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.

**Please contact me to learn more.**



**Jeffrey A. Hakala, CKA®, RICP®, CLTC**  
Financial Advisor  
Mission Creek Associates  
2711 W. Superior St., Ste. 212  
Duluth, MN 55806  
218-625-4010  
jeff.hakala@thrivent.com  
connect.thrivent.com/jeff-hakala

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First Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity,  
Wesley United Methodist Church, & Our  
Savior's Lutheran Church invite you to:



## **Vacation Bible School**

**Sunday August 14-**

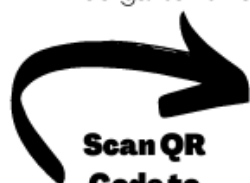
**Thursday August 18**

**5:00pm-7:30pm**

Hosted at  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
501 E 23rd Ave  
Hibbing, MN

Dinner is served at 5pm followed by stories,  
crafts, games engaging in God's word starting  
at 5:30pm.

Children who have completed grades  
Kindergarten through 5th invited to attend.



**Scan QR  
Code to  
Register  
Online**



*Many Thanks*

Thank you to all who came and helped bring up, set up, work at and take down and donate the rummage sale stuff from our summer sale this year! It was a lot of work and we couldn't have done it without the help of our wonderful congregation!

~Mary Maki and Barb Bautch



Join us after worship on Sunday, August 14th for a special fellowship to wish Pr. Erik and his family well on their journey to Appleton, WI! The ladies have a special treat for everyone as we gather together to thank Pr. Erik for serving us as our interim pastor for these last seven months.



On behalf of the First Lutheran Church Congregation, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Pr. Erik Roth for his service to us for the last 7 months. He stepped in and brought things back to us that we were missing since Covid happened and treated us like church family. He jumped right in and started calling and introducing himself and offering his services to any in need. We got to know him through his preaching and through fellowship, we will miss hearing all his stories! Although we all knew this day was coming, we will miss him and his family dearly. Best wishes to you, Pr, Erik and a fulfilling call in Appleton, WI! Your new church is very lucky to have you!



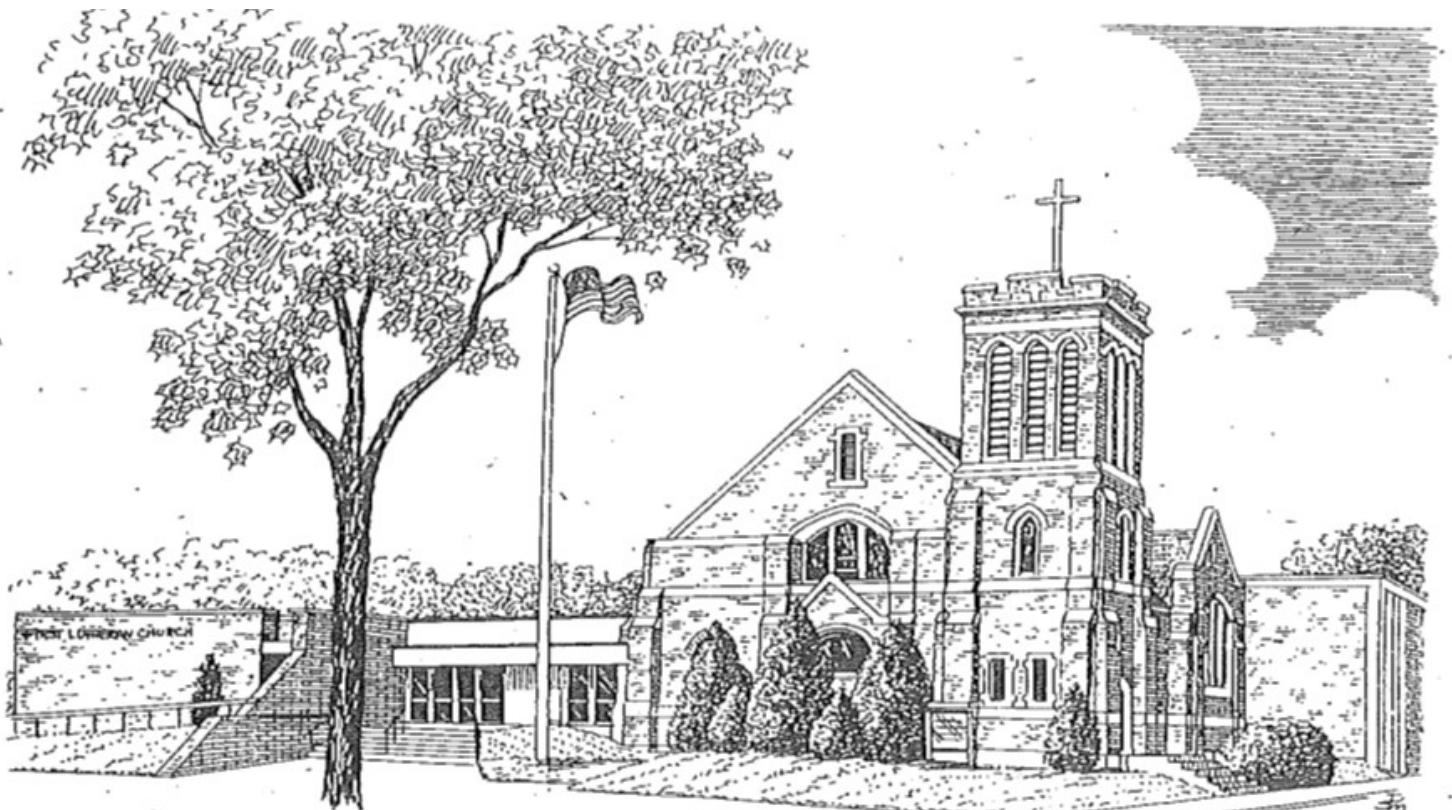




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## THE VISITOR

First Lutheran Church  
2201 Third Avenue East  
Hibbing, MN 55746



First Lutheran Church

Hibbing, Minnesota