



FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

January 2024

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

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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

9:30 am Worship
Service of Holy Communion
10:30 am Fellowship
Conversation and refreshments
10:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation
Age 3 - Grades 6+ Faith Formation

Mondays

1:00 pm Quilting

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Confirmation
Grades 6+ Faith Formation

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

This same question is posted every week on the ELCA Facebook page: “Where have you seen God at work this week?” Only a few people ever respond, and they usually answer by describing some chance encounter with a distant friend or family member, a random act of kindness, a touching moment in the liturgy, or some other example of coincidence or serendipity.

But if we’re looking for God at work in the world we don’t need to look for some rare alignment of the stars or an incident of unexpected generosity. God is at work in everything, everywhere, and in every moment — in the very subconscious acts of our breathing and blinking, in the gravity that holds us to this earth and that keeps this planet spinning around the sun. This is why in the preface of the eucharistic prayer we say: “It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should — at all times and in all places — offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ . . .”

I have never responded to the Facebook question, but whenever I see: “Where have you seen God at work this week?” I find myself asking this instead: “Where has God seen YOU at work this week?”

We’re too often searching for God “out there,” and looking for proof of God’s existence, or involvement, or care and concern for us ... but I think we need to consider the reverse and look at our own involvement, care and concern for others in this world. It seems to me that that is what Jesus did. He consistently pointed out how God is at work in the world through us — through ordinary people doing ordinary things. That’s what makes an extraordinary difference in the lives of the people around us.

Consider how a parent cares for their children. It’s not in the occasional big acts of compassion or generosity; it’s in the often monotonous tasks that we do on repeat: preparing meals, changing diapers, rocking them until they calm down, singing till they fall asleep. When we’re only looking for God to act in the big and bold moves on the world stage, or in those random acts of coincidence or kindness, we might miss where God is already at work among us — right here, in and through us. God is

revealed in that mother, preparing the meal; God is coming to us through that father, changing the diaper; God is at work in that child, giving us the opportunity to practice our patience, offer our gifts, and to show our love.

As we begin the new year, I’ve been thinking about how we will see God at work in our church and in our lives — and where God will see US at work in the church and in the lives of others. And I thought of Saint Teresa of Avila (1515–1582). Teresa was born in Spain and entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen years old, and later earned a reputation as a mystic, reformer, and a writer. She founded a convent, and wrote a book called *The Way of Perfection* for her nuns which includes this poem: *Christ Has No Body*.

Christ has no body but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands,
with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
with compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

A good reminder as we begin another year with our best intentions: that God wants to be at work in the world, and God wants to use the church — you and me — to do that work.

Peace and all good.

+ Pastor John Dietz

With Gratitude for All of You

Thank you all for your generosity and thoughtfulness at Christmas this year — for your cards and gifts and well-wishes. We are very fortunate to belong to First Lutheran Church!

— John and Ashley, Livia and Jack Dietz

Worship

Winter Readings and Themes

Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of Our Lord -

Blessing of the Church

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; + Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; + John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; + Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; + Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 4 The Presentation of Our Lord/ Candlemas -

Blessing of Candles

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; + Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, February 11 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -

Thanksgiving for Baptism

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; + Mark 1:40-45

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thanks to everyone who donated a flower to make our sanctuary even more beautiful for our celebration of Christmas here at First Lutheran Church! We still have a lot of plants left at the church, stop by and take a few home to decorate for the New Year!

IN MEMORY OF ...

Shirley Hugger
Bud & Bertha Engebretson
LaVerne M. Maki
Race Johannessohn
Mike Giombetti
Joe Glad
Errol Hietala
Loved Ones
Gladys Griffiths
Scott Stavnes
Theodore Eddy
Kathy Tanem
Don & Helen Fillman
John and Gary Fillman
June Hendrickson
Loved Ones
Peter Hecimovich

IN HONOR OF ...

Friends and family

... GIVEN BY:

Her Family
Pr. John & Ashley Dietz
Rolland & Nancy Maki
Rian Johnson & Family
Grace Giombetti
Jean Glad
Jan Hietala
Russ & Linda Smith
Her Family
The Stavnes Family
Agnes Eddy and Family
Loyal & Barb Tanem
Al & Marcia Fillman
Al & Marcia Fillman
Her Friends
Nancy White
Sandy Hecimovich

... GIVEN BY:

Gen Lervik

Lent

This year's Lenten theme is Lent with the Saints. You may be surprised — and encouraged — by the experiences of these saints of the church. This year we'll share the Lenten journey with a Roman martyr named Valentinius and a medieval monk named Martin who worked to reform the church; from a devoted Norwegian deaconess who created a healthcare system for immigrants to two courageous African-American slaves who strived for freedom; a humble man elected Pope at a critical moment in history to a man who returned to Ireland as a bishop and missionary to the people who once enslaved him. God is working among us, in and through us, and God is working on us.

The Saints of Lent

Feb 14 + Week 1: Ash Wednesday: Valentine - martyr
Feb 21 + Week 2: Martin Luther -renewer of the church
Feb 28 + Week 3: Elizabeth Fedde - deaconess
Mar 6 + Week 4: Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth - renewers of society
Mar 12 + Week 5: Gregory the Great - bishop of Rome
Mar 18 + Week 6: Patrick —missionary



Ministers of the Liturgy & Sunday Morning Volunteers

We are always looking for people to help out on Sundays — whether up front or behind the scenes, it takes a lot of people to host worship and fellowship each Sunday, week after week. If you haven't been able to help out in a while, consider signing up at the Welcome Table. We need one person each Sunday to read the Scripture reading, one person to be Assisting Minister (to help distribute the cup/s at Holy Communion), one or two people who can usher; and a person, a family, or a group of friends who would be willing to host fellowship. [House-keeping note: On the Sundays when no-one is signed up to host, we will not open the fellowship hall "just for coffee" because we still need people to make the coffee and clean-up afterwards.

Build Community

Annual Meeting Announcement

January 21

Immediately following worship (right about 10:30 am) on Sunday, January 21, we will be holding a brief but important Annual Meeting. All members of the congregation are asked to be present to handle the business of the church which includes the passing of a budget for 2024. Thank you for getting this on your calendar! PS — if you need to join the meeting by Zoom, please call the office to request the Zoom link.

Waffle and Pancake Brunch

January 28

Join us following worship on Sunday, January 28 for a special fellowship. WELCA is hosting a Waffle and Pancake Brunch. All proceeds will go towards local projects of the Women of the ELCA here at First Lutheran Church.

Lent

Lent begins on February 14 — Valentine's Day — this year. Spend some of that special day with the people you love here at First Lutheran Church. We will begin the Lenten season with an 11:0 am Ash Wednesday liturgy followed by a chili lunch and the traditional Chili Cook-off at 5:00 pm. Following evening worship, we gather in the Sanctuary for the solemn Liturgy of the Word with the Imposition of Ashes. This day's liturgies call us to intensify our commitment to Christian discipleship through acts of sacrificial giving, self-control, and prayer.

Lenten Midweek Soup Lunches and Worship — Mid-morning Edition

Join us for an 11:00 am brief Lenten service followed by a light lunch of soup, bread, and dessert. Each week we will begin our time together in worship and end with food and fellowship. This is for anyone and everyone, but especially for those who don't drive at night or for whom an evening out is not possible for whatever reason. All are welcome to attend — but as we begin to offer this event, it would be helpful if you could express your intent to participate by signing up at the Welcome Table or calling the office to let us know so we can get a feel for how many to expect for the meal.

Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers and Worship — Evening Edition

Each week during the Lenten season we will be holding the traditional Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Services. The meal begins at 5:00 pm — chili, soup, or something good along with bread and usually desserts because we can't help ourselves. At 6:00 pm, a half-hour worship begins in the sanctuary. If you would be willing to make or provide a soup, bread/ crackers, or dessert — please sign-up at the Welcome Table.

Spaghetti Meal

On Wednesday, March 6, we will be having a Spaghetti Meal youth fundraiser and we hope you'll all come out for that to support our young people! We'll have spaghetti with meatballs, bread, and salad available at both the mid-morning and evening events.

Safety Policy

Years ago, First Lutheran Church was one of the first churches in our synod to develop a "risk management" policy as they were termed then — a safety policy that helps the church be an intentionally safe place for our staff and volunteers, members, and visitors. It was focused on maintaining healthy boundaries for all people, especially around children and vulnerable adults. We are in the process of updating that policy. You may have read about "disruptive people" in the council minutes, and that's in part what this was about. Soon you will be hearing about our updated policy that addresses the need to make our building more secure on Sunday morning when members of the community have access to our building, which we also need to maintain as a safe place for those worshipping here and for the Sunday School and Confirmation students who enjoy the building. This will include new directions for ushers, and a request for all parents/ grandparents to keep watch over their own children outside of classroom or event settings where a teacher is actively present. The main difference you will see in the near future is the locking of the south alley door (nearest the fellowship hall/ Sunday School classrooms) once worship has begun, leaving the only unlocked access to the building on Sundays at the main doors and the tower where the ushers can be more aware of who is entering/ leaving.

GROW IN FAITH

Sunday School

Join the young people — age 3 through Grade 5 — for Sunday School this Winter. We meet right after worship at 10:30 am. Our time together includes snack, video, craft, lesson, and other activities. We're looking forward to seeing you learn more about the love of God in Jesus!

Sunday School classes for January — February:

Jan 7 Epiphany — The Magi bring Gifts to Worship Jesus
Jan 14 Martin Luther King, Jr.
Jan 21 No Class today!
Jan 28 Waffle and Pancake Fellowship and activities
Feb 4 Presentation — Jesus the Light of the World
Feb 11 Getting Ready for a Holy Lent

Confirmation

All young people in Grade 6 and above, take note of our Winter Schedule! The Sunday class meets from 10:30-11:30 am and the Wednesday class meets from 6:00-7:00 pm. The Altar Server schedule for 2024 Spring Semester is available here and in your email box!

Class # 8	Sunday, Jan 7 OR Wednesday, Jan 10
Class # 9	Sunday, Jan 14 OR Wednesday, Jan 17
No Class	Sunday, Jan 21 OR Wednesday, Jan 24
No Class	Sunday, Jan 28 OR Wednesday, Jan 31
Class # 10	Sunday, Feb 4 OR Wednesday, Feb 7
No Class	Sunday, Feb 11
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, Feb 14

Confirmation Lenten Schedule

Our midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship Services are in place of Confirmation classes and all students enrolled the program are expected to attend and participate. This year we have assigned families as the soup supper servers and cleaning crews (see below). We are also asking each confirmand and their families to take part in the meals, attend worship, and for the students to meet upstairs following worship for a check-in/ listening circle.

Altar Server Schedule: January — February

Jan 7, Sun 9:30 am	Ruby & Joseph Plese
Jan 14, Sun 9:30 am	Owen Qualley & Aiden Grindle
Jan 21, Sun 9:30 am	Morgan Schnortz & Bree Stimac
Jan 28, Sun 9:30 am	Addy Weyrauch & Ruby Johnson
Feb 4, Sun 9:30 am	Rocco & Tommy Sampson
Feb 11, Sun 9:30 am	Landon & Kiah Tokarczyk
Feb 14, Weds 6:00 pm	Max Bautch & Gage Rantala
Feb 18, Sun 9:30 am	Ruby Johnson & Ruby Plese
Feb 21, Weds 6:00 pm	Tommy Sampson & Owen Qualley
Feb 25, Sun 9:30 am	Kiah Tokarczyk & Morgan Schnortz
Feb 28, Weds 6:00 pm	Gage Rantala & Addy Weyrauch

Confirmation Lenten Meal Schedule

The following families are asked to help out on Wednesday nights with serving and cleaning-up after the soup suppers. If you can't help out on the day you've been assigned, please look for a replacement family and then let the office know of the change. You can always recruit other family and friends to help out! Suppers start at 5:00 pm and worship begins at 6:00 pm.

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	Ruby Johnson & Ruby Plese families
Feb 21 Second Wednesday	Aiden Grindle, Owen Qualley, & Morgan Schnortz families
Feb 28 Third Wednesday	Gage Rantala & Addy Weyrauch families
Mar 6 Fourth Wednesday	ALL Confirmation Students & their families
Mar 13 Fifth Wednesday	Tommy & Rocco Sampson & Max Bautch families
Mar 20 Sixth Wednesday	Landon & Kiah Tokarczyk & Bree Stimac families

Serve the Neighbor

Confirmation Service Opportunities during Lent

All Confirmands — whether they are in the Sunday or Wednesday classes — are expected to be at the Lenten Midweek Services. Each student and their family is assigned a Wednesday to help serve and clean up after the meal. Each student will be assigned a Wednesday service where they will either serve at the altar or read the scripture and/ or prayers. After each service, around 6:30 pm, the Confirmands will meet to hold a Listening Circle where we will check in together until about 7:00 pm.

On Wednesday, March 6, we will need “all Confirmation hands on deck” to help with the evening Spaghetti Meal — from set-up, cooking and serving, to clean-up. Following the service that evening, we will not hold a Listening Circle. Thank you, Confirmation families, for putting this fundraiser on your calendars. All proceeds will go to our up-coming 2024 Faith & Fun Summer Trip.

Council Meeting Minutes 12-17-23

Property Committee Report:

- Kitchenette - Old cabinet sold, new cabinets ordered. Refrigerator here. Need to order sink, faucet, countertop and flooring. Sheryl moved to approve an additional \$2500.00 to complete the project. Pastor John seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Dishwasher for the kitchen where the old hand washing sink was is here. Motion by Mary to approve the estimate \$650.00 for electrical work for the dishwasher. Barb seconded. The motion passed. Also needed is countertop and cabinet side. Looking for quotes for these items.
- Energy Audit: Receipts for the LED lights have been compiled and will have Dave Rian bring to the PUC for rebate.
- Air conditioner on the sanctuary side- service company suggested replace instead of repair - On hold at this time. Also to investigate the need for air conditioning in the office.
- Looking into increase in PUC bills. Plumber to look into repair/replace for the steam traps. Iron Range Plumbing quote was for \$1200.00 for inspection of all traps with estimate on what needs to be fixed. Paul Stavnes to look into issue.
- Plaster in sanctuary on south side and north complete. Painting in kitchenette in office completed. Plaster to be repaired in basement.
- Plumbing leak in women's bathroom needs to be repaired. Toilet in girls bathroom in the basement needs repair/replacement. Looking for bids from plumbing
- Tuckpoint on 3 separate areas on the sanctuary is needed. Mary moved to accept the bid of \$4200.00. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Received a estimate for electrical work for new gutters. Pastor John made a motion to accept the estimate for \$2725. Steph seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Received quote for 2 windows for the office behind the sanctuary on the south side. Barb moved to accept the bid of \$4750.00. Pastor John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- New chairs for the fellowship hall . Tabled until next year.
- What to do with the pew in the fellowship hall. Pastor John talked to a wood worker.
- Safety Policy - Suggestions for ushers to sit in the foyer, locking the side door by the alley when services start, and having a portable phone available to the ushers.
- 2024 proposed budget reviewed. Motion made by Pastor John to accept the proposed budget. Seconded by Kay. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Staff gifts for Christmas.
- New members for council.
- Place some of the care cupboard items n the fireside room for easy access on Sunday morning if needed. Create care bags with info for housing, help along with a money card for people in need. To be put in place in January.
- Vacation payout request for organist and janitorial service. Mary moved to approve the payout. Sheryl seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Pictures of Pastor Ben and Pastor Sarah have been taken down to place the engraved years of service tab in the frames. Pictures will be replaced while waiting for the engraving.

New schedule for meeting:

Jan 21, 2024 Annual Meeting	Feb 11, 2024
Mar 17, 2024	Apr 28, 2024
May 19, 2024	June 16, 2024

First Lutheran Church Monthly offerings

Many thanks to everyone who faithfully supports the mission and ministries of First Lutheran Church with your generous offerings to our general fund for operating costs, and also to the building fund that helps with repairs and maintenance. Together, we make ministry happen here at First Lutheran Church!

General offerings:

December: \$13,956.25

Building fund offerings:

December: \$1,408.29

***Amounts reflect what was recorded at the time of newsletter print.

Thank You

- A special Thank You to Ron Vogt and Steve Carlson, for all the work that they have done and are doing on the kitchenette project in the office!
- Thank You to everyone who helped out during the bazaar!

January Birthdays

January 1:
Patricia Barsnes

January 2:
Nancy Poirier

January 4:
Jean Crep

January 5:
Julie Nehring, Olivia Lund

January 6:
Kasey Jo Renskers

January 11:
Agnes Eddy, Paul Tokarczyk, Darlene Bennett, David Cencich

January 13:
Robert Fierke

January 14:
Michelle Alms

January 15:
Bentley Plese

January 16:
Kathleen Kangas

January 17:
Morgan Schnortz, Forrest Koland

January 18:
Melinda Jespersen

January 20:
Gerald Danielson, Dan Wherland

January 21:
Mary Maki, Livia Dietz

January 22:
Laureen Danielson

January 23:
Kiah Tokarczyk, Shaylee Qualley, Sarah Fairbanks


January 24:
Vanessa Tokarczyk, Jasmine Larson

January 27:
Paul Stavnes, Michael Schnortz

January 29:
Hunter Fink

January 30:
James Schnortz

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 1 New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Johann Loehle, renewer of the church</i>	3 <				

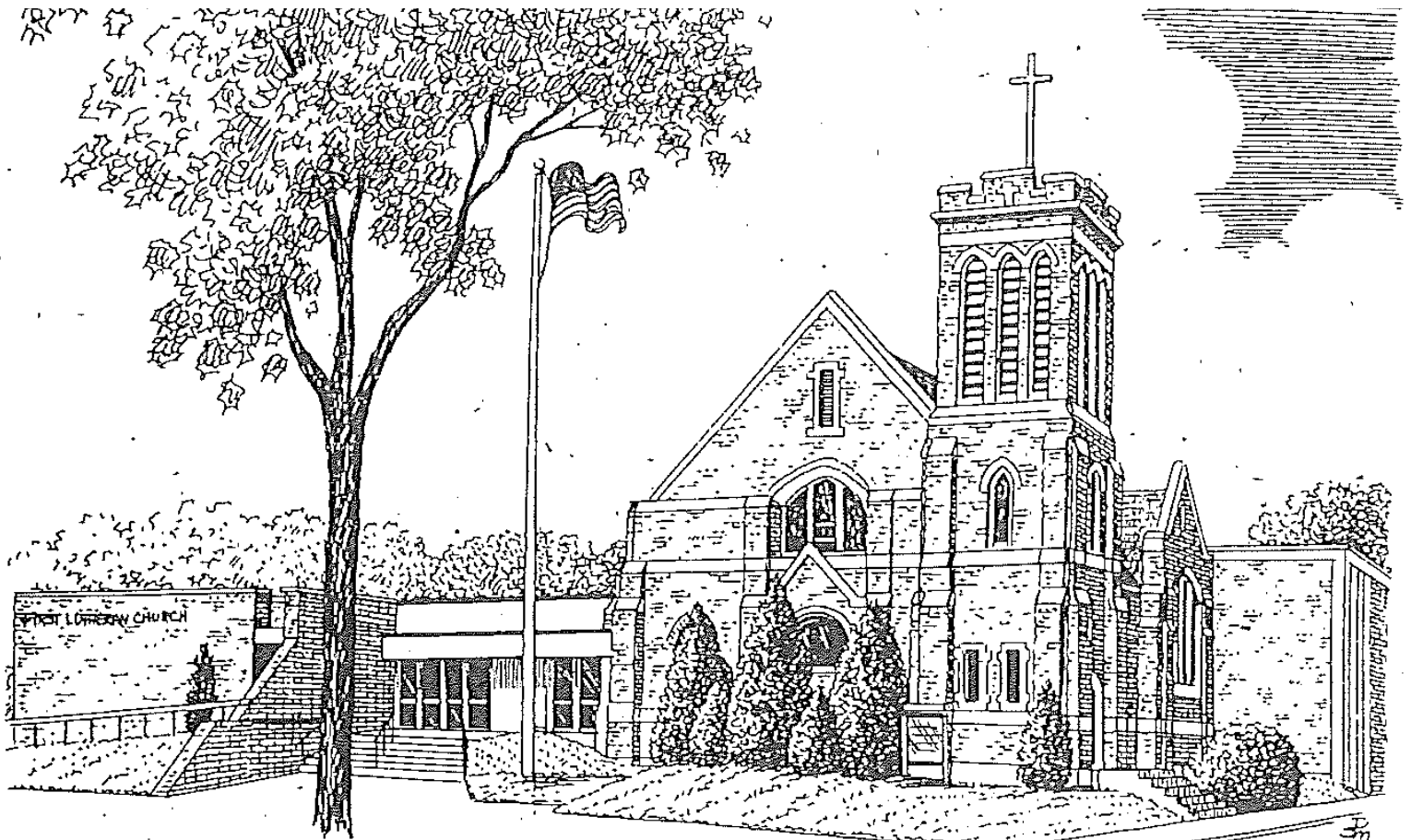


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First Lutheran Church

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