



# The Visitor

July 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**

Lately, I've been reading the book of Job while I ponder the joys as well as the struggles of various people in my life. "What is God up to?" This is the question I keep asking when I hear about people suffering. To aid my understanding of suffering I decided to read the book of Job these few weeks. Do you ask this same or similar question of, "what is God doing?" If so, I invite you with me to learn from Job's faith journey.

I found the last chapter of Job to be very insightful. Job 42:1-6

"Then Job answered the Lord: I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. You said, 'listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you will answer me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you; therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes"

Job is often lifted up as a man of great faith. An example to emulate, and he was. After all, everything was taken from him. He lost relationships, his family, his wealth, and his health. Yet, through all Job's suffering he remained faithful to God. Reading this book, I see that Job's story isn't simply about a man with strong faith, but it is about a man who grows in faith. His faith evolves through his hardship. He is humbled and realizes that he has a lot to learn about who God is and what it means to be faithful. Wrapping up Job's story, Chapter 42 shows us that Job learns the value and importance of listening to God. Listening to God through the sights and sounds of the world around us. Myself, and I think many people of faith, are comfortable speaking about God and even speaking to God. I speak out-loud the words, "God, what are you doing?" I let the wind carry away the words while I wait for God's response. As is often the case, when I don't receive an immediate response, I ask again- maybe louder this time. I don't realize that the louder I become, the harder it becomes to listen. Reading Job, I see the wisdom and necessity of closing my mouth and listening to God. Over the course of Job's story, he learns to be quiet and pay attention to the goodness of God, to the unfathomable greatness of God's power, and to the majestic creativity of God that is evident all around us. I hope for all of us to follow Job's understanding and humility. The more we pay attention to what God has done and is doing all around us the quieter we become. Presented with the immeasurable display of God's might and God's careful attention to the smallest detail of creation we find ourselves silenced in awe. I think it is within the moments of silenced awe when God reveals what God is up to. My prayer today is for God to grant us a quiet summer of learning and growing. To be good listeners and experience the great and wonderful things that we might have missed otherwise.

July Blessings.

Your co-worker in Christ~ Pr. Erik





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## Happy Birthday to the following congregants!!!

7/1-Jan Hietala, Brian Fearing, Nancy Welsh  
7/3-Shirley Hugger, Sandy Tuin  
7/6-RaChelle Foster  
7/7-Aaron Hughes  
7/8-Cora Skraba, Nakoya Zozgornik, Tammy Hughes, Drew Kolden  
7/10-Roger Lind, Anjelina Jones  
7/11-Owen Walters  
7/13-Karyl Giombetti, Katherine Vucetich  
7/17-Bob Tokarczyk, Janine Schwartz

7/19-Linda Anderson  
7/22-Gary Jones, Rodney Jacobson, Patrick Welsh  
7/23-Ron Vogt  
7/25-Kamryn Mandt, Ashley Fink, Stacey Wherland, Sheryl Tokarczyk  
7/27-Tammie Stimac, Austin Galatz  
7/28-Shane Qualley  
7/29-Tony Stimac, Tom Inforzato, Melissa Peterson  
7/31-Mikayla Shaffer

### 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:**

May: \$7,541.70  
June: \$9,515.18

#### **Strengthen Our Foundation:**

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



### Congregational Meeting

We will be having a meeting on Sunday, July 10th immediately following worship. We are asking members to stay to vote on the Candidate of Choice as presented by our Call Committee. Please consider coming to this meeting, we need a quorum of 50 **FLC members** to vote. If you are unable to come in person, please see the Zoom link below. There will be opportunity to ask questions if need be before the vote. We will be voting on extending the call and also on the benefit package that the Church Council has presented due to Synod Guidelines. If you have any questions please call the office by Friday, July 8th. All information has been sent out by mail to members in June.

To join the meeting via Zoom, please go to **<https://zoom.us/join>** at 10:35am on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Enter the Meeting ID below to join the meeting.

Meeting ID: 869 0403 1510

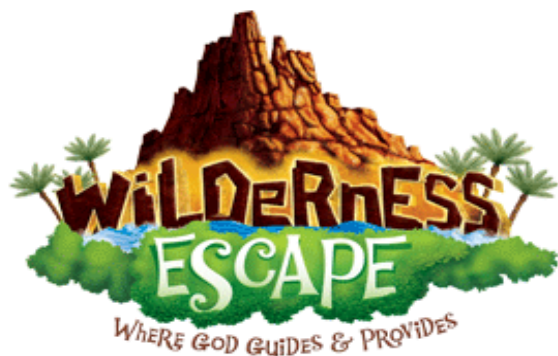
Passcode: 858018

#### **Save the Date:**

Sunday, July, 17th will be our Worship in the Park with OSLC, FLC, Faith, Holy Trinity and Wesley United. More info will be in the upcoming bulletins and newsletter.



Our Savior's, First Lutheran, & Wesley  
United present:



## Vacation Bible School at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

**Where:** OSLC 501 East 23rd Street, Hibbing

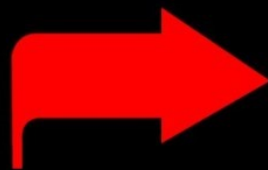
**When:** Sunday, August 14th-Thursdays, August 18th  
5:00pm-7:30pm

**Who:** Completed Kindergarten-5th Grade

Registration forms are available at OSLC, First Lutheran and Wesley United. Save the date! We are excited to bring back VBS and the planning has been a year in the making! If you have questions, call the office.

Online registration is now open!! Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wilderness-escape-vacation-bible-school-evenings-registration-346167826287> to complete your registration! You can also find the link on our website, [www.firsthibbing.org](http://www.firsthibbing.org).

# GARAGE SALE



## Volunteers Needed!

The dates have been set for this summer's sale. The ladies are hard at work sorting through all of the donations given to the church and organizing! The sale is set for **July 14-16**. Thursday 4pm-7pm, Friday 8am-4pm and Saturday 8am-2pm. On Sunday, July 10 following our congregational meeting, we will start bringing up all the items for the sale. We need all hands on deck to set up tables and start pricing items. We will need helpers on the days of the sale to check people out and some youth to help custom-

All the proceeds from this year's sale will go to purchasing a new dishwasher for the kitchen. You don't want to miss this sale, we have a large variety of clothes, household items, toys, books and so much more!!! Save the date and spread the word!!!

### Announcements:



**Building projects-** We are currently looking for someone to hire to paint the offices and the interior of the parsonage, please call the office if you know of anyone who contracts for this work. We are still looking for new members for the property committee to do small projects and oversee the work on the bigger projects.

**Sunday Volunteers-** Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex after service or call the office to volunteer! All Sundays in July are open for all volunteer spots. We need readers, greeters/ushers and assistant ministers. We also need people to sign up to host fellowship. Let's give the ladies who always step up to serve us a well deserved break!!

**Sunday Broadcasts-** If you would like to donate a broadcast in memory or honor of someone, please call the office. This helps with the cost of our audio/visual staff and maintenance. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please contact Range Floral.



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,



**CAMP**   
*Memories*



Ruby Johnson & Gretchen Hoertsch spent a week at Camp Hiawatha at the end of June! A huge thank you to the church and all who support VLM camps for our youth!! It looks like they had a great time!! Be sure to stop them after church on Sunday and ask them about their experience!! These are just a few of the photos that show the great memories made!!



### Elbow Lake Ranch Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday, July 20th for Bible Study led by Pastor Erik while overlooking the beautiful Elbow Lake in Iron. We will meet at 10:00 am and settle in with coffee and a lesson, followed with a light lunch. We can visit and walk down by the lake, or take a walk to see the horses! Please sign up in the Narthex so we have a count for lunch. You can call the office with any questions. We hope to see you there!



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### June Council Meeting recap

Called to order by Nancy White @ 10:55 am.

Present: Nancy White, Mary Maki, Connie Bryant, Rian Johnson and Dave Peterson.

Zoom: Lynn Schweiberger, Gen Lervik Absent: Stephanie Skraba, Sheryl Tokarczyk, Kay Dague, Sandy Carlson

Property Committee Report: Rian is looking for a painter and contractor for the offices— Going to Yoder for kitchenette. Dan Wherland was suggested as a painter. It was voted on for a budget of \$5,000 for kitchenette remodel, Mary M. motioned and Dave P. seconded. The side door to the church is now fixed. Landscaping in front of the church-Rian is in contact with the guys that did our lawncare last year to see if they can remove the dead bushes and replace them. Cathy Koland planted flowers in the front of the church but is unable to maintain their care. Rian will water or find someone who can.

New Business: Copier lease is almost up and there is a quote from Metro on a new copier with the ability to fold booklets. Ben found a way to save money on our service contract and the new copier will be more efficient with ink so it brings the price down about \$60 per month. Connie motioned to approve new copier and contract. Mary seconded. Garage sale date and times set. Proceeds going to purchase a new dishwasher for the kitchen. Need volunteers to set up and price. July 10th after meeting will start bringing stuff upstairs and moving tables and chairs from fellowship hall. Confirmation kids to count toward service hours?

Update on call committee-Call process is taking the steps outlined by Deacon Brenda at the Synod. Background check came back clear. Letter to be sent out to congregation for announcement of Candidate of Choice and date for the congregational vote. Pastor Erik will announce the meeting on Sundays. Meet and greet to be sent out in letter.

Pictorial directory meeting set for July 12th to finalize information. Decided to cancel that meeting until after the new pastor is here and settled.

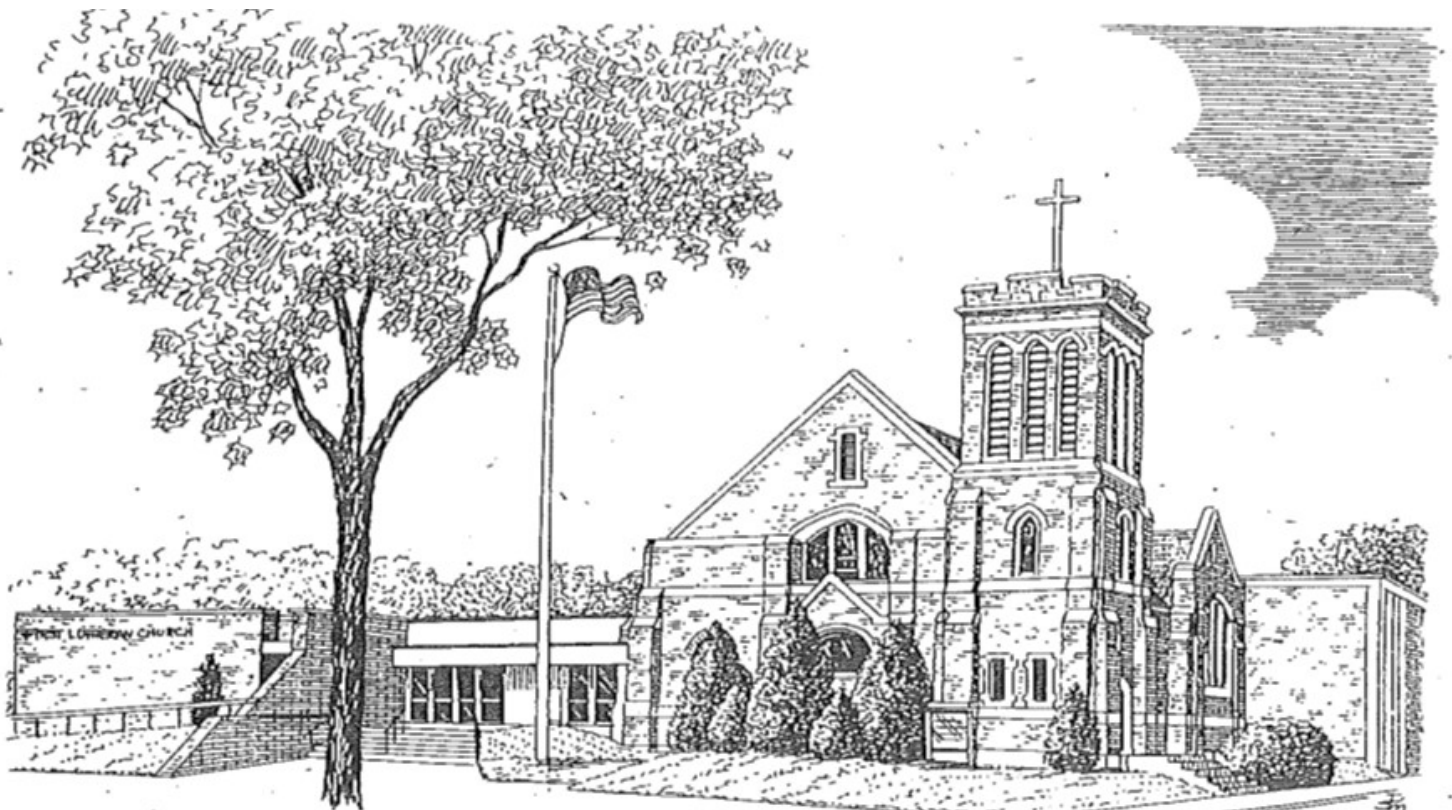
Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am. Next meeting is set for August 21st. (skipping meeting in July)



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## THE VISITOR

First Lutheran Church  
2201 Third Avenue East  
Hibbing, MN 55746



First Lutheran Church

Hibbing, Minnesota