



FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

June 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

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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

Mondays

9:00 am Staff Meeting

Tuesdays

11:00 am Lunch & Learn
June 13, July 11th, August 15

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



Pastor

I was trying to schedule a time to meet a friend for lunch in May, but May was so busy with events that we decided to put it off till June. But then we looked at our June calendars and said, “Maybe we should revisit May?” June is even busier, and it’s just the beginning of an already packed Summer.

One thing I want to share before I jump into all the Summer plans here at First Lutheran is a word about *Sabbath*. We talk about Sabbath as that day God commanded the people to rest from their work (Genesis 1) and then made into law in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). Luther added to this idea in the Catechism by teaching that the day of rest is best used as time for worship — to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments.

We all benefit from these ideas of Sabbath as times to rest and worship. Most modern people are used to a five-day, eight-hour work week (or some variation thereof, I know people on shift work will disagree!). We enjoy our weekends off, and many of us look forward to vacation time, especially in the Summer.

Much like schools, churches run hard from September through May. Actually, we’re really picking up steam in mid-August getting ready for September, and in May we gently let go of some of the past eight months’ commitments — weekly Bible Study, Sunday school, Confirmation, etc. June and July are our “Sabbath” months; time to relax and re-create a little. This year Rian will be taking two weeks of vacation with her family in June, and I will be attending an ELCA continuing education event for pastors and deacons . . . in Phoenix in July! There are a few other times when I will be taking a few days off here and there to spend time with family and finally meet up with my friend (because that May lunch never happened).

The rest of the summer has lots going on and I really do encourage you to read this newsletter and look for the events and ministries that you want to be part of. We have a few things that bear special attention, though, in three areas: EcoFaith Ministry, Fellowship, and Youth & Family.

Youth & Family: we’re excited for the June 27-28 Faith & Fun Summer Trip. About 20 people are heading to the Cities for a day at Valleyfair and a

visit to one of the Twin Cities’ unique faith locations (the seminary, cathedral, etc.). On July 12 we are taking a group of kids (who have completed Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) to Camp Hiawatha for a day of Discover’s Camp. You can still sign up for that. And our newest news: we will be hosting an on-site Day Camp/ Vacation Bible School here at First Lutheran August 6 through 10. More details will be in the July newsletter and available at the Welcome Table, but please put these dates on your calendar and do sign up!

Fellowship is one of those church terms that can mean a lot of things ... like getting together for food and fun conversations, which we plan on doing on Sunday, June 25 right after worship. We’ll be holding a special outdoor Parsonage Patio Party, and everyone is invited. We’ll provide the beverages, brats and hotdogs; you’re asked to bring something to share: chips, salads, desserts. If it’s raining, we’ll move it to the parish hall. Fellowship also includes working together to get things done, like our June 11 “Spring” Cleaning day. Stick around after worship, have a cup of coffee, and then we’ll get busy on some deep/detailed cleaning in the kitchen, sanctuary, or other places that need special attention. And of course, we’ll feed the volunteers! Our Summer 3F Event (First Family & Friends) is in the works ... and we’re looking at a day in Duluth for the Vista Fleet Cruise and lunch (details coming soon!).

Our *EcoFaith Ministry* really got a jumpstart on May 21 with the beautiful weather that allowed us to get outside for a blessing of the Giving Garden. We had a really well-attended meeting about our outdoor plans for the Summer which include planting and tending to the Giving Garden (raised beds in the courtyard) that will be growing the ingredients for Salsa (tomatoes, onions, peppers, and herbs). We also talked about and planned for our Pollinator Plotting event on Sunday, June 10. We’ll meet at 9:00 am to get our hands dirty and plant the seeds and other vegetation that will become home to the bees, butterflies, bugs, and birds that rely on native plants for life. Our hope is that we will also become a Monarch Butterfly Waystation where the endangered Monarchs can find the right food and

environment for laying their eggs and hatching before making their voyage back to Mexico.

As you can see, there are lots of things going on and plenty of opportunities for you to be involved. If you're not interested in riding rollercoasters at Valleyfair, maybe taking a turn watering the tomatoes is more your speed. Need something to do before that Vista Fleet Cruise? How about doing some windows on June 11? The thing about First Lutheran Church is that this is a community that comes together to accomplish great things, and we have fun doing it!

My last point is about OUR community, and the welcome addition of many of the members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. After their congregation closed in April, we have been blessed with a number of folks from Holy Trinity joining us for worship, and some joining us officially as members of First. We want to welcome them with open arms and receive them as our sisters and brothers in Christ! On June 4, which this year is the Festival of the Holy Trinity, we will be glad to officially receive and dedicate the important items that have been donated from their sanctuary, including a chalice, paten, and flagon for Holy Communion and Altar linens (all of which we will begin using that day), a Crucifix, and

the beautiful statue of the Risen Christ which has already been installed in the narthex by the sanctuary entrance.

To the members of First Lutheran Church: it is not only our responsibility, but it's our great honor to welcome the people of Holy Trinity to share life with us — which is more than saying hello in the fellowship hall or making room for them in the sanctuary. Please be intentional about inviting them to be part of anything and everything you are involved in and remember how hard it can be to start out somewhere new, even if it's with people you may already know.

And to the members of Holy Trinity: we welcome you and receive you as members and co-workers with us in the kingdom of God in every way. And if there is anything that I can do to be a better pastor to you, feel free to let me know. We are so glad you are here and we give thanks to God for each of you!

Remember this Summer to take time for *Sabbath* — find time to rest, time to worship, and time for the fellowship of faith we call First Lutheran Church.

Peace and all good.

+ Pastor John Dietz

Worship God

Volunteers and Ministers of the Liturgy NEEDED

Please consider your availability and sign up to help make worship happen here at First Lutheran. We are looking for ushers/ greeters, readers, assisting ministers (to distribute Communion), and altar servers (to light candles and carry the cross). Sign ups are on the Welcome Table in the narthex. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Choir Practice & Special Music

A group of us is meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 9:00 am to practice a song or two that we present during worship. This is a no commitment, come as you are group. It would be great if you joined us for a song or two! Do you have a special musical talent you'd like to share? An instrument you play, a song you'd like to share? Let Pastor John know — we'd love to hear it.



Readings for June

The following scripture readings are assigned for worship in the month of June. We may read one, two, or all of them depending on the theme of the day. They are listed here so you can read them ahead of worship.

June 4 HOLY TRINITY: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a + Ps. 8 + 2 Cor. 13:11-13 + John 3:16-18

June 11 ST. BARNABAS, Apostle: Isaiah 42:5-12 + Ps. 112 + Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3 + Matt. 10:7-16

June 18 ORDINARY 11: Exod. 19:2-8a + Ps. 10 + Romans 5:1-8 + Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

June 25 ORDINARY 12: Jeremiah 20:7-13 + Ps. 69:7-10, 16-18 + Rom. 6:1b-11 + Matt. 10:24-39

Summer Worship at Chapel of the Pines: May 28 – September 3

If you are planning to be up at Side Lake this Summer, know that you are welcome to worship at Chapel of the Pines, an ecumenical chapel just outside of McCarthy Beach State Park. The clergy from First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Our Savior's Lutheran, and Wesley United Methodist churches take turns presiding at the 11:15 am services each week. Pastor John will be at the Chapel on June 4, July 2, and August 13. On August 13 members and friends of First Lutheran plan on gathering for lunch at the Riverside following worship at the chapel!

Holy Trinity Celebration: June 4

On Sunday, April 30, our sister congregation Holy Trinity Lutheran Church closed with the celebration of their final Service of Holy Communion. The members of Holy Trinity decided to donate some of the items from their church and sanctuary to First Lutheran so that they could continue to be used and appreciated. We will dedicate those items in worship on the most appropriate day – the Festival of the Holy Trinity – during our 9:30 am service on June 4.

TV Broadcasts of the Liturgy

If you would like to dedicate one of the Sunday morning live televised broadcasts of our service in honor or in memory of someone special, please call the office. The \$20 donation is used to pay for the upkeep and replacement of the audio-visual equipment we use to reach out to the community. Thank you!

Hibbing Public Access TV

You can watch First Lutheran's services on local access TV and on the web. If you or a friend or loved one is unable to be here in person, or if you would like to encourage someone to join us by giving them a chance to see who we are and what we do, have them go to HPAT channels 805 or 118-5, or on their website: hpat.org – go to Educational Access and scroll down to First Lutheran Church. We're 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.



YouTube and Facebook

First Lutheran has a YouTube channel where you can watch any of our televised services. Go to First Lutheran Church- Hibbing, MN for the archive of services. And remember to like us and follow us on Facebook at [firsthibbing](https://www.facebook.com/firsthibbing). Any time you see a post from church, consider liking and sharing it so more people see our posts. Thanks!

Grow in Faith

June 13: Lunch & Learn

During the Summer we'll be holding a monthly informal Lunch & Learn. Starting at 11:00 am on Tuesday in the Fireside Room, bring a lunch or snack, and we'll learn about a topic together. This month we'll look at the ELCA social statement on Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice.

July 12: Day Camp at Camp Hiawatha

Please plan on joining us for a special Day Camp adventure this year. We'll actually be heading to Camp Hiawatha for a full day of Day Camp! Registrations are at the Welcome Table. Cost to you is \$20 deposit per child, the church campership fund will cover the rest. But we do need you to sign-up soon to make the reservation at camp. Deadline for sign-up is already approaching!

August 6-10: Day Camp/ Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran Church

We are so excited to be able to host a community Day Camp here at First Lutheran Church this Summer. The counselors from VLM (Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry) will be coming from Camps Hiawatha and Vermilion to lead a fun-filled week of worship, Bible Study, crafts, games, skits, activities, and service projects. Monday through Thursday will be an all day program and the cost is FREE. Pre-registration is open at the Welcome Table or by calling the office. We will be asking members to help host the snacks for the kids and meals for the counselors. Also, if anyone has spare housing (enough spare bedrooms and a bathroom they could takeover at your home, or an unused house, an empty nearby cabin) they could stay in, that would be great. Let Pastor John know!

Serve the Neighbor

Property Committee: June 13

We'll be holding a Property Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 4:00 pm in the office area. Anyone who is interested can come be part of this group. We keep things going here at First Lutheran as it relates to the property and grounds – from changing lights to planning for major repairs. All are welcome.

Noisy Offering: June 11

Every Second Sunday in worship we'll be collecting a "noisy offering" beginning on May 14. So bring some coins to clang into the kids' buckets, and let our monthly noisy offering make a difference in helping end hunger locally and around the world.

Care Cupboard: June 11

The care cupboard gets occasional use by people in need of some immediate and direct assistance, so thank you to all who have made contributions. We'll keep you up to date on how it gets accessed, but please do continue to bring non-perishable food and personal care items to the office Orto the church on the Second Sunday of the month.

May Council Meeting: June 18

Our monthly council meeting will be held on Sunday, June 18 at 10:45 am in the office area. Thank you, council members, for your service to our church!

Build Community

Church Cleaning & Lunch: June 11

Our church custodian Melissa (and her husband Dave) Peterson does a great job keeping the church and grounds looking good and ready for all the many events that take place here. We're scheduling a "Spring Cleaning" for those areas of the church that need occasional special attention: kitchen, sanctuary details, etc. Following worship on June 11, we'll get busy with projects until we enjoy a noon lunch together. Thanks for helping with this!

Fellowship

A few (more) thoughts about fellowship here at First Lutheran:

1. Let's be intentional about including others. If you see a person, a couple, or a family sitting at a table by themselves, invite them to join you or, better yet, go over and join them! No one wants to feel alone in a room full of people. I know you like to catch up with your old friends, but church fellowship is a good time to make new friends, too!
2. Sign up to serve. Anyone and everyone can do it. Someone will show you how to make the coffee, and you don't need to put on a smorgasbord — store-bought cookies are fine!
3. There are some Sundays when we're wearing a name tag during fellowship. If the name tags and markers are on the tables, use them. If you say, "Well, this is silly, we all know each other's names!" — then you're probably sitting with the same people each week and you need to refer to # 1 above.
4. Back to including others ... please include yourself! If you haven't made it your practice to stick around for fellowship, try it out once or twice. We're building community in fellowship and it's hard to do that on your own in your car driving away from all the people in fellowship!

Parsonage Patio Party: June 25

Patio Parties at the Parsonage are returning this Summer. Our first one will be held on Sunday, June 25 following worship. You're invited to bring a side dish or salad, chips, or dessert. We'll provide and grill up hotdogs and brats. There will be some seating provided, but bring a lawn chair if you can. The garage will have tables and plug-ins, a cooler, and the church restrooms will be open. Rain-out location — fellowship hall.

Faith & Fun Trip: Valleyfair: June 27-28

All youth in Grades 6+ are invited to the Faith & Fun Trip to Valleyfair this year. We'll be leaving at 8:00 am from the church to arrive at Valleyfair in the afternoon and plan on spending the day there. That evening, back at the hotel (with a pool) pizzas will be provided. On Wednesday, before heading back home, we will visit a faith location (to be decided) and have lunch. You must sign-up as soon as possible so we can get hotel rooms reserved, drivers figured out, and tickets purchased. A \$50 deposit covers your Valleyfair ticket, lodging, and Tuesday night pizza. You are responsible for all other meals and spending money. RSVP and Deposits were due on May 22 ... get yours in NOW!

3F: First Family & Friends

We're planning some fun events for the Summer and Fall, and would love to hear your input. Let Pastor John or a council members know if you have an idea for a 3F event. We are looking at the Vista Fleet Cruise in August and planning ahead for a possible North Shore Scenic Railroad outing this Fall. Parents and young kids, we're looking at a trip to either Ely, Duluth, or Grand Rapids ... Talk to the pastor about your ideas or interests!

**June 1st:**

Kay Ranger

June 3rd:

Carson Link

June 4th:

Doris Baasie

June 5th:

Jennifer Walters

June 6th:

Phyllis Rian

June 8th:

Darlene Stavnes

June 9th:

Rian Johnson, Travis Griffiths

June 10th:

Shirley Szweduk

June 11th:

Gloria Maras, Natalie Stimac,

Ace Barsness

June 12th:

Joseph Plese

June 13th:

Richard Sundvick

June 14th:

Alice White, Syllas Schweiberger,

Cash Johnson, Jonathan Rue

June 15th:

Bradford Benson

June 17th:

Gary Kangas

June 19th:

Mica Morgan, Christina Gargano

June 20th:

Mary Jane Torrel

June 21st:

Madeline Soderberg

June 22nd:

Joseph Mohn

June 23rd:

Michael Cencich

June 24th:

Addison Weyrauch

June 25th:

Faith Tuin

June 26th:

Cody Rutherford

June 27th:

Ilexa Rutherford, Andrea Gargano,

Polly Wilen

June 28th:

Lila Hill, Jack Dietz

June 29th:

Shirley Kolden



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:

May: \$6,336.52

Building fund

offerings:

March: \$198.29



May 14th, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Pastor John Dietz, Lynn Schweiberger, Gen Lervik, Barb Bautch, Kay Dague, Nancy White, Steph Skraba, Mary Maki. Dave Peterson, Connie Bryant Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczak

Property Committee Report:

- Met to create a priority list for repair/remodel. This list does not officially prioritize these repairs/remodel.
- List to contain:
 1. New roof and gutter system as needed.
 2. Repair to walls in sanctuary and basement due to water damage. Dan Wherland to complete.
 3. Kitchenette remodel when new quote received.
 4. Landscaping in front by door and sign.
 5. Eco project, pollinator plot and sharing garden. Ann Vucetich to look for grants.
 6. Exterior stucco repair. Waiting for quote from Dan Wherland.
 7. Energy audit to be completed this week. Will make a decision on need for new windows.
 8. Steam Conversion?
 9. Replace Carpet in nursery.
 10. Kitchen and fellowship hall; Reface cabinets, new hardware, replace counter tops, new chairs.
 11. Repairs at parsonage; Water in basement and new basement windows.

Old Business:

- Eco Faith - Meeting for congregation on May 21.
- Committee reports: Helping hands: Received thank you from member who will benefit from monies. Further distribution of money to be reported in June.
- Synod Assembly representatives - Lynn Schweiberger and Steph Skraba along with Pastor John reviewed what was discussed at the Assembly. No issues were voted on at that meeting.
- Reviewed need to send a letter to congregation concerning changes around the church. Will create a letter when priority list is finalized.
- Vacation Bible School will be combined with Our Saviors August 6 - 10. Camp will be on July 12.

New Business:

- Options for confirmation class next year. Meeting on Sunday after service was discussed.
- Dave Peterson brought up need for contract for landscaping this summer. Charges will be \$680.00 for the season. (Approx. \$40.00 per time) Steph Skraba made a motion to accept the oral bid until the written bid comes in. Mary Maki seconded it. Motion approved.

Pastoral Updates:

- Items from Holy Trinity and quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief will be dedicated on June 4th.

Next meeting on June 18th, 2023

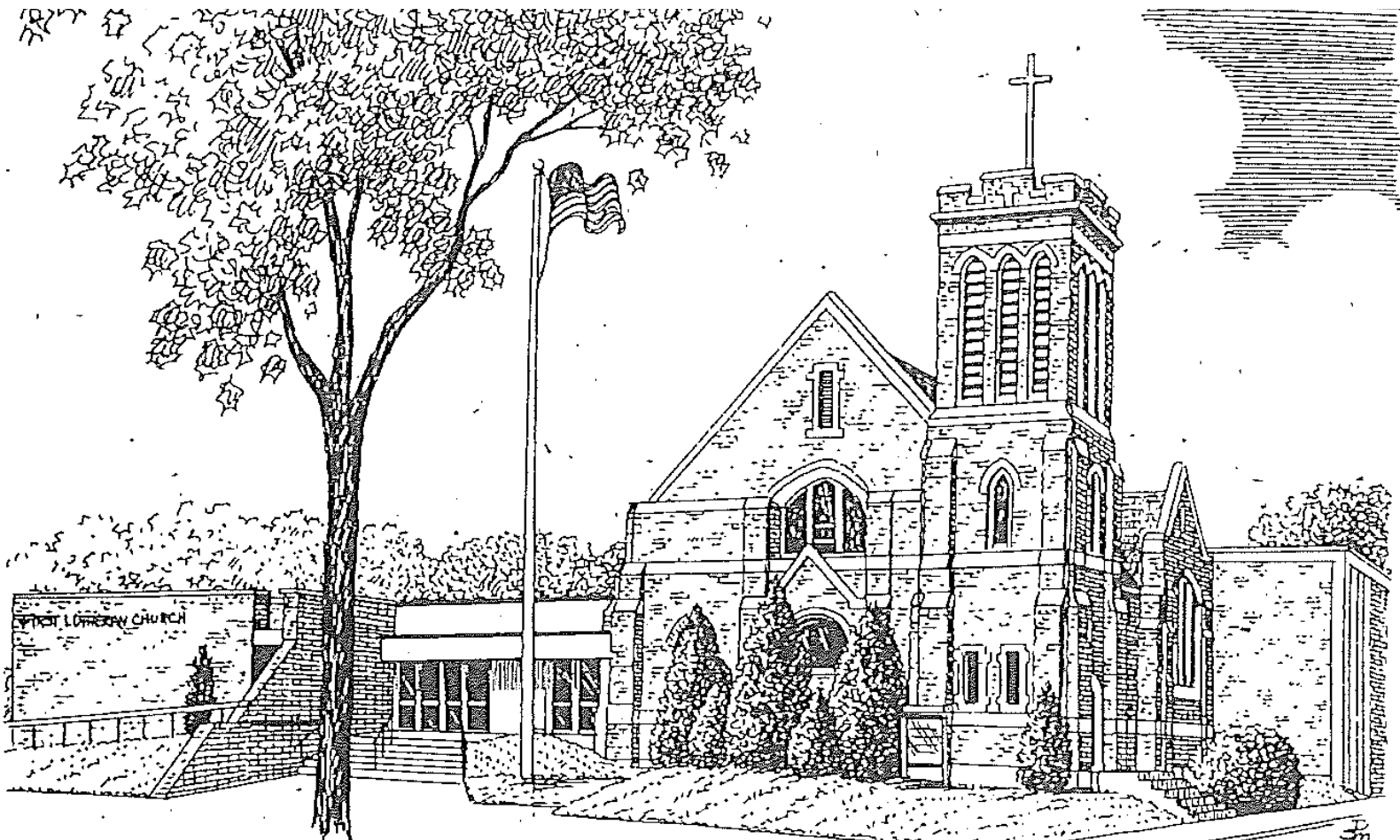


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