



# The Visitor

May 2022  
Spring 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](http://www.facebook.com/firsthibbing)**

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

*Genesis 1:11-12 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.*

Spring has sprung for us in Northern Minnesota! Everywhere we look there are signs of new life. Flowers, plants and trees are emerging from their long winter slumber to brighten our world and invite us to ponder the beauty and majesty of God's creation. It is no wonder that this special time of year coincides with nationally and internationally recognized days of environmental awareness and appreciation. Recently, on April 22nd over 192 countries participated in Earth Day. In addition, Arbor Day is also celebrated every year on the last Friday in April. Since 1978, the month of May has been declared to be Arbor Month in Minnesota. The warmer weather in May allows newly planted trees to get off to a good start. Trees provide the world with numerous benefits. To name a few, trees help manage stormwater and keep our water clean. Trees filter the air so we can breathe easy. Trees provide food and habitat for other creatures. Trees are also beautiful and increase the quality of life for all. So, let's embrace this time of year and let's embrace our call to be good stewards of earth. Let's plant some trees.

This past year during confirmation class, our young people have been hard at work learning about God, the Biblical story, theology, and they've been learning how to live their lives as faithful people. They've learned that part of our baptismal promises include the responsibility of caring for God and the world God made. (refer to page 228 of the cranberry hymnal). Genesis 2:15 also teaches important lessons. This verse teaches us, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." The Hebrew word (*ah-bahd*) is often translated as "till," but "serve" is actually a better translation. The implication here is that humans shouldn't just use and take from the environment, but we should *serve* it and act in ways that sustain its wellbeing. In this verse, God also expects the man to "keep" the garden. The Hebrew word for keep is (*shamar*) and can also be translated as "guard," "take care of," or "look after." *Shamar* indicates a loving, caring, sustaining kind of keeping. Every Sunday at the end of our worship service I say, "May the Lord bless you and keep you..." Every Sunday, we declare God's blessing to all and we call on God to *keep* us. In essence we are asking God to lovingly guard us, take care of us, and look after us. In turn, God asks us to do the same for God's creation.

Our young people would like to invite the wider congregation to participate in creation-care together. Church leaders have arranged to acquire some white spruce saplings which will be available after worship this month to take and plant. As an extension of this invitation, if you need physical assistance with planting the tree(s) please ask Pastor Erik and he will coordinate young people to help.

Your co-worker in Christ ~ Pastor Erik





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## Happy Birthday to the following congregants!!!

5/2-Molly Cencich  
 5/3-Suzanne Rian  
 5/4-Larry Tuin, Francis Panula  
 5/5-Russell Carlson  
 5/6-Bubba Chacich, Reid Wherland  
 5/7-Logan Kasola, Emily Moen  
 5/8-Beverly Jenko  
 5/9-Kristin Renskers, Ethan Lund  
 5/10-Diane Riihiluoma  
 5/11-John Rue, Loren Middlestead, Emily Johnson, Ann Vucetich  
 5/12-Erica Rantala, Peter Hoertsch  
 5/13-Blake Kolden  
 5/15-Irene Auel

5/16-Joe Rutherford, Carolyn Pingatore  
 5/17-Sue Sundvall, Addilynn Foster, Madelyn Moen  
 5/18-Ardythe Johnson  
 5/20-Kobie Zgonc, Emma Otto  
 5/22-Muriel Scofield  
 5/24-Gage Rantala  
 5/25-John Marinac, Nancy White  
 5/27-Duane Maki, Lois Pulis  
 5/28-Lori Vincent  
 5/30-Dan Anderson, Amanda Walters  
 5/31-Karen Podominick, Carly Bautch

### 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.

#### **Ways to give:**

- 1) Mail in offering to the church
  - 2) Drop off offering in our mail slot on the office door
  - 3) Give online- Download the Give Plus app or find the link on our website: [www.firsthibbing.org](http://www.firsthibbing.org)
- Again, thank you for all the ways you support the ministry here at First Lutheran!

March: \$12,215.00

April: \$10,719.00

**GIVE  
PLUS+**

### "Strengthen Our Foundation"

**As of March 31st, 2022** the total amount that has been contributed to the campaign is **\$52,421.00**. We would like to thank everyone who has continued to donate to this fund, but at this time until this COVID-19 is over, we will suspend the campaign so we can focus on the day to day general expenses of the church. We will continue to give updates in the bulletins and newsletters on our campaign efforts and funds raised so that all are aware of the progress and how close we have come to our goal when all is said and done. Our goal for this campaign will be to raise \$150,000 to help cover some of the costs of the repairs and projects that were recently completed (and for future projects). We appreciate any and all help we can get in helping maintain our beautiful building! God bless!



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,

**Upcoming 2022  
VLM Young Adult  
Ministry Events**

Located in Northern Minnesota

 **March 5 Guided Snowshoe Hike**  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
Jay Cooke State Park  
Snowshoes available for use

**May 20-21 'Backyard' Camping and Canoeing**  
7pm Friday-3pm Saturday  
Historic Scott House  
Carlton, MN 

 **July 23 Superior Hiking Trail: Bean & Bear Lake**  
Explore the Northshore on the Superior Hiking Trail  
Roughly 7 mile loop trail

**August 7-13 Boundary Waters Canoe Trip**  
Based out of Camp Vermilion  
Paddle and Portage through the BWCW in Minnesota 

 **Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Fall Retreat at Camp**  
Camp Hiawatha  
7pm Friday-11am Sunday  
Rest, Renew, Recharge

**All Events Open to  
Young Adults Ages 18-35**  
vlmcamps.org/yam

**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  
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### **April Council Meeting recap**

C

alled to order by Lynn Schweiberger @ 11:09 am. Present: Pastor Erik Roth, Lynn Schweiberger, Stephanie Skraba, Nancy White, Kay Dague, Mary Maki, Connie Bryant, and Dave Peterson.

Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczyk. Absent: Sandy Carlson and Gen Lervik.

Property Committee Report: Wall in the basement still needs to be fixed but it is dry, no leaks. No update on painting offices and kitchenette remodel. Door on the north side will be repaired at no charge by Arrow Auto.

Old Business: Steph meeting with call committee this week, surveys were done last week. Linda Smith to lead Sunday, May 1st while Pastor is at Synod Assembly.

New Business: Connie will open the church on May 1st for service. Money was donated to the church and designated for spring projects. Suggested was: Flowers and landscaping, carpet in the entry needs cleaning, painting the outside office door, bushes trimmed. Jeff Hakala from Thrivent to come to next council meeting-update on investments.

Pastoral Updates: 50 trees for members to take to plant. Confirmation kids to help if needed. Pastor at Synod Assembly May 1st, Camp Bible Study for May 26th. All are invited to join. Bible study from 9:30-12 then pizza lunch and possible boat ride weather permitting. Pastor to join Zoom meetings for Festival of Homiletics May 16th-20th. Pastor Erik led the council in The Lord's Prayer and meeting was adjourned at 11:37.

May 15th, 2022 is next Council Meeting.





### Camp Vermilion Day Trip

We have a day trip booked to Camp Vermilion on Thursday, May 26th. We will depart from the church at 8:00am, arrive at Camp Vermilion and have a bible study in Voyageur Lodge. We will then have a brick oven pizza lunch. We will possibly take a boat ride, weather permitting or have the opportunity to walk the grounds of the camp and enjoy nature. We will depart around 3:00pm to come back to the church. **Please call the office to sign up for this trip.** We will be carpooling to the camp, so let us know if you want to drive. The cost will be \$25/person. This should be a fun day to get together and see the beauty of spring!

This year we will not have an "All Daughter's Banquet". Instead, we would like to have a girl's night out for all ages at a restaurant. We are planning this for mid-May, during the week, in the evening. We hope to have a good turn-out. We are looking to have a good time with our ladies of the church, where no one has to clean the kitchen! **Please call the office to let us know if you are interested so we can pick a date and place!**



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND HAVE  
GIRLS  
NIGHT OUT!**

**GARAGE  
SALE** 

**Items Needed!!!**

We are currently taking donations for the spring garage sale. As of now, we are still in need of "stuff" in order to hold the sale. If you are doing some "spring cleaning" in your home and are looking to get rid of items in your house, please consider donating them to the church for our sale. You can also request a tax donation form. If you need help getting it to the church, call the office and Rian will connect you to someone who can help. Check the bulletin announcements for the date of the sale! Thank you to all who have donated so far! We are well on our way to setting a date!



WELCA stands for Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. If you are a woman and part of the church then you are part of WELCA. Our mission is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. This organization functions in local, synod, and churchwide settings. Here at First Lutheran we have an active group of women who support each other and the church in doing God's work. We actively raise monies that go back into our community to help others. All women are welcome. To find out more, ask in the church office for the number for the president.

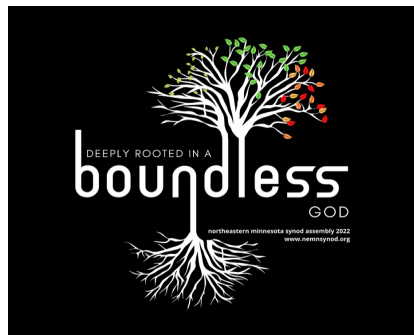
### WELCA Updates

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- To donate to the Ukrainian Crisis, go to [ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster). Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. There are forms in the Narthex at the church if you would prefer to mail a check.



### **"Solidarity for Ukraine Quilt"**

This beautiful quilt, displayed in the Fellowship Hall, was made by Barb Tanem. This quilt along with another that Barb made, will be going to the Synod Assembly for auction. All monies will go to World Hunger. This year's Synod Assembly will be held at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd on April 29th-May 1st. To see the quilts or to place a bid go to: [nemnquilts2022.givesmart.com](https://nemnquilts2022.givesmart.com)



### **Announcements:**



**Property Committee-** Please call the office if you are interested in being a part of the Property committee. We are very thankful to Forrest and Paul for all they do, and we would like to get some additional help! There are spring projects coming up and would love to have some more input and help to facilitate these projects!

**Sunday Volunteers-** Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex after service or call the office to volunteer! All Sundays in May are open for all volunteer spots. We need readers, greeters 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!!

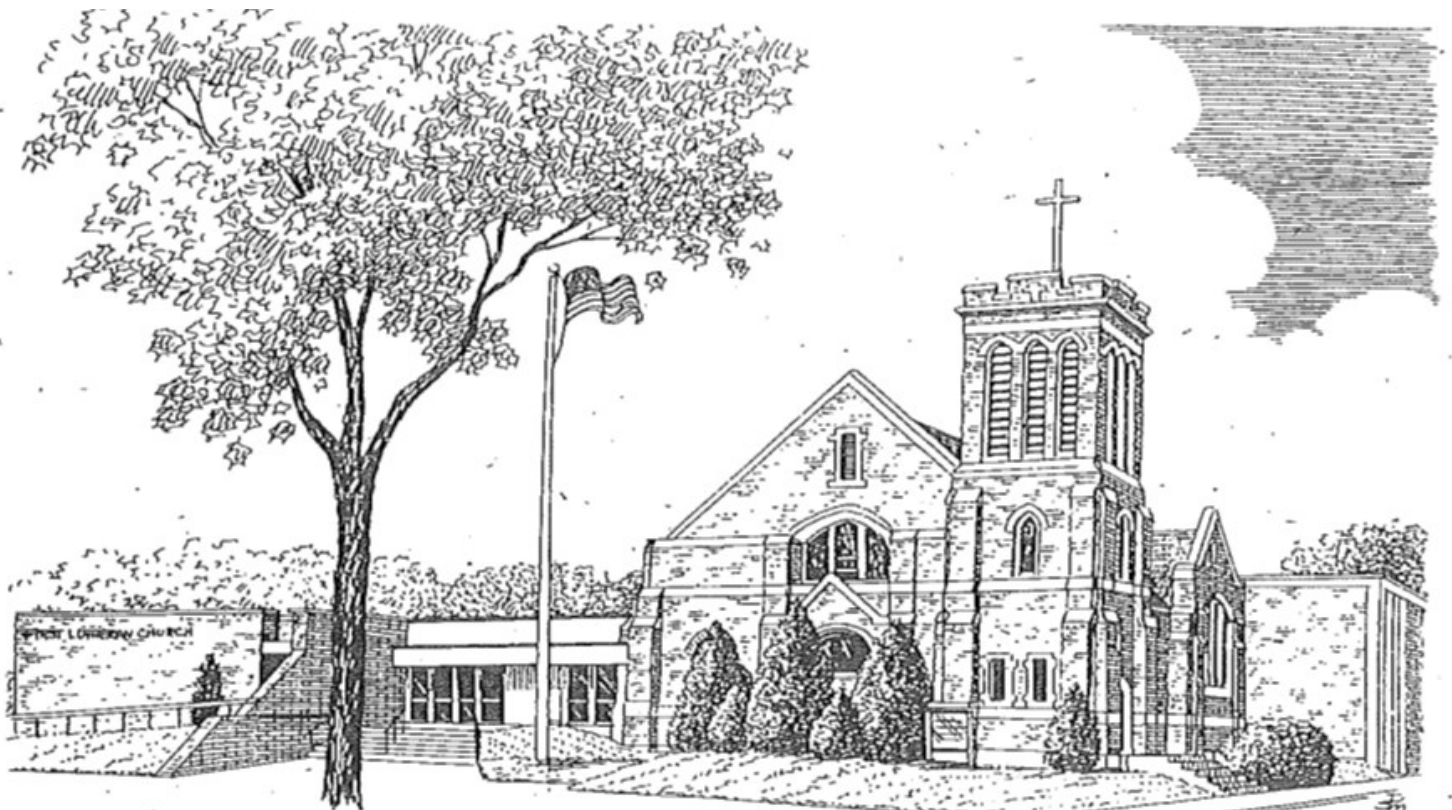
**Sunday Broadcasts-** If you would like to donate a broadcast in memory or honor of someone, please call the office. This helps with the cost of our audio/visual staff and maintenance.



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**Permit No. 157**

## THE VISITOR

First Lutheran Church  
2201 Third Avenue East  
Hibbing, MN 55746



First Lutheran Church

Hibbing, Minnesota