



FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

November 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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Email Rian: rianjohnson@firsthibbing.org
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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

Tuesdays

11:00 am Lunch & Learn
Bible Study and Lunch

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

I was thinking the other day about the simple act of setting out our clothes for the next day. It has become part of our family's nighttime routine. In a one bathroom house with two young kids and two adults who need to get ready for school and work in the morning, we need all the help we can get to stay organized and on time.

So, one of the things we do is we pick out the clothes we're going to wear for the next day before we go to bed. Choosing clothes seems simple enough, but sometimes making those choices can be overwhelming, especially if you're still tired or a little crabby. You know how finding that one unpaired sock at the very last minute can be the straw that breaks the camel's back. So, we eliminate those struggles, or at least we try to deal with them when we have a little more time, and do it the night before.

But putting out our clothes for tomorrow presumes that there will be a tomorrow. Or at least, a tomorrow that I'll wake up for. But the fact is, none of us knows whether we live till tomorrow or if today is our last day. Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) summed it up nicely when she said: "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not promised. We have only today, so let us begin."

November usually brings a sense of mortality along with it, as we begin the month with the Feast of All Saints. On that day (this year, November 5), we remember those members and friends who have died in the last year and we give thanks to God for them. We also gather a little more aware of that great cloud of witnesses described in Hebrews 12:1, the people of God throughout the ages who have died in the friendship of God – from Abraham and Sarah, the Virgin Mary and Joseph, Peter and Paul, Mary Magdalene and Phoebe, Francis and Clare of Assisi, to Katharina von Bora and Martin Luther . . . the list goes on and on.

The natural world around us reminds us as well that there is an end to all things. The lake we were swimming in a few weeks ago is freezing over, the fishing poles and kayaks stored away. The playground once full of laughing children is stiff and silent. Leaves blow away before we can bag them up, before the white pall of winter covers mother earth – sleeping, hibernating, dying.

It can all be a little depressing, and honestly it is for some of us. We'll be breaking out our Seasonal Affective Disorder lamps and taking our Vitamin D. And the reminders of friends and family who are no longer with us – especially as the two big "family" holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas) approach – can be really difficult.

That's why it's important to remember that there is always something more happening just where we can't quite see it yet. When that lake is frozen over so thick you can drive a truck over it, remember that there are fish swimming around down there. That lonely frozen playground is just taking a much-needed break until a new batch of kids discovers its slides and monkey bars this Spring. Those family and friends we have said goodbye to – remember that one day we shall joyfully greet them again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself. I like to imagine those saints – not looking down and watching us (that idea has always bothered me) – but they're looking around heaven, enjoying each other's friendship in the presence of God, ready to greet us when our time comes to go home.

And until that time, we'll just keep laying out tomorrow's clothes the night before as a little sign of hope in a day called "today", no matter what "today" might look like. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not promised. We have only today, so let us begin.

Peace and all good.
+ Pastor John Dietz

Join us this All Saints Sunday to remember with thanksgiving our friends who are at home in God's peace.
CANDY DUNCAN + DELORES GILBERT + JOANN KOSCHAK + GERALD TOWNER + JOHN OLSON
EVELYN HOAGLUN + BETTY LOU STALBOERGER + JERI JOHANNESSEN + JANICE FAIRBANKS

Worship God

Service of Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:30 am

Join us every Sunday for worship. We gather around the means of God's grace — the Word and Sacrament — every Sunday at 9:30 am. Doors are open by 8:30 am. Gathering for worship is at the heart of Lutherans identity. If you can't be with us in person, make sure to watch on Hibbing Public Access or YouTube (information on the front cover).

Volunteers and Ministers of the Liturgy

Every Sunday we gather for worship, you might notice that there are a lot of people who make it happen. Would you like to be one of them? Readers proclaim the reading and psalm. Assisting Ministers help distribute the Holy Communion. The Altar Guild sets up for and cleans up after the Communion. Ushers and Greeters welcome people into the sanctuary with a smile and a worship bulletin, and let them know when to go up for Communion. Altar Servers (usually kids, but they don't have to be) light the candles and carry the cross in and out of the sanctuary. Audio-Visual makes sure our services are broadcast on HPAT and YouTube. Fellowship Hosts make sure we all have coffee following worship. If you'd like to get involved in any of these ministries, please sign up and if you need help or encouragement, talk to the pastor.

Hanging of the Greens

November 26

Following worship on Sunday, November 26, we will hold a Hanging of the Greens event in the sanctuary and narthex. We will be setting up for the Advent-Christmas season which begins on Sunday, December 3. Christmas Trees, garland, candles ... parents whose kids are in Sunday School and Confirmation students, we would love to see you there!

Grow in Faith

Breakfast Book Club

November 9

We are enjoying our monthly Breakfast Book Club and would love for you to join in. Our next meeting takes place on Thursday, November 9. We'll meet at 8:30 am – at the Sportsman's – enjoy a meal together, and talk about part 2 of "Rachel Held Evan's "Wholehearted Faith."

Hymn Sing Sunday

November 19th

On Sunday, November 19, we'll be having another "Hymn Sing" Sunday. Parts of the sung liturgy will be replaced with hymns. Do you have a favorite hymn that we haven't sung in a while? Let Pastor John know.

Fall Sermon Series

September — November

We're announcing a Fall Sermon Series based on Jesus' own Sermon on the Mount from Matthew chapters 5 — 7. Each week we'll look at what Jesus said about the upside down kingdom of God, and how following him will not only change our lives, but change the world we live in. Join us for "LIKE JESUS – A Series on the Sermon on the Mount."

November's Lectionary Readings

November 5 ♦ All Saints Sunday – Pray like Jesus
Isaiah 40:6-11 | Psalm 23 | Philippians 4:4-9 | Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34

November 12 ♦ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Judge Like Jesus
Isaiah 42:5-9 | Psalm 96 | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | Matthew 7:1-5

November 19 ♦ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Live like Jesus
Jeremiah 17:5-10 | Psalm 112 | Ephesians 1:11-23 | Matthew 7:7-14

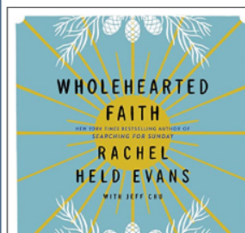
November 26 ♦ Christ the King Sunday – Build like Jesus
Isaiah 66:1-2 | Psalm 127 | 1 Peter 2:2-10 | Matthew 7:15-29

BREAKFAST BOOK CLUB

Meeting: 8:30 am on Thursday, November 9 at the Sportsman's Restaurant

Discussing: Part Two of 'Wholehearted Faith' by Rachel Held Evans

Call 218-263-8388 to have a book ordered



November Lunch & Learn

November 14 & 28

We invite you to our Lunch & Learn events this October, gathering most Tuesdays at 11:00 am to check-in with each other and then dive into a topic. Bring your own lunch to enjoy!



Sunday School Classes

We are offering a Sunday School program this year for all of our members and friends ages 3 and up through grade 5. Classes are being held every Sunday except for holidays and school breaks. Students leave worship after helping out with the final blessing and dismissal and go directly to their classes with their teachers where they will enjoy snack and a Bible lesson, usually mixed in with some art, music, video, and games. Classes will be held on November 5, 12 & 19.

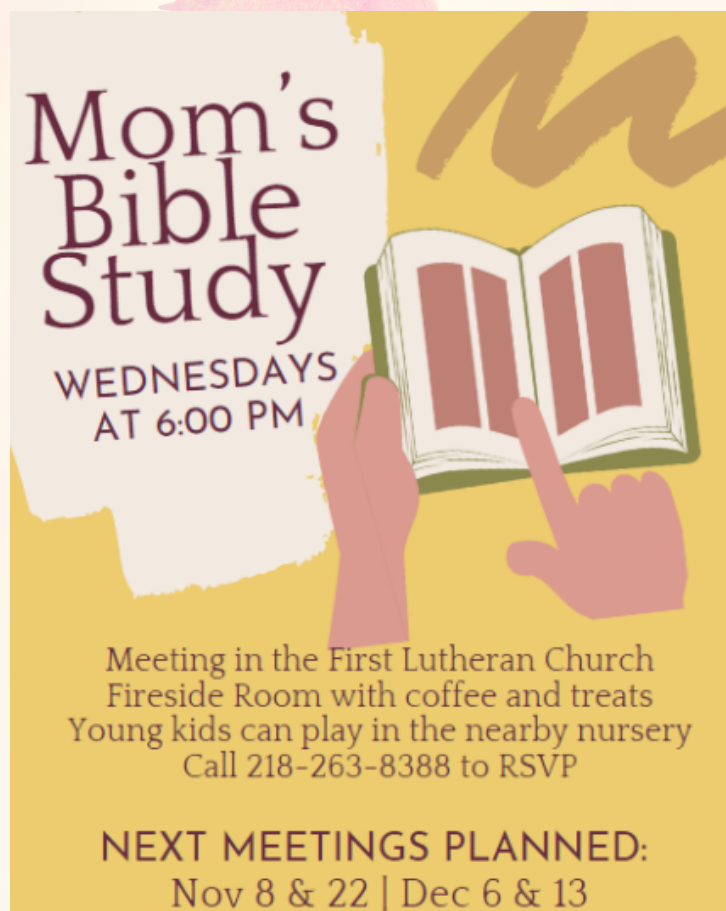
Silent Auction

Check out the generous donations from area businesses and parishioners! Silent auction items are located in the narthex. Proceeds from the auction will go to our Youth Program for different activities. Bidding for the silent auction can be done October 26th-December 9th. You can check out these items during the smorgasbord tomorrow 4:30-6:30, Sundays, or any weekday during office hours. Bids must be made in person at First Lutheran Church.

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation classes — a Sunday morning and a Wednesday evening format — are being offered this year. Sunday classes are from 10:30-11:30 am, and on Wednesdays we meet from 6:00-7:00 pm. All classes meet in the third floor classroom.

Sundays	Wednesdays
Nov 5: Class # 4	Nov 8: Class # 4
Nov 12: Class # 5	Nov 15: Class # 5
Nov 19: Class # 6	Nov 22: No Class
Nov 26: No Class	Nov 29: Class # 6



MOM's Bible Study

November 8 & 22

Moms of school-aged children who are looking for a time to connect with each other and the Bible are welcome to this new group forming in the Fall. Women will be meeting a couple of Wednesdays each month from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. If you are bringing your kids, they are invited to play in the nursery. There is nothing to prepare before hand — just come and enjoy the time together.

Build Community



Parish Bowling

November 19

Join us for parish bowling on Sunday, November 19. We'll meet for a game or two at 12:00 pm. Freewill donation to cover pizzas. Games and shoes on your own. This event is open to everyone – come bowl, eat, or just hang out and watch! In October, we had seventeen bowlers of all ages join us!

Movie Day

We're hosting a church movie day at the Hibbing Mann 8 Theater. Following the community's Veterans Day ceremony, we will gather at the Theater to watch a great family movie – the original 1990 Home Alone. Cost is \$7.50 per person and concessions are on your own. We will be playing a special Home Alone BINGO with prizes. Everyone is invited to enjoy this time together – a great way to spend the day off from school and to support our local theater! Spread the word!



Building and Grounds Updates

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Building Fund. The work is ongoing! For nearly a month, Range Cornice and Roofing Company was on top of the sanctuary removing the old shingles and replacing them with a beautiful metal roof, including a new heated gutter system that will help move water away from the building. Unfortunately, over time, water has found its way into the building. There has been seeping into the basement where water wasn't draining properly from the courtyard, but recently we have had water damage to the walls and roof of the sanctuary. Hopefully the new roof will take care of all these issues from here on out!

Beginning in late October, major repairs will start in the office/ education addition. The inefficient windows, now nearly 75 years old, have been letting heat out in the winter, and in the summer they allow heat in, baking the offices and classrooms. Those windows are all being replaced. Following that major project, members of the church will be renovating the office kitchenette. The old stovetop-sink-refrigerator unit is available if anyone would like it for their cabin or hunting shack.



Serve the Neighbor

Second Sunday Collections

Care Cupboard

November 12

Thanks to everyone who has been donating items for the Care Cupboard and dropping their change in the Noisy Offering in the buckets on the second Sundays of each month. For the month of November, we would like to continue to stock our emergency care cupboard with gift cards and supplies such as non-perishable food products, personal hygiene items such as soap and toothbrushes and toothpaste, bedding, clothing, and winter wear.

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! Thank you to everyone who gave generously to last month's general fund and building fund. Together, we make ministry happen here at First Lutheran Church!

General offerings:

November: \$10,242.28

Building fund offerings:

November: \$1,580.00

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

Quilters

The Quilters are meeting faithfully each week. If you'd like to be a part of this fun group that does amazing work, talk to Barb Tanem or just stop in on a Monday at 1:00 pm. Quilts made here find their way around the country and the world as sources of warmth, security, and even housing for people experiencing homelessness, tragedy, or warfare. All skill levels are welcome!

Snowbirds

If you are one of our "snowbird" members or friends, please let us know in the office when you'll be taking off for the Winter. Before we know it, some of you have already headed down to Florida or Arizona. You're important to us – no matter where you're at!

THANK
YOU!

November Birthdays

November 2nd:

London Schnortz, Dawson Peterson

November 4th:

Patti Frand, Lucille Tiburzi

November 11th:

Breelyn Stimac

November 12th:

Thomas Grabanski, Renae Grabanski,
Kate Jensen, Stella Schweiberger

November 13th:

Ryley Lund

November 14th:

Rick Paolo, Peggy Hudson

November 16th:

Bill Clymer

November 19th:

Hanna Knuckey

November 21st:

Julie Bartek

November 22nd:

John Schweiberger

November 23rd:

Bristol Fink, Angela Schweiberger

November 25th:

Mike Hill, George Maras, Ryan Nehring, Tammy Jones

November 26th:

Gianna Tokarczyk

November 27th:





Zach Bryant

November 28th:

John Rian, Jordan Otto, Evangeline Rivall

*October's Council meeting will not be in the newsletter. It was not held before the newsletter was printed.

NOVEMBER · 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p> <p>TRUST LIKE JESUS</p> <p>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p> <p>9:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am SS Class</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Confirmation Class # 4</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor at Clergy Retreat</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm AI/Anon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 am Budget Executive Council Meeting</p> <p>John CF Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommenson, missionaries</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No Wednesday Confirmation Class</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor at Clergy Retreat</p> <p>Commemoration of the Faithful Departed</p> <p>ALL SAINTS DAY</p>	<p>3</p> <p>St. Martin de Porres, <i>renewer of society</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p></p>
<p>12</p> <p>JUDGE LIKE JESUS</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS</p> <p>9:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am SS Class</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Confirmation Class # 5</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm AI/Anon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 am Lunch & Learn Bible Study</p> <p>4:00 pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 pm Wednesday Confirmation Class # 5</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 am Laurentian Conference Pastors & Deacons Meeting</p> <p>3:00 pm Lutheran Eucharist at Guardian Angels</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, <i>renewer of society</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p></p>
<p>19</p> <p>LIVE LIKE JESUS</p> <p>HYMN SING SUNDAY</p> <p>9:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am SS Class</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Confirmation Class # 6</p> <p>12:00 pm Parish Bowling</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm AI/Anon</p> <p><i>Newsletter Information due to the office</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm SAFE meeting</p> <p></p>	<p>22</p> <p>No Confirmation Class</p> <p>6:00 pm Mom's Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Isaac Watts, <i>hymnwriter</i></p>
<p>26</p> <p>BUILD LIKE JESUS</p> <p>CHRIST THE KING</p> <p>9:30 am Worship followed by Hanging of the Greens & Fellowship</p> <p>No SS or Conf Classes</p> <p>10:45 am Council Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm AI/Anon</p> <p><i>Newsletter Mailing</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 am Lunch & Learn Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 pm Wednesday Confirmation Class # 6</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ST. ANDREW Apostle</p> <p></p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>Bombich – Simonson Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:00 pm Emily Bombich – Brian Simonson Wedding</p>

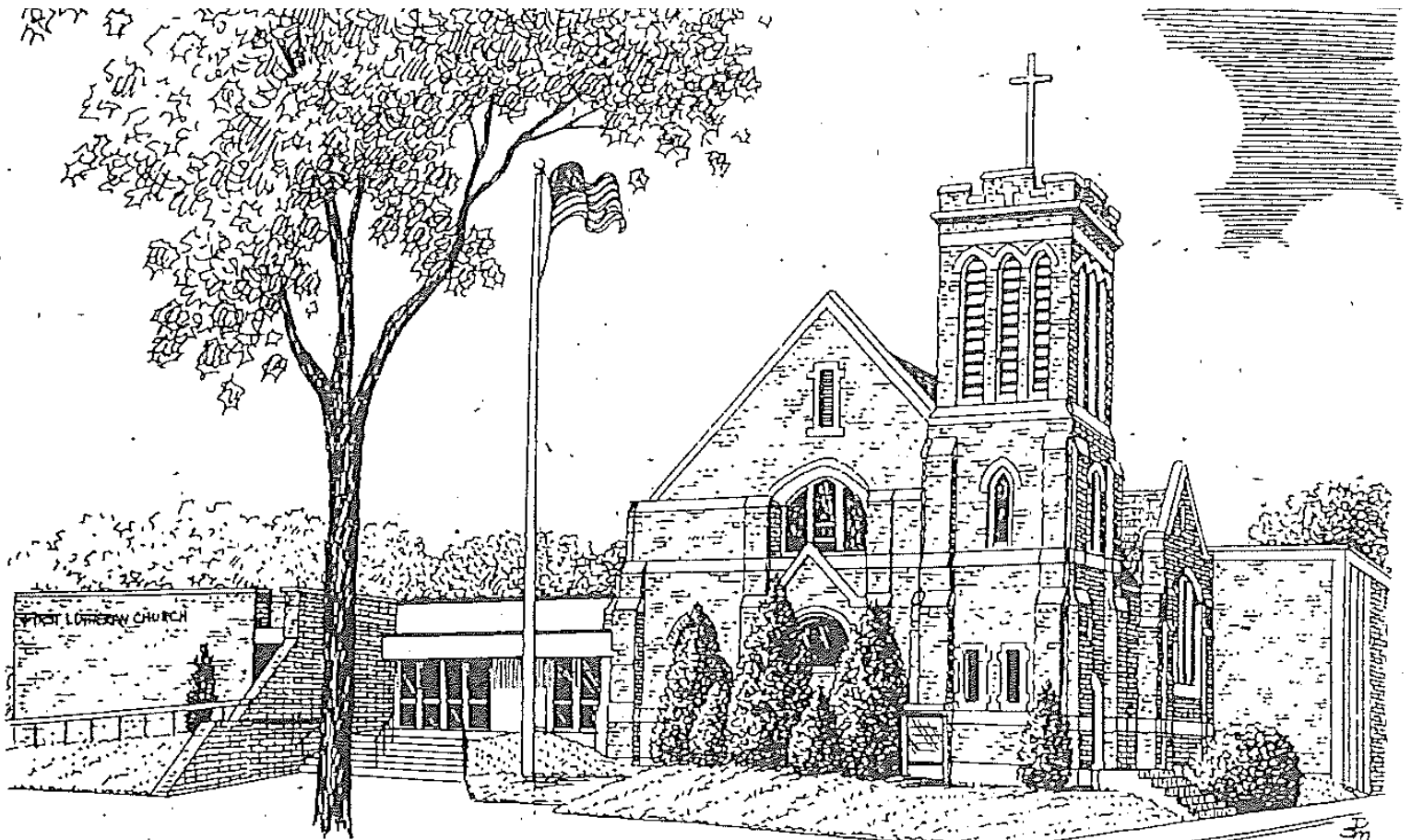


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