



# FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

October 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

2201 Third Avenue East  
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Call the office: 218-263-8388  
Email Rian: rianjohnson@firsthibbing.org  
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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*

### 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

Now is the acceptable time.

2 Corinthians 6:2

We're always looking for the right time to make a change in our lives. We put it on the calendar: New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday, my Birthday ... or we think, "OK, when the new school year starts and the kids are back to school," or "when we get that extra hour of sleep on Daylight Savings," (November 5, by the way) or ... "this weekend, this Monday, this paycheck" ... Somehow we keep putting off those things that we need to deal with. Something always "comes up" that prevents us from getting a start ... or we start and get distracted or discouraged and then we give up.

Last year at about this time I decided to write a "Rule of Life." That sounds so serious, and I guess it can be. A Rule of Life is not a legalistic set of things I have to do or not do. It isn't something someone else is requiring me to do. In this case, "Rule" is more of a guide. It's something you develop to keep you on track with your goals, shaped by your values and faith.

Some rules include goals for Sabbath: I will worship at least x times a month; I will not check work emails and phone messages until Monday; I will have Sunday dinner with my family ... Some rules are more general: Spend one hour outdoors each day; write one letter to a friend or family member each week; limit screen time to an hour each day ...

You can see the benefits of writing a Rule of Life — because once you've written it, it's there for you to read and be reminded and encouraged and challenged by. But if you don't write it, it's just ideas, nice thoughts, good intentions.

Writing a Rule of Life is something I have been aware of for a while. It comes out of the monastic tradition where monks and nuns live their lives by a Rule (like the Benedictines and Franciscans) as individuals and in community. Recently I began hearing more about it, and even found some pretty popular books on the subject. And as I became more interested in the idea, I finally decided to write one — like I said: last year at about this time.

Sure, I gave it thought, and had some good ideas, and was very well intentioned ... but I never took the time to think it through and write it out like I wanted to do. And I can come up with all the excuses in the world, but instead I'm going to make that one of the values of my Rule of Life: stop making excuses for what you haven't done, and just do it.

So, in October I will be writing what needs to be written. And maybe you will, too. No time like the present. As St. Paul wrote: "NOW is the acceptable time!" (And "now" is whenever you are reading this.) You're never too old or young to start thinking about how you can better live into your faith and values. As they say, we either make our priorities and set our schedules, or someone or something else will do it for you.

Peace and all good.

Pr. John Dietz



# 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.

## Native American Sunday

October 8

The Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod has named the second Sunday of October Native American Sunday. On this day, we invite all people to worship God, and to recognize, confess, and lament the sin of racism that has caused trauma to the Indigenous peoples on whose traditional homelands we live, work, and worship.

## Hymn Sing Sunday

October 15

On Sunday, October 15, 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."

## October's Lectionary Readings

■ October 1 – Promise Like Jesus  
Saint Francis of Assisi  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 + Psalm 85:7-13 + 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 + Matt. 5:27-32

■ October 8 – Swear Like Jesus  
Native American Sunday  
Jeremiah 31:31-34 + Ps. 15 + Ephesians 4:1-6 + Matt. 5:33-37

■ October 15 – Love Like Jesus  
Hymn Sing Sunday  
Leviticus 19:1-3, 11-18 + Ps. 91 + 1 John 4:7-12 + Mt. 5:38-48

■ October 22 – Give Like Jesus  
Isaiah 58:2-7 + Ps. 34:1-18 + Ephesians 2:4-10 + Matt. 6:1-4, 16-18

■ October 29 – Pray Like Jesus  
Reformation Sunday  
Isaiah 6:1-8 + Ps. 121 + 1 Thessalonians 5:13b-19 + Matt. 6:5-15

## Grow in Faith

### October Lunch & Learn

October 3, 17, and 31

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!

### Breakfast Book Club

October 12

We are just in the beginning stages of starting a monthly Breakfast Book Club and would love for you to join in. Our second meeting will happen on Thursday, October 12. We'll meet at 8:30 am – at the Sportsman's – enjoy a meal together, and talk about part 1 of Rachel Held Evan's "Wholehearted Faith." If you'd like to just join us sign up for the second meeting at the Welcome Table.

LEARN  
and  
grow

LUNCH  
TIME





## Northeastern Minnesota Synod Event

Saturday, October 14

Walking Together 2023 is an opportunity for us to learn from encounters with Christ through the stories of ministries happening right here in Northeastern Minnesota Synod. This is a great way to celebrate the work of the Spirit and be inspired to do God's work in this time and place!

Cost: \$30/person

Oct 14 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

[Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids](#)

Contact Deacon Colleen Bernu at 218-724-4424

## Confirmation Family Retreat

October 6-7

We will be heading to Camp Hiawatha for a fun evening of food and fellowship, campfire and worship on Friday, October 6, wake up to a great camp breakfast and get involved in some of the service projects on camp workday, heading home after lunch on Saturday, October 7. Parents, we will need drivers and chaperones — consider joining us for this great time! All families are welcome!

# Build Community

## Fellowship

Make fellowship a commitment this Fall. Please consider signing up to host fellowship — it can be as involved or as simple as you'd like to make it. Coffee is the main thing, and everything else is a bonus. Sign-ups are at the Welcome Table. Join us in the fellowship hall for the coffee and whatever else there may be and enjoy the conversation. It's great to see so many people sticking around and building up the caring community we are here at First Lutheran. Remember, if there are name tags and markers at the tables, put one on so we can be intentional about getting to know our visitors and newer members and they can get to know us.

## Sunday School Classes

We are excited to be 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 will 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 October 1, 8, 15 & 29.

## Confirmation Ministry

This year, we are experimenting with offering two options for Confirmation classes — a Sunday morning and a Wednesday evening format. Families will need to choose which format will work for them. Sunday classes are from 10:30-11:30 am, and on Wednesdays we meet from 6:00-7:00 pm. All classes will meet in the third floor classroom.

| <i>Sundays</i>    | <i>Wednesdays</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Oct 1: Class # 1  | Oct 4: Class # 1  |
| Oct 8: Class # 2  | Oct 11: Class # 2 |
| Oct 15: Class # 3 | Oct 18: Class # 3 |
| Oct 22: No Class  | Oct 25: No Class  |
| Oct 29: No Class  | Nov 1: No Class   |

## Women's Bible Study

October 11 & 25

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.

## Parish Bowling

October 8

Join us for parish bowling on Sunday, October 8. 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!

## Bonfire at Redhead Park

October 15

We'll meet at the Redhead Mountain Bike Park for a fun bonfire on Sunday, Oct 15 at 5:00 pm. All 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!

## **Smörgåsbord**

Put it on your calendar – 4:30-6:30 pm, Thursday, October 26 – First Lutheran is hosting our annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord. One of the few churches in our area still holding a traditional meal like this, people come here from all around to enjoy the food and the fellowship. Tickets are \$16/ adult and \$9/ kids 12 and under. Make sure you come and bring a friend!



## **Sunday School Halloween Fellowship** October 29

All kids (of any age) are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to worship and Sunday School on Sunday, Oct 29. During class your teachers will bring you to the Fellowship Hall where you can trick-or-treat from table to table.

## **Second Sunday Collections**

Care Cupboard  
October 8

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 October, 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.

## **EcoFaith Ministry: Salsa!**

This summer we were able to start work on the Pollinator Plot out front and the Giving Garden in the courtyard. Thanks to everyone who took part in the Salsa Making party this Fall. Salsa will be available for purchase at the Bazaar. Thanks, especially, to Jane Plese, Barb Tanem, Ann Vucetich, Ashley Dietz, Scott Skraba, and Paula Kangas!

## **Building and Grounds Updates**

This work has begun here at First Lutheran Church! It’s hard to miss – but in case you haven’t been around to see it for yourself: Range Cornice has been installing a new metal roof over the sanctuary, and re-building the gutters. This work, which will cost around \$80,000. Another major project, with an \$89,000 approved budget, is the replacement of windows and panels on the West side of the office building. This should be done before the snow falls. HPU and Iron Range Plumbing are still helping us developing a plan for a more efficient heating system. Other work that has happened this Fall already includes the replacement of all the building’s door locks – so if your key doesn’t work, that’s why! Dan Wherland has been busy painting the exterior of the Fellowship Hall/ Sunday School addition, and will be repairing water damage to the plaster work in the sanctuary once the roof is done. We are also waiting on replacements for some of the broken or very old parsonage windows. We are grateful for all of your generous donations that are making all of this work possible. If you would like to make a contribution towards the Building Fund, you would be helping First Lutheran maintain and care for one of our great assets – this beautiful and historic building in the heart of Hibbing.



## **Serve the Neighbor**

### **Quilters**

The Quilters are meeting again starting in September. 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!

### **LSS Diaper Drive**

The Lutheran Social Service Family Resource Center in Virginia, serving families across the Iron Range, is in desperate need of diapers, wipes, and baby supplies/ clothing of any size. If you have items to donate, you can bring them to the church and we will get them to the resource center so they can be put to use. Thank you!



## october birthdays

**October 2nd:**  
Cheryl Forstrom  
**October 3rd:**  
Gracie Stimac  
**October 4th:**  
Jackie Prescott  
**October 5th:**  
Todd Stavnes  
**October 6th:**  
Art Lind, Bonnie Duncan  
**October 7th:**  
Delores Johnson, Carly Kolden  
**October 8th:**  
Steph Weyrauch  
**October 12th:**  
Ruby Plese  
**October 13th:**  
Tore Tuin, Amy Fearing, Conner Perkins  
**October 15th:**  
Michelle Stilnovich, Elliana Kasola, Jordan Jespersion

**October 17th:**  
Olivia Ridlon  
**October 19th:**  
Dawn Lind, Jim Kolden  
**October 20th:**  
Sandra Warner, Tommy Mandt, Diane Rindahl  
**October 21st:**  
Ben Castagneri  
**October 23rd:**  
Jane Plese  
**October 25th:**  
Steven Leslie, Nancy Maki, Sandra Larson, Mayzie Inforzato  
**October 26th:**  
Cindy Brandt  
**October 27th:**  
Rolland Maki  
**October 29th:**  
Kristie Pintar  
**October 31st:**  
Carly Inforzato



## 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:

September:

\$13,558.35

Building fund  
offerings:

September: \$130.00



## September 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Pastor John Dietz, Lynn Schweiberger, Kay Dague, Nancy White, Mary Maki. Dave Peterson, Connie Bryant, Gen Lervik, Stephanie Skraba, Zoom: Sheryl Tokarczak. Guest: Jeff Hakala, Trivent report

### Property Committee Report:

- Waiting for quote for kitchenette remodel. Ron Vogt said he would do the remodel work.
- Energy Audit: Waiting to complete audit until fall.
- Quote came in for instant water heater for dish washer at approximately \$3000.00. Motion to approve the instant water heater at \$3000.00 Nancy White, Mary Maki seconded. Motion was approved.
- Air conditioner on the sanctuary side- service company suggested replace instead of repair - Waiting for quote
- 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. Nancy White moved to approve the inspection, Gen Lervik seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Replace the windows on office side all three floors will start in Oct.
- Roof repair and replacement started last week.

### Old Business:

- Committee reports: Helping hands: No need for the requested money.
- Updates on the building funds and what is being used to be put in the newsletter.
- Painting completed on the stocco by the windows in the dining room.
- New members will be recognized on Sept 24.

### New Business:

- Bazaar to be changed to Dec 9th
- Discussed need for new chairs in the dining room. Lynn to check on availability on chairs from Superior products.
- Discussed need for a cart to move the tables. Dave will check on prices for the cart.
- Discussed new dates for the council meeting so they don't interfere with confirmation class.

Pastoral Updates: Discussed the homeless shelter in the next block. Reminder that many of the people staying there use drugs, and we shouldn't give them money, but instead offer the items we have in the care cupboard. Some items will be kept in the office area and some in the fireside room. We may be locking the side doors when church is in session with only the front doors open.

Lord's Prayer by Pastor John.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next meeting on Oct 29, 2023



# O·C·T·O·B·E·R

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1<br>PROMISE LIKE JESUS<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Fellowship<br>10:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Sunday<br>Confirmation Class # 1<br>3:00 pm Mr. Ed's Farm   | 2<br>9:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm AIAnon   | 3<br>11:00 am Lunch & Learn                         | 4<br>6:00 pm Wednesday<br>Confirmation Class # 1<br><br>St. Francis of Assisi<br><i>renewer of the church</i> | 5<br><br><br><br><br><br>12<br>8:30 am Breakfast Book<br>Club – Sportsman's<br>9:30 am Laurentian<br>Conference Pastors &<br>Deacons Meeting – Ely | 6<br>Camp Hiawatha Youth<br>& Family Retreat<br><br>William Tyndale<br><i>translator &amp; martyr</i>           | 7<br>Camp Hiawatha Youth &<br>Family Retreat<br>Camp Hiawatha Work<br>Day<br><br>Henry M. Muhlenberg<br><i>pastor</i>  |
| 8<br>SWEAR LIKE JESUS<br>SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS<br>NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Fellowship<br>10:30 am SS Class<br>10:30 am Sunday<br>Confirmation Class # 2<br>12:00 pm Parish Bowling | 9<br>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES<br>DAY<br>Office Closed<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm AIAnon                            | 10<br>4:00 pm Property<br>Committee Meeting         | 11<br>6:00 pm Wednesday<br>Confirmation Class # 2<br><br>6:00 pm Mom's Bible<br>Study                         | 12<br><br><br><br><br><br>13<br><br><br><br><br><br>14<br>NE MN Synod Walking<br>Together Event – Grand<br>Rapids                                  | 13<br><br><br><br><br><br>14<br>NE MN Synod Walking<br>Together Event – Grand<br>Rapids                         | 14<br>NE MN Synod Walking<br>Together Event – Grand<br>Rapids  |
| 15<br>LOVE LIKE JESUS<br>HYMN SING SUNDAY<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Fellowship<br>10:30 am SS Class<br>10:30 am Sunday<br>Confirmation Class # 3<br>5:00 pm Bonfire at<br>Redhead Park                         | 16<br>9:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm AIAnon  | 17<br>11:00 am Lunch & Learn                        | 18<br>6:00 pm Wednesday<br>Confirmation Class # 3<br><br>ST. LUKE<br><i>evangelist</i>                        | 19<br>3:00 pm Lutheran<br>Eucharist at Guardian<br>Angels  | 20<br>Link-Grouis Wedding<br>Rehearsal  | 21<br>Link-Grouis Wedding  |
| 22<br>GIVE LIKE JESUS<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Fellowship   | 23<br>9:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm AIAnon<br><br>St. James of Jerusalem<br><i>martyr</i> | 24<br>Smörgåsbord Workday                           | 25<br>Smörgåsbord Workday<br><br>6:00 pm Mom's Bible<br>Study   | 26<br>4:30 pm Smörgåsbord<br><br>Philip Nicolai, Johann<br>Heermann, Paul Gerhardt<br><i>hymnwriters</i>   | 27<br><br><br><br><br><br>28<br><br><br><br><br><br>SS. SIMON AND JUDE<br><i>apostles</i>                       | 28<br><br><br><br><br><br>SS. SIMON AND JUDE<br><i>apostles</i>  |
| 29<br>PRAY LIKE JESUS<br>REFORMATION SUNDAY<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Halloween<br>Fellowship<br>10:30 am SS Class<br>10:45 am Council<br>Meeting  | 30<br>9:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm AIAnon  | 31<br>11:00 am Lunch & Learn<br><br>Reformation Day | <br><br><br><br><br><br>11<br>6:00 pm Wednesday<br>Confirmation Class # 2<br><br>6:00 pm Mom's Bible<br>Study | <br><br><br><br><br><br>12<br>8:30 am Breakfast Book<br>Club – Sportsman's<br>9:30 am Laurentian<br>Conference Pastors &<br>Deacons Meeting – Ely  | <br><br><br><br><br><br>13<br><br><br><br><br><br>14<br>NE MN Synod Walking<br>Together Event – Grand<br>Rapids | <br><br><br><br><br><br>15<br>LOVE LIKE JESUS<br>HYMN SING SUNDAY<br>9:30 am Worship<br>followed by Fellowship<br>10:30 am SS Class<br>10:30 am Sunday<br>Confirmation Class # 3<br>5:00 pm Bonfire at<br>Redhead Park |



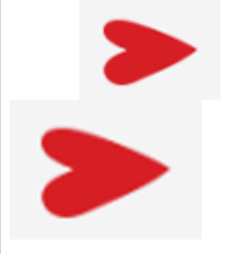
Scandinavian Smörgåsbord



Thursday, October 26



4:30 – 6:30 pm





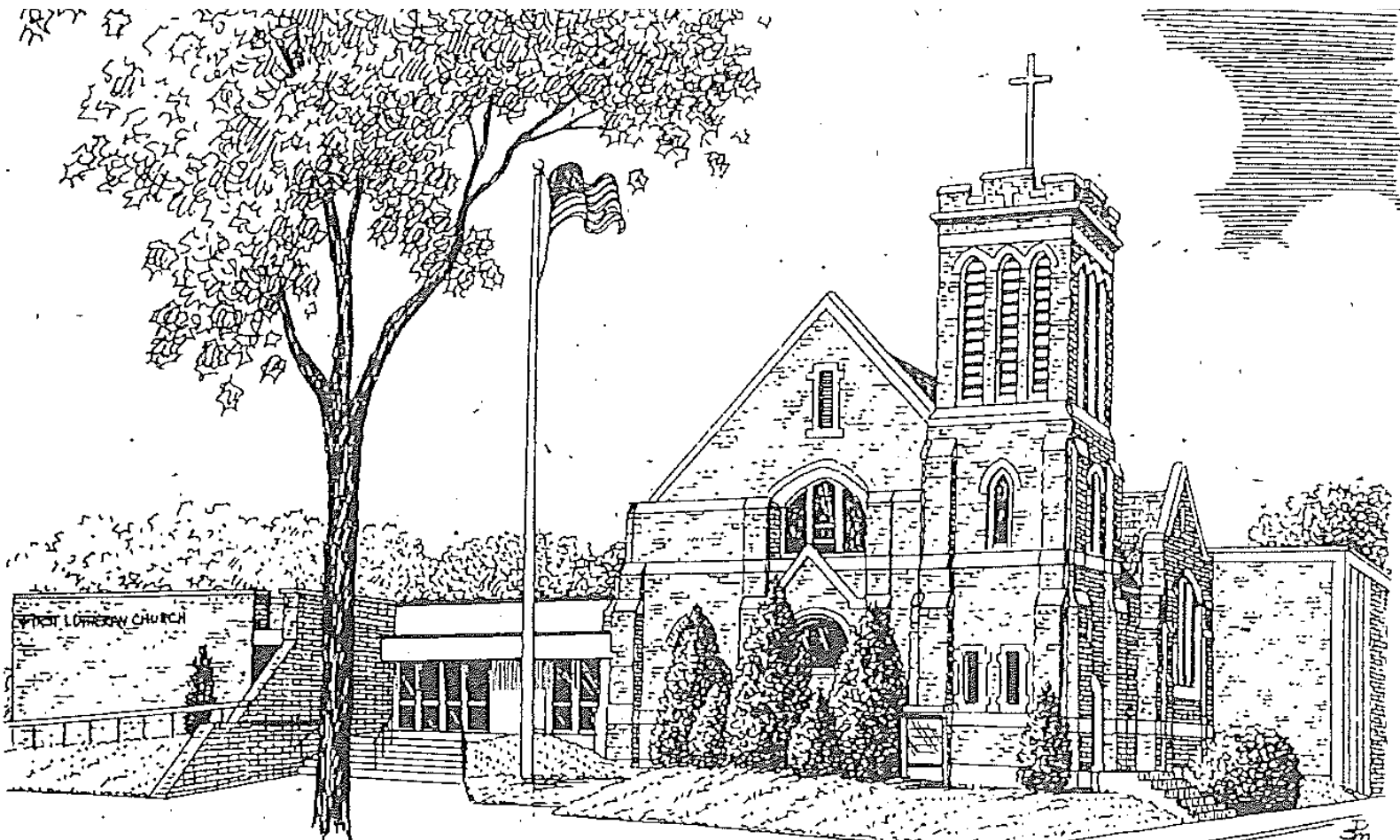


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## THE VISITOR

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First Lutheran Church

Hibbing, Minnesota