



# FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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

April 2024

## 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  
Greg Barto  
Mary Maki  
Ann Vucetich  
Stephanie Skraba  
Sheryl Tokarczyk  
Nancy White

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday  
8:00 am- 2:00 pm  
Fridays Closed  
After 2:00 pm by appointment

## Contact Us

2201 Third Avenue East  
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746  
Call the office: 218-263-8388  
Email Rian: rianjohnson@firsthibbing.org  
Email Pr. John: pastorjohn@firsthibbing.org



Follow us on Facebook at:  
firsthibbing



YouTube Channel:  
First Lutheran Church- Hibbing, MN

## Join us!

### Sundays

9:30 am Eucharist  
*Service of Holy Communion*  
10:30 am Fellowship  
*Conversation and refreshments*  
10:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation  
*Age 3 - Grades 6+ Faith Formation*

### Mondays

1:00 pm Quilting  
7:00 pm Al Anon

### 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.



## PASTOR

I lived in Arizona for nine years — throughout high school and college, and then I returned for about a year after graduating seminary. It took me a while to acclimate to the seasons of Arizona, and I must admit I never got used to the extreme heat of Summers there. But I did grow to appreciate Springtime in the desert, especially in Tucson.

In March and April, the temperatures begin to warm up again, and the snow on the high mountains begins to melt and flows down into the otherwise dry canyons and washes. The wildflowers bloom, along with the cholla, and the mesquite trees, and by the end of April the Saguaro's big white flowers open up. The sound of birds returns to the air. And there is a smell to the desert this time of year — it has an almost Easter Sunday aroma of blooming flowers and incense and water. And all of it feels like an abundance of new life.

I've lived in Minnesota more than half my life, and I've spent more Springtimes here in Hibbing than in the desert. And this place carries distinct Easter impressions for me, as well. It's the ordered chaos of our Palm Sunday procession and watching people try to claim their usual places in the pews during "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." It's the Stripping of the Altar on Holy Thursday that leaves me speechless every year. The starkness of the bare sanctuary on Good Friday that just about breaks us open when we first see it. And of course, just a few days later, to see that same space transformed with flowers and banners and candles and people with songs of Alleluias on their lips — this, for me, is Springtime in Hibbing. And perhaps for you, this is what Easter looks and feels like, too.

All of it brings us to the good news that there is — in the Sonoran Desert and on the Iron Range, in our liturgies, in our community of faith, and in our own personal lives — there is the promise of new and abundant life. From chaos and the dark emptiness God always seems to bring us to the fullness of life in the resurrection. I am so glad we have this whole season of Easter to remind us of this truth. For the next seven weeks we will continue to hear this theme

of new life from the scripture readings in worship. Even where there has been pain, brokenness, or even death, God is still bringing us into the the joy of new life.

In this season of Easter our parish will be going through a time of transition as we bid farewell to our secretary, Rian Johnson. Rian has served as parish secretary for the past four and a half years, and we are so grateful for her work among us. She held our parish office together through the pandemic and beyond; she has brought joy to countless

people in this position; and she has worked with a Call Committee, the council, countless building contractors, and three different pastors — which is no easy task — especially when you include me in that mix! Rian is a member of First Lutheran Church, so we aren't saying goodbye to her or her family — but we are wishing her all the best in her new work at the Sheriff's Office here in Hibbing. Her last day in the office is April 2, but we will have a celebration to thank her for her service here on Sunday, April 7 during Fellowship. You are invited to bring a card of appreciation for her that day.



We do not have a person to fill the position of parish secretary, but the council and I are working on developing a job description and a plan to begin interviewing candidates. We will keep you all updated on the process, but until we have someone, please know that if you are calling or coming into office, it may not be staffed all the time — so do call ahead and always a leave a message. If you need to reach me, especially for a pastoral emergency, please text or call me at 218-969-5108 and I will get back in touch with you as soon as possible. Also note that the office will be closed on Fridays, but we will keep regular hours Monday through Thursday.

Happy Easter, dear Church. Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Peace and all good.

+ Pastor John Dietz

# Worship God

Worship with us on Sundays at 9:30 am. Eucharist — the service of Holy Communion — every week with readings from Lectionary as follows:

- April 7 The Second Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:32-35 The believers' common life  
Psalm 133 How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.  
John 20:19-31 Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ
- April 14 The Third Sunday of Easter  
Acts 3:12-19 Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus  
Psalm 4 The Lord does wonders for the faithful.  
Luke 24:36b-48 Eating with the risen Christ
- April 21 The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:5-12 Salvation in the name of Jesus  
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
John 10:11-18 Christ the shepherd
- April 28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 8:26-40 Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian  
Psalm 22:25-31 All the ends of the earth turn to the Lord.  
John 15:1-8 Christ the vine

## Camp Sunday — April 28

We are glad to welcome Pastor Andrea Bonneville DeNaples to First Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 28. Pastor Andrea is the new Director of Camp Hiawatha. On this Camp Sunday, she will be preaching and looking forward to connecting with the members of this parish who have a long-standing connection with Camp Hiawatha.

## Easter Paraments

We unveiled with great delight the new Easter paraments this Easter Sunday. These beautiful lectern, pulpit, and full Altar frontals were made from an existing and relatively un-used funeral pall by our member, Gloria Maras. Thank you, Gloria, for your time and talent! We will dedicate these beautiful paraments on Sunday, April 7.

## Easter Flowers Recognition

Thank you to the following people who helped make our sanctuary even more beautiful this Easter with their donation of flowers.

### In Loving Memory Of....

Scott Stavnes  
Patricia Benson  
Rynelle Benson  
Mike Giombetti  
Peter Hecimovich  
Joe Glad  
Theodore Eddy  
Kathy & Gladys Tanem  
Don & Bertha Engebretson  
Don, Helen John & Gary Fillman  
June Hendrickson  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
My Loved Ones  
Our Loved Ones

### In Honor of....

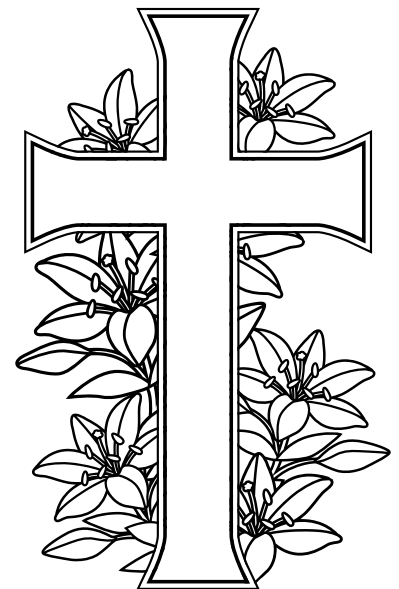
Debbie  
Our Loved Ones  
The Church  
Family

### Given By....

Paul Stavnes & Family  
Brad Benson  
Brad Benson  
Grace Giombetti  
Sandy Hecimovich  
Jean Glad  
Agnes Eddy & Family  
Barb & Loyal Tanem  
From Family  
Al & Marcia Fillman  
From Friends  
Nancy White  
Gen Lervik  
Diane Rindahl  
Dick & Karen Podominick

### Given By....

Brad Benson  
Barb Bautch & Mary Maki  
Art & Mazie Englund  
Shirley Scofield



# GROW IN FAITH

## Sunday School

Sunday School Classes will be held on all of the Sundays of April — so be sure to come and be part of the fun activities, lessons, and games we have planned. We meet right after worship in the Sunday School classroom at 10:30 am. All kids age 3 through Grade 5 are welcome! Snack is provided in the classroom.

## Confirmation

We have two more Confirmation classes this Spring. If you are attending Sunday classes, we will be together on Sundays April 7 and 14 (10:45-11:30 am). Wednesday classes are meeting from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on April 10 and 17.

Parents, please note that due to the declining attendance on Wednesdays and the popularity of Sundays, that for the next academic year we will be moving Confirmation to Sunday mornings following worship, twice a month. We've tried to make accommodations for various schedules and conflicts, but it hasn't proven a success in improving midweek attendance, so we're moving forward with the Sunday morning classes and we will continue to hold occasional Youth events throughout the year and hope you'll take part in those as well.

## Breakfast Book Club

April 4  
Breakfast Boy Club will meet at the Cardinal Room at Hibbing College to enjoy a wonderful breakfast and discussion as we wrap up Ann Rice's book, "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt." Our next book will be Ann Rice's "Christ the Lord: Road to Cana." Interested? Talk to Pastor about ordering a book. We do need to RSVP to the college for the meal, so please sign up at the Welcome Table.

## April Bible Study

April 17  
We will hold one Bible Study in April on Wednesday, April 17 at 11:00 am. A meal will be provided. Please RSVP at the Welcome Table or call to let us know you'll be coming. Our topic will be the New Testament book First John.

## Build Community

### Parish Bowling

Sunday, April 14  
Please sign up at the Welcome Table if you will be participating in this month's parish bowling.

### Youth & Family Night Wednesday, April 24

We had so much fun and had a great turn-out for our February Pizza Party and Game Night that we decided to offer it again in April. Plan on joining us for games, dinner, and time in the youth room from 5:30 - 7:30 pm on Wednesday, April 24. You need to RSVP — either call the church, email Pastor, or sign-up at the Welcome Table. The cost for dinner is \$3.00 per person to cover the meal; if you're not eating it's free.

### Camp Hiawatha Family Overnight and Work Day Friday, May 3 – Saturday, May 4

Sign-up at the Welcome Table for a fun Family Overnight at Camp Hiawatha the first weekend of May. The cost is free if you stay to help out at Camp Work Day on Saturday till lunch time. The camp provides meals, activities, and lodging. We provide some time and effort sprucing up First Lutheran's building at Hiawatha: The Old Log Lodge. RSVP by April 17.

### Faith & Fun Summer Trip

We'll be holding our Faith & Fun Summer Trip right here in Northern Minnesota at Wolf Ridge in Finland, just off the shores of Lake Superior. Our dates are June 24-26. We'll spend three days and two nights at the Environmental Learning Center where there is great food, modern lodging, really fun activities, interesting hands-on classes led by on-site teachers, and an abundance of natural beauty. Are you interested in attending — kids in elementary and up, and parents are welcome to join us. The total cost is \$200, and we are asking each person to pay half up front before factoring in fundraising discounts. We will have an informational meeting regarding Wolf Ridge on Sunday, May 5 after worship.

### Church Anniversary Committee

Would you like to join the group that is making plans for First Lutheran Church's 125th Anniversary next year? Work is already underway to create a new picture directory and we would love to see a few people get involved in this project. We will also be scheduling special events, doing some historical/ archive work, and making plans for the future! Talk to Pr. John about where you'd like to get involved in this exciting project. A brief introductory meeting will be scheduled in May for this interested in learning more about our Quasquicentennial.



# April Birthdays

**April 2:** Barb Wray, Jace Soderberg, Aaron Foster

**April 3:** Linda Smith

**April 6:** Landon Tokarczyk

**April 7:** Luca Soderberg

**April 8:** Caroline Rue

**April 10:** Sandra Fairbanks

**April 11:** Lillian Rue

**April 12:** Phyllis Frand, Vanessa Shuper

**April 13:** Charlene Olson

**April 14:** Courtney Schnortz

**April 16:** Maynard Elj, Max Bautch, Lori Marinac, Carol Cummings

**April 17:** Frederick Schwartz, Rudy Bautch

**April 18:** Keith Schweiberger, Tyler Rutherford

**April 19:** Jack Bautch, Brittany Johnson

**April 20:** Brittany Kopelciw, Candy Clark

**April 21:** Ava Weyrauch, Shirley Scofield

**April 22:** Joan Rhude

**April 23:** Lois Workman

**April 25:** Sue Chacich, Derek Bautch

**April 26:** Jill Johnson, Mary Gargano, Hannah Anderson, Delores Sikich

**April 27:** Clem Williard

**April 29:** Carol Kopelciw

**April 30:** Vivienne Mandt

## First Lutheran Church Monthly offerings

Many thanks to everyone who faithfully supports the mission and ministries of First Lutheran Church with your generous offerings to our general fund for operating costs, and also to the building fund that helps with repairs and maintenance. Together, we make ministry happen here at First Lutheran Church!

### General offerings:

**March:** \$13,288.08

### Building fund offerings:

**March:** \$598.29

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



## SERVE THE NEIGHBOR

## ALTAR SERVERS

April 7-Sun 9:30 am: Ruby Johnson & Ruby Plese

April 14-Sun 9:30 am: Tommy Sampson & Owen Qualley

April 21-Sun 9:30 am: Kiah Tokarczyk & Morgan Schnortz

April 28-Sun 9:30 am: Gage Rantala & Addy Weyrauch



### Kitchenette Project

Thanks to everyone who was involved in the Office Kitchenette Project. It has been a quite a while since the work started, and we are so glad to see it done, looking great, and serving our needs in the office and sacristy! We are grateful for the community vendors who made this possible as well: Yoders, Iron Range Plumbing, and electrician Justin Kangas. Special thanks to Rian Johnson and Gloria Maras for the planning, and to Steve Carlson, Art Lind, and Ron Vogt for the hard work of demolition and installation!

### Care Cupboard

We are still accepting donations of non-perishable for items for easy meals on the go and personal care items (deodorant, dental care, feminine hygiene, soap, etc.). The Care Cupboard has a few gift cards for groceries and other items available, but we can always receive those in amounts of \$20/ \$25 to SuperOne or Walmart. Thanks for your generosity.

## EcoFaith Meeting April 24

We made such great progress last Summer with our Pollinator Plot and Courtyard Garden. Spring is once again here and we will be looking for more people to help with the planning and projects and the work involved in keeping the momentum going. Our EcoFaith team will hold a brief meeting on Wednesday, April 24 at 11:00 am in the Fireside Room (or the Courtyard if weather permits). Bring your lunch if you'd like. See you there!

## Soup Suppers

Thank you to everyone who made our Lenten Soup Suppers a success again this year! For all the Confirmation students and their families who showed up to serve and clean, we are so grateful for you! If you made or provided bread or soup — thank you! And we want to especially thank Connie Bryant, Mary Maki, and Barb Bautch who went above and beyond this year and did so much to hold this event together! We could not have done it without you!

## **To my Dear Friends and Family at First Lutheran Church,**

I just wanted to take the opportunity in my last newsletter, to say THANK YOU to everyone here at FLC for the opportunity and the honor to serve as your Parish Secretary for the last 4.5 years. When I took this job, my kids and I gained so much. You took us in as your own and made this beautiful place a home for us. You have been with us through some ups and downs and we have always felt loved and safe here. Though you won't see me in the office, you will most definitely see us at church! This is not Goodbye, just a new chapter.

A special Thank You to Pr. John, I have enjoyed watching as he brought things back to the church, as well as all the new things for our members and our children. I am grateful that I could be a small part of the great things happening here and have had a lot of fun & laughs in the process!

This job and all of you have meant so much to me and helped me more than you will ever know.

With Love & Gratitude,

Rian

## March Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 10:51 am by Lynn Schweiberger. Prayer by Pr. John.

Feb minutes reviewed. Pr. John moved to approve the minutes. Sheryl seconded. Motion carried.

### Treasurer's report

Financial report reviewed. Nancy moved to approve the financials and Mary seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

### Property Committee Report:

- Kitchenette almost completed . Should be done this week.
- Dishwasher for the kitchen needs a countertop and cabinet side. WELCA is looking for quotes for these items.
- Energy Audit: Dave Rian will continue to work with HPU concerning rebates.
- Air conditioner on the sanctuary side and office. One bid came in. Looking for another bid for the work.
- Steam Trap repair - Received quote for repairing steam traps. Stephanie moved to have the traps repaired not to exceed \$7000.00. Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Plaster to be repaired in basement - quote from Dan Wherland for the repair work for \$2200. Motion by Nancy to accept the bid. Connie seconded. Motion carried.
- Lights to be added over the sign up table. Waiting for electrician to complete along with completion of the wiring in the basement.
- Looking into changing the light bulbs in the sanctuary. - Dave Peterson will look into doing this.
- Concrete at front door uneven. Some work may need to be done.

### Old Business:







- 125 Anniversary committee - looking for people to oversee the history of the church, planning of events, and publicity. Put request in newsletter.
- Picture directory set for Oct 8 and 9. Sign up is electronic. Need 3 people to meet with directory staff on Aug 14. Put request in newsletter.

### New Business:

- Request from WELCA for for painting of cabinets, walls, ceiling of kitchen. Mary moved to approve the request. Barb seconded. Motion carried.
- Updating the funeral policy - To be completed by Pastor John.
- VBS - One day at camp on July 1. \$50.00 per person.
- Youth Outing at Wolf Ridge - 2 night, 3 day stay \$190.00 per person
- Rian Johnson submitted her resignation. Her last day in the office is April 2.

Motion to adjourn by Sheryl and seconded by Nancy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

# A P R I L

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AIAnon</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Breakfast Book Club – Cardinal Room Hibbing College</p>	<p>5 Office Closed</p>	<p>6 EcoFaith Summit – First Lutheran, Duluth</p>
<p>7 <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School Class 10:45 am Confirmation Class # 11</p>	<p>8 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AIAnon</p>	<p>9 4:00 pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm Confirmation Class # 11</p>	<p>11 6:00 pm SAFE meeting</p>	<p>12 Office Closed</p>	<p>13 </p>
<p>14 <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School Class 10:45 am Confirmation Class # 12 12:00 pm Parish Bowling</p>	<p>15 9:00 am Grounded in Grace Clergy Meeting – Cook 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AIAnon</p>	<p>16 </p>	<p>17 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class # 12</p>	<p>18 3:00 pm Lutheran Eucharist – Guardian Angels</p>	<p>19 Office Closed</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Council Meeting</p>	<p>22 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AIAnon</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11:00 am EcoFaith Meeting 5:30 pm Youth &amp; Family Night</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Gustavus Adolphus College Annual Meeting </p>
<p>28 <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>Camp Sunday</i> 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School Class</p>	<p>29 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AIAnon</p>	<p>30 </p>	<p>Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm 2201 Third Avenue East   Hibbing, MN 55746 Office Telephone: 218-263-8388   Pastor Emergency Cell: 218-969-5108</p>			

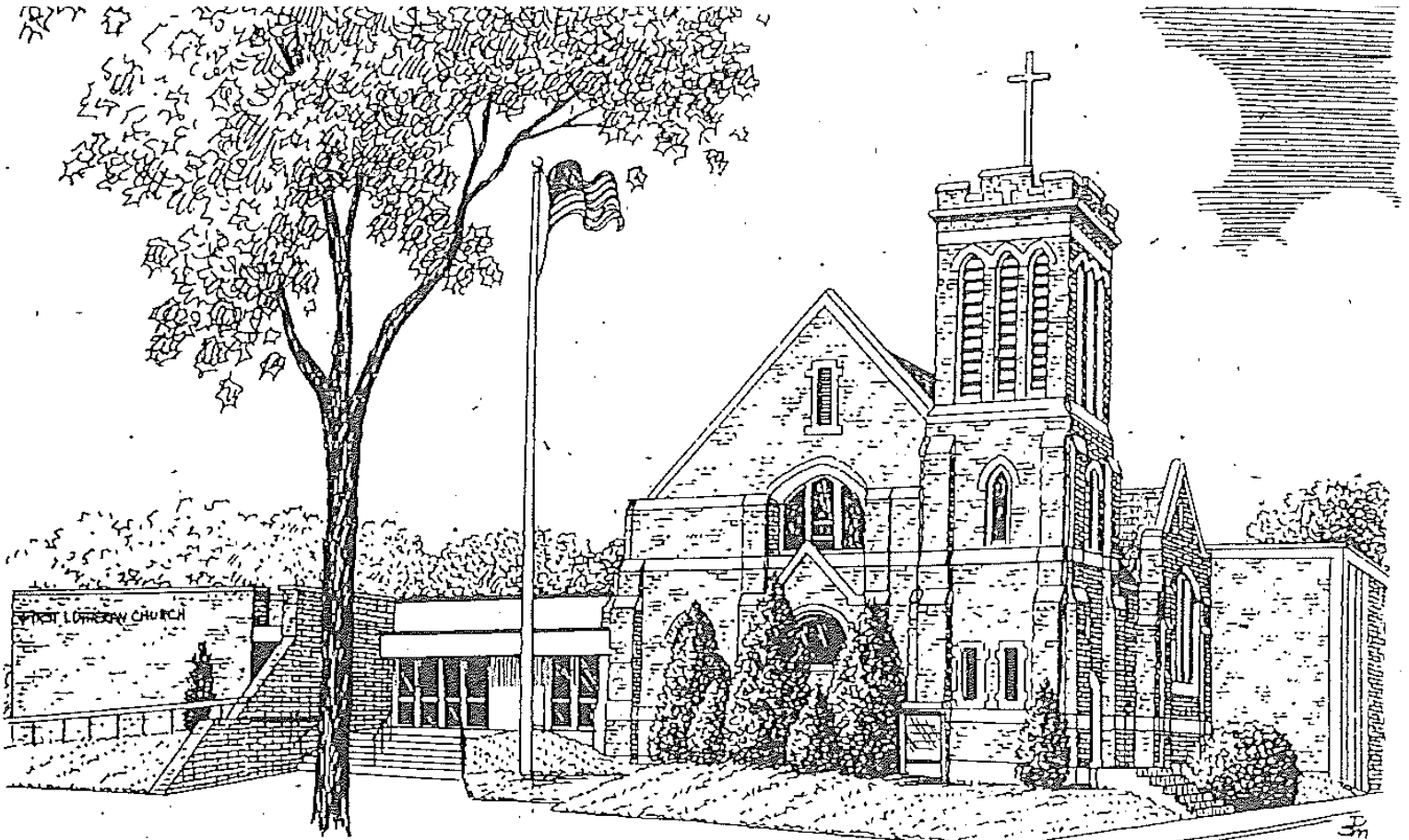


# FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

## THE VISITOR

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