



the Spire

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019 SPIRE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (651)388-9311
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www.firstlutheranrw.com

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Arthur Sharot: Senior Pastor
ext. 15 / arte42@gmail.com

Marilee Anderson: Director of Music
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Tina Goeman: Director of CYF
ext. 14 / tina@firstlutheranrw.com

Gina Nelson: Bookkeeper, PT
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Laurel Stinson: Administrative Assistant
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Dial 6 to leave a message

Syl Andersen: Custodian, PT
H: 651/388-7453 C: 651-380-8663

Brian Fladhammer: Maintenance, PT
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2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kathy Emery - President/Personnel
Alyson Kloeckner - Treasurer/Youth & Family/
Education/Finance
Joe Rice - Finance/Personnel
Wendy Erickson - Secretary/Life and Growth
John Laidlaw - Stewardship/Education
Cyd Mark- Vice President/ Worship
Tom Sasse - Worship
Matt Stinson -Stewardship
Mary Weberg - Christian Action
Mark Jaeger - Property
Bunny Kulstad - Life and Growth
Jon Ubbelohde - Property

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (*Sept- May*)

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Reset Prayer Time
5:00pm Dinner (*Sept- May*)
5:30pm Worship (*Sept- May*)
6:00pm Education (*Sept- May*)

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Worship in the Norelius Chapel

PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Crystal Swanson, Marcia Krause, Jenny Edmonds, Bob Swanson, Joanne Hosking, Janet Larson, Gerald Lein, Beverly Lein, Horst Radtke, Carol Peterson, Kandis Mendez, Juventino Mendez, Adair Palmatier, Doris Johnson, Eleanor Peterson, Abby Ritter, Bob Weir, Carl Meyer, Dan Jones, Darrell Nelson, Cheryl Youmans, Holly (Dissell) Benson, Dylan Michel family, Carol Krie, John Oleson, Edla Bodelson, Ray Boggess, Larry Peterson, Jerry, Margaret Banks, Arthur Sharot Sr., Leah Larsen, Laura Anderson

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS

November 3, 2019

Hayden Jon Benson, Riley Bolland, Jackson Flemming, Isabella Goeman, Kaleb Hove, Lane Meyer, Jordan Novak, Sheanagh Reischel, Cameron Schlichting, Brooke Strusz, Ryan Strusz

FROM THE PASTOR



The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:18-23 nrsv

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Winter comes early in Minnesota. It seems to get cold and snowy early most years. This year is no different. It also seems like Christmas comes early every year as well. People put up decorations, buy presents, vendors start Christmas sales earlier and earlier to beat the competition. Even Christmas programs get planned quite early.

For years pastors have struggled with the season of Advent which is partly supposed to be a season of

preparation for Christmas. It's hard to prepare for Christmas when people are already celebrating.

This time of year I am often reminded of a baby story. Once upon a time there was a family that had a party, celebrating their child's baptism. They had a feast prepared for family and friends. They invited lots of people to celebrate the great event.

Early in the day the baby got tired, and as they often did, her parents placed her in the middle of their king sized bed. She was very young and wasn't moving much yet, so she would be safe sleeping on the bed.

Well, too many coats came to celebrate the event, more than the closet could bare so they started putting coats on the bed. There were more and more coats and yes, you guessed it, the little baby got covered up.

Nothing happened to this baby. In fact she was quite amused as she lay there cooing, though no one could hear it. As a matter of fact, everybody forgot about her since they were having such a good time. It wasn't until people started to leave that the baby was discovered, still happy and cooing. Hopefully she never finds out that no one really cared about her at her party.

Let's remember to celebrate Christmas, Christ's birth, with Jesus in mind this year.



**The Birth of Jesus Foretold -
Luke 1:26-38**

**The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7
Shepherds & Angels - Luke
2:8-20**

Sandy and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Blessings to you, your family
and our First Lutheran Family.
Pastor Arte

THANK YOU

Once again the Red Wing Golden K Kiwanis Club was privileged to host its annual Pancake Breakfast at First Lutheran Church. Our thanks to you and the members of the congregation for allowing us to use the facility. The breakfast was a success and the monies raised from the meal will again be used to support our charitable projects within Red Wing and in serving the children of the world.

Again, our thanks.

Sincerely,
Ardis A. Kyker
Secretary

Thank you to Janice Larson for "Lighting the Spire" in December

Thank you to everyone who participated in the crop walk. This year the total raised was \$8,954 and \$2,200 went to the local food shelf. We had 7 more walkers than last year. Save the date for next year October 4, 2020!

MUSIC NEWS

Christmas Eve Music in Worship

3:00

Gloria Solsaa and Ellie Bechel

Marshall Laidlaw

Joyful Ringers

4:30

Chancel Choir

Mark Family

Gloria Solsaa and Ellie Bechel

6:00

Music of Christmas

No Church School

Sunday December 1st, 15th (Pageant), 22nd & 29th

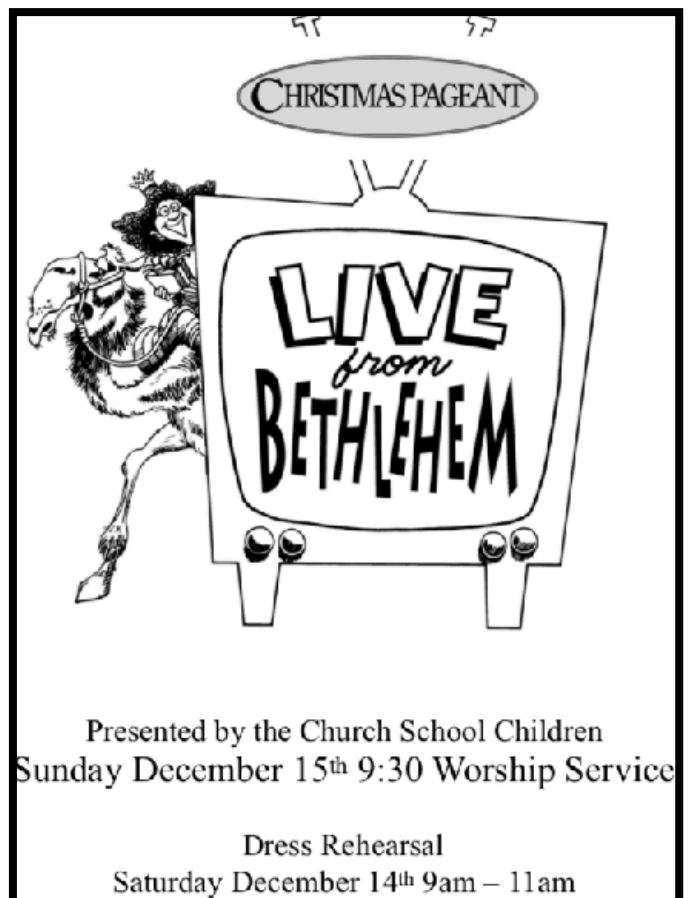
Wednesday Dec 18th & 25th



Wednesday, December 18

Join us for a night of fun! Following worship we will have craft stations around the Narthex with Christmas themed crafts and activities. All are welcome to this family fun night.

Please contact Tina if you are interested in helping or leading an activity of your own creation, or one that she has ready for you.



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Present: Pr. Arte Sharot, Aly Kloeckner, John Laidlaw, Cyd Mark, Bunny Kulstad, Kathy Emery, Matt Stinson, Joe Rice, Jon Ubbelohde, Tom Sasse, Mary Weberg, Mark Jaeger, Wendy Erickson

Devotions and Treats provided by Cyd Mark.

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Emery, council president.

Agenda: MSC (moved, seconded and carried) to approve the agenda as presented. **Secretary's**

Report: MSC to accept the secretary's report as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Income and expenses are about where they are expected to be. MSC to accept the treasurer's report. The finance committee is recommending that envelopes for giving be ordered once a year (instead of the current twice a year) and be available at church for pick-up (with those not picked up, being mailed). MSC to accept the finance team's recommendation.

Staff Reports: Pastor Arte added to his report to indicate that he will possibly be taking time to be with a sick family member. Arrangements have been made to cover the Sunday service. MSC to accept the staff reports.

Ministry Team Reports:

Worship and Music—A gluten free bread was used at the services this past weekend. Overall, there were positive comments about it.

Property—Working with Sylvander Heating and Cooling, it was determined that two air conditioning units and an air handler need to be replaced. The roof is leaking again and there has been water leaking into the basement by the back stairs. The committee is working to get this fixed. A clean-up day is scheduled for this Saturday, Nov. 16 from 8:30-11:30. Our property insurance is being updated with Musty Barnhart.

Life and Growth—The committee will be involved with the Advent craft event. Plans are

being made for other projects for the spring.

Youth and Family—The committee is considering new confirmation robes. Planning for the Christmas Program is underway. Tina is working on the youth summer mission trip to Indiana. She is also working on the annual report for youth and family as well as the budget request.

Christian Action—Work on the Christmas Project continues and the following dates are set up for that. Check the Spire for times.

November 23—putting up the trees and making the gift ornaments

December 3—wrapping gifts

December 17—checking in, sorting and tagging gifts

December 23—distributing gifts and food.

Stewardship—Thursday is Give to the Max day. People are encouraged to give and reminded that the more donations (regardless of amount), the more entries we are allowed for the Give to the Max cash awards. The pledge letters went out asking that pledges be returned by November 17th.

Personnel—Kathy passed around the form from the MN Department of Labor and Industry that will be completed for each employee and put in their personnel file. This will satisfy the new wage theft law. It was recommended by the personnel committee that employees receive a 2% raise for 2020. MSC by the council.

It was recommended by the personnel committee that the church pay Pastor Arte and Tina \$25 a month toward their cell phone bills. MSC.

It was also recommended that if an employee decides to miss work due to weather, they are allowed to use vacation time or make-up those hours within the same pay period with notification to their supervisor. MSC.

Old Business:

RIC update—The committee met on November

10. A congregational member attended and a good discussion was had regarding differing viewpoints. There are plans to have a video and discussion in February for the entire congregation.

Commercial Kitchen Request—The person requesting to use the kitchen has not contacted Matt Stinson again. We will table this for another month.

Nominating Committee—The committee (Kathy Emery, Ellen Mackey, Tom Sasse, John Schlegelmilch and Wendy Erickson) met on Nov. 7. Calls were made from lists provided by Kathy. Three people agreed to be on council, we are waiting for a couple of call backs for the auditing committee, two people have agreed to go to the synod assembly along with a youth representative and one person is thinking about it. More people are needed for next year’s nominating committee and we will continue to work on that.

Solar Power—We will continue to explore this

as an option for First Lutheran.

Big Turn Music Festival—The festival is Feb. 21 and 22. Staff from the festival came to check out the church and feel it will be a great venue for the festival. The committee will continue to work with BTMF staff.

New Business:

Life and Growth Event—There was a request from the Life and Growth committee to be allowed to serve alcohol at a Wine and Beer Tasting event to be held in 2020 at First Lutheran. Details are yet to be worked out but we expect to have “experts” serve the wine and beer, and talk about them, there will also be food. MSC to allow the wine and beer to be served at First Lutheran at this occasion.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is December 10 and Mary Weberg is on for devotions and treats.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Erickson, Secretary

OCTOBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019				
OPERATING INCOME	Oct Actual	Budgeted Oct	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Fund Pledges	33,372	32,500	331,378	325,000
Mission Support	50	42	421	420
Other Income	643	3,694	40,433	41,984
Total Income	34,065	36,236	372,233	367,404
OPERATING EXPENSES	Oct Actual	Budgeted Oct	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Expenses	40,021	36,714	352,160	368,602
ELCA Benevolence	2,083	2,083	21,333	20,833
Other Outside Giving	1,324	1,324	13,142	13,143
Total Expenses	43,428	40,121	386,635	402,578
Income vs. Expenses	-\$9,363	-\$3,885	-\$14,402	-\$35,174
Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/19	\$ 124,476	Operating Fund Balance 1/1/19	\$ 13,522	
Ending Cash Balance 10/31/2019	\$ 124,092	Operating Fund Balance 10/31/2019	\$ (1,384)	

DECEMBER "JOY IN DOING"

BREW CREW

- 1 Charles and Carol Charbonneau
- 8 Bill and Barb Raw
- 15 Dick and Nancy Houghton
- 22 Murph and Lois Berg
- 29 Clark and Jean Fjelsted

ACOLYTE AND CLEAN UP

- 1 Jack Mahoney
- 8 Alyssa Rice
- 15 Greta Sloan
- 22 Sam Witts
- 24 3:00 TBD
4:30 TBD
6:00 TBD
- 29 Hayden Almsted

SATURDAY ASSISTANT

- 7 Sandy Sharot
- 14 Larry and Jean Wiederich
- 21 Barry and Jean Dossdall
- 28 Tricia Harris

LECTOR

- 1 Sandra Sharot
- 8 Karen Strusz
- 15 Christmas Pageant
- 22 Mary Weberg
- 24 3:00 Jennifer Lohman
4:30 Cheri Roberts
6:00 Sandy Sharot
- 29 Jeff Reames

GREETERS

- 1 Candy Fleck, Pam Hallahan
- 8 Jim and Kay Halvorson
- 15 Clark and Jean Fjelsted
- 22 Roy and Karol Harley
- 24 3:00 Janet Erickson
4:30 Scott and Lindsey Langhans
6:00 Ushers
- 29 Dick and Nancy Houghton

USHERS

- Wendy Ehlers (Chair)
- Murph and Lois Berg
- Bill Habedank
- Morris Jung
- Dennis Bluhm
- Larry Peterson
- Michael Sorensen
- Peter and Peggy Sorensen
- Mary Weberg
- Gisela Witgert

COFFEE HOSTS

- 1 Diane Ringeisen, Cheri Roberts
- 8 Al and Carol Smith
- 15 Gloria Solsaa, Kris Ubbelohde
- 22 Michael Sorensen, Nancy Thorson
- 29 Norm and Nancy Wille

COMMUNION

- 1 Ellen Mackey, Kevin and Cyd Mark
- 8 Daryl Mark, David and Kathleen Olson
- 15 Christmas Pageant
- 22 Linda Seivert, Carol Smith, Gloria Solsaa
- 24 3:00 Maureen Kees, Mary Weberg, Mike Sorensen
4:30 Judie Bowes, Karyl Frye, Cyd Mark
6:00 TBD
- 29 Peter and Peggy Sorensen, Michael Sorensen

TREATS

- 1 Diane Ringeisen, Cheri Roberts, George and Doris Van Norman, Arnold and Karen Strusz
- 8 Al and Carol Smith, Arlene Stromback, Sandy Sharot, Glenda Anderson
- 15 Gloria Solsaa, Kris Ubbelohde, Marlene and Craig Anderson, Margaret Banks
- 22 Michael Sorensen, Nancy Thorson, Chris and Mitch Boldt, Kip and Sue Edquist
- 29 Norm and Nancy Wille, Audrey Carlson, Adair Dahman, Janet Erickson

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm Women and Wine - Nikki Mahoney	2 5:00pm Learning Circle Board Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	3 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons 4:00pm-7:00pm Team Meetings	4 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 4:15pm Kids Rock 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Education 7:00pm Choir	5 1:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	6 11:00am Red Cross Blood Drive	7 5:30 pm Worship - Sue Heller plays
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School 10:45am Financial Peace University	9 7:00pm Scouts	10 10:00am Hospice 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons 4:00pm Finance 6:30pm Council Meeting Learning Circle Program	11 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 1:00pm Quilting 4:15pm Kids Rock 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Education 7:00pm Choir	12 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	13	14 9:00am Pageant Dress Rehearsal 5:30 pm Worship - Sue Heller plays
15 9:30am Worship Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30am Fellowship	16 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	17 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons 7:00pm Eve	18 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Martha 10:00am Mary 12:00pm Reset 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Ringers 6:00pm Christmas Craft Night 7:00pm Choir	19 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	20	21 5:30 pm Worship - Marilee Anderson plays
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School	23 9:00am Spire Folding 7:00pm Scouts	24 11:00am Staff Meeting 3:00pm Worship 4:30pm Worship 6:00pm Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 5:30 pm Worship - Jean Fjelsted plays
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School	30 7:00pm Scouts	31 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 4:00pm Piano lessons				

First Lutheran Church

615 West 5th Street
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651.388.9311

Address Service Requested

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DECEMBER 2019

HAPPENINGS

Worship with us
Christmas Eve

3:00, 4:30 and 6:00

