

The Voice

November 2023

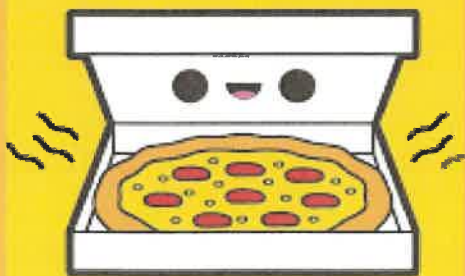
A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*



**The latest from FLW
Page 5**

PIZZA TIME!



**What's Up, Youth?
Page 8**



Bishop Odgren installs Pastor Christie



Pastor Christie Manisto was installed by Northeast Minnesota Synod Bishop Amy Odgren on October 8th at First Lutheran.



2023 Confirmands—Left to right: Nick Schultz, Zach Wichner, Grace Froemke, Linnaea Yount, and Max Youso.

Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish was, until his death, a voice for refugees all over the world, but especially in the Middle East. This poem is from his book of poetry "Almond Blossoms and Beyond."

Think of Others

As you prepare your breakfast, think of others.

(do not forget the pigeon's food).

As you wage your wars, think of others.

(do not forget those who seek peace).

As you pay your water bill, think of others.

(those who are nursed by clouds).

As you return home, to your home, think of others.

(do not forget the people of the camps).

As you sleep and count the stars, think of others.

(those who have nowhere to sleep).

As you express yourself in metaphor, think of others.

(those who have lost the right to speak).

As you think of others far away, think of yourself.

(say: If only I were a candle in the dark).

--Mahmoud Darwish

In these days as sunlight is waning, we begin looking toward that already-not yet time of Advent (how is Advent almost here?) when we are reminded anew of God's love here on earth incarnate through Jesus. Through Jesus we are called children of God, who seek goodness and blessing not only for ourselves and our own families, but also for others. We are called not only to "think" of others, but called also to action on their behalf. Action born out of, Christ's love strives for peace, safety, encouragement, care and concern, and so much more. It calls us to love one another, even the people we don't think we can love.

Through Christ's love, we may be moved by God on behalf of all humankind in ways that may surprise us, calling us to venture to places we have never imagined. In these days, I invite us all to consider what it means to "think of others." And as we do so, may we be moved beyond just thoughts, perhaps to action on behalf of those who need us the most. And if we need a place to start, as our poet writes, perhaps we can simply say (as a prayer) : "If only I were a candle in the dark."

I came upon this poem again recently and found his words spoken as a prayer... a prayer for so many in this world who are suffering right now, as so many of my own dear ones are in harm's way, a prayer for what feels so far away and a prayer for right here in our community, in our church.

"If only I were a candle in the dark."

Your friend in Christ,
Pastor Christie



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 21, 2023

Present: Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Secretary Carol Bass, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilson, Discipleship BettyJeanne Henrickson, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski, Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Pastor Christie Manisto

Absent: President Brian Briggs, Fellowship Cynthia Warren

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski at 5:00 PM.

Devotion – Hoa spoke on how the Holy Spirit in Everlasting Love works to bring things about and brought Pastor Christie to us. Addition to Agenda: Planning for Sunday coffee added.

Minutes from August meeting: Copies provided to all. There was a correction, The new Minnesota law does not require offering insurance to employees but earned sick time (Earned Sick Safe Days) for self or to care for family member. The new law is to go into effect in the coming year.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the August 2023 meeting with amendment.

Made by: BettyJeanne Henrickson

Seconded by: Lloyd Skogstad

Carried

Treasurer Report: Copies provided to all. Year to Date there is a shortfall of \$14,614.

Motion: to accept financial reports of August 2023

Made by: Nancy McBride

Seconded by: Lloyd Skogstad

Carried

Pastor's Report: Pastor agreed with Hoa that things had worked out so well for their coming to the Falls. Thank you to everyone who have made Pastor and

Steve welcome and for all your help with the move. Please let Pastor know what you need from her.

Committee Reports:

President- Absent

Vice-President – The next meeting of the joint councils of Zion and First will be on Sept. 26th at Zion at 5:00 PM. The exploration team and Pastor Christie will both be asked to come.

Service/Outreach – Absent

Discipleship – Confirmation classes will be on Wednesdays at 7 PM beginning Oct. 4th. Release time classes will start Oct 4th as well.

Building and Grounds –

We met Tuesday September 19th at 10:30 Pastor Christie, BettyJeanne Henrickson, Steve Lindberg and Lloyd Skogstad

1. We wish to acknowledge the monies given to building and grounds from the First Lutheran Women. Thank You! We had used our available funds for the roof repairs completed by Range Roofing.

2. BettyJeanne painted the main entrance and office doors as well as the associated trim and the trim around the office window. Thank you very much.

(Council continued on page 4)

Rev. Christie Manisto,
pastor

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday

9 a.m. to noon

218-283-2208

www.firstlutheranifalls.org
firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council (continued from page 3)

3. We are getting a quote from Service Master to clean the carpet in memorial hall and the washing of the lower windows in the sanctuary.

4. Two trees have been replaced adjacent to our parking lot on Wayside Lane. These were donated by Sjoblom's Nursery.

5. Brad has volunteered to plow the parking lot this winter. Anyone who wishes to help please contact Brad.

6. The main entrance double doors are acting up so you may have to use the office door if you encounter a problem. Please contact Lloyd with any issues. Lloyd will try lubricating them to see if that helps as well as contact the door company. But according to Kelly Meyers the absence of a center post often leads to this problem. New doors are not in the budget currently. Suggestion that if we do eventually install new doors if a key fob/ phone system would be better than conventional keys.

Finance: Per the synod, the suggested stipend for the 3 people who provided pulpit supply while Pastor Paul was gone should be a total of \$500.

Motion: to pay a total of \$500 for the 3 people who provided pulpit supply during Pastor Paul's absence.

Made by: Betty Henrickson Seconded by: Nancy McBride

Carried

There is \$952.96 Thrivent money in a dedicated fund. It is customary that such unused monies be transferred to Endowment at the end of the year.

Motion: That the unused Thrivent money (\$952.96) be transferred to the Endowment Fund.

Made by: Lloyd Skogstad

Seconded by: Carol Bass

Carried

Music & Worship: Need to form a music and worship committee. Nancy is currently selecting hymns for the services. Call or email her with requests. Choir continues to be a work in progress. Choir is planning to sing at the Oct. 8th Installation. The technical snafus of last week have been corrected. Lloyd said that Ryan needs to be trained as a backup for running the recorded music. All music has been recovered and transferred to a new thumb drive. There will be cake and other refreshments this Sunday. Betty volunteered to oversee this.

Old Business: The Exploration team has met and will be invited to next Joint Council meeting. Hoa will see that the information from their meetings is sent to the "Voice".

New Business:

1. Volunteer Appreciation Day- Having a day to honor those who do volunteer work for the church and community. A Gratitude Sunday. Possibly in November?

2. Youth-lead Service – a Sunday when youth completely conduct the service including a sermon. Pastor Christie says that it is usually done in May near graduation.

3. Installation Sunday – Bishop Amy will be contacted to see if she has any special requests for the service. The council will be in charge of food, decorations, etc.

Next Executive Meeting: October 17th at 5 PM

Next Council Meeting: October 19th at 5 PM

Adjourned at: 5:50PM Respectfully submitted by: Carol Bass, Secretary

Women ^{of the} ELCA



Women of the ELCA Minutes October 10, 2023

Brenda Bertilson opened the meeting by a reading from "Strength & Grace." Based on Psalm 36:5.

Mission & Purpose statements were read. The September minutes were read and approved. A thank you card was received from the family of Bette Simon for her life celebration.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. No old business.

New business: Making meatballs for the Christmas Bazaar is set for 9:00 a.m. on October 19th at church. Lefse makers are needed: please contact Kris Jackson at the church office if you are able to help.

Two raffle items have been donated. One is a hand-crafted fishing rod made by Dave VanBergon with a reel donated by Rainy Lake One Stop. The second item is a gift basket put together by Sue Frank & Renee Whitbeck.

Baked goods & craft items are needed!

Eleven school kits were put together.

Next FLW meeting is November 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Harju, secretary

Christmas Bazaar

Holidays

candy

TOYS

Ornaments

keepsakes

sewing

candy

Crafts

BOOKS

snowmen

Meatballs

gift baskets

lefse

Raffles

towels

knitting

**The First Lutheran Annual Bazaar and Craft Sale
is scheduled for December 2nd.**

**Get out your knitting needles and scroll saws,
paint brushes and sewing machines.**

Let's make this the best one ever!!

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL INFORMATION — AS OF Sept. 30, 2023

	CURRENT MONTH ACTUAL	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
OPERATING INCOME	7,857	14,829	(6,972)	134,126	133,463	663
OPERATING EXPENSE	17,168	17,091	(77)	158,053	153,822	(4,230)
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSE	(9,311)	(2,262)	(7,049)	(23,926)	(20,359)	(3,567)

In 2023, we need to focus on our year-to-date (YTD) information so that we understand if we are getting behind (or eating into our cash). **Yes. We are now.**

Income—First 4 months, strong giving. Thank you very much.
 May—income short of expense by (\$6,994)
 June— income short of expense by (\$12,973—LARGE shortfall
 July — Income short of expense by (\$8,235) — LARGE shortfall
 August—Income over Expenses by 8,439—Good month-- THANK YOU
 September—Income short of Expenses by (9,311) - Large shortfall
 YTD- OVERALL SHORT OF EXPENSES BY (\$23,926)
EXPENSES-
 YTD—EXPENSES—9 MONTHS—OVER BUDGET (\$4,230)

Now we need to get our giving to the general fund back in line.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES!

**Offering
envelopes are
expected to
arrive this
month
(November).**



**Please watch for
them.
Thank you for
your continued
support of
First Lutheran
ministries.**



More than 100 worshipers were on hand for the service of installation. At left: Sunday Saari and Steve Saari present "His Eye is on the Sparrow" for Pastor Christie's installation. At right: Council President Brian Briggs helps to install the new pastor.

A message from the Parish Exploration Team

We are meeting with Zion Lutheran Church Council to explore how we can be the church in new ways. We have chosen to do this because the following needs have been identified: strong, stable, and innovative ministry leadership, congregational vitality, and financial stability. Our councils have worked together to develop an exploration team with members from both congregations to do this work and are working with synod staff to help us have the resources we need to make this exploration successful. The team will meet once or twice a month to engage in an exploration process. We will share information about the progress of these conversations through monthly announcements during worship services and *The Voice*. The information that is shared will be the same information shared at both congregations. In order to make sure that the congregation's hopes and desires are best represented, please share openly with the exploration team when you see them or when you are approached by one of the team members.

The exploration team members are:

- Sheryl Peterson – Zion
- Garner Wiley – Zion
- Jaci Nagle – Zion
- Kathi Henrickson – First
- Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack – First
- Sherri Mannausau – First

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to reach out to our council president, Brian Briggs at 218-340-9795

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?



High School(ers...)

We know you are BUSY! So we would love to offer you a break once a month in your crazy schedules to get out, have some fun and relax. Sunday Funday begins on **November 5th**, 5-7pm at the church. For our first night we are "making pizzas with Steve" (who is Steve? come find out!). After that we will share a new event, always on the first Sunday of the month through May.

This is for those in **grades 9-12**. Hope to see you here!

(We know Deer Hunting is happening but if you are in town come on over!)

Release Time is in full swing!

**Every Wednesday
from 2:30 to 4 p.m.
for Grades 2-5.**



**Crafts, Music, Stories, Snacks!
Thanks to all who are sharing
their time and talents with these
fabulous young children of God!**



**Confirmation
has begun for
grades 6-8 most
Wednesdays from
7-8 p.m.**

Please attend worship and classes to prepare for your affirmation of baptism.



**Thank you to the fellowship team and members of First for a lovely reception for my installation. We are so grateful for the welcome --
Pastor Christie and Steve**

PLEASE SIGN UP

First Lutheran needs readers, coffee servers, ushers.

If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact the office!

Several spots in the choir are available, as well!

We meet on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Did you know... If you are a Thrivent member, you can contribute to First Lutheran Church through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Actions Teams.

Log into your Thrivent account online, call 1-800-847-4836 or speak with your personal Thrivent representative for more information.

let's be friends



@FIRSTLUTHERANC



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA**

**Worship at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings**

SO VERY
thankful
FOR
you

To those who helped with worship and fellowship in October, including: Megan and Leah Boe, Pat Ettestad, Duayne & Nancy Johnson, Ardel Henrickson, Kitty Sandstrom, Brenda Bertilson, Sue Mathews & Carol Bass, Addy Zub, McKenna Whelchel, Sherri Mannausau, Steve & Laurie Lindberg, Ashley Golnick and Elizabeth Blight, Max Youso, and Nick Schultz.

To those who helped with music: Kris Jackson, Sue Hewitt, Brad Ettestad, Ryan Skogstad, and Kathy Thureen, Sunday Saari, Steve Saari, and the choir.
Thank you so much!!

Prayer Chain

First Lutheran Church has four active prayer chains. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call either the church office at 283-2208, or Brenda Bertilson 283-2144; 240-4939. You must have permission to put someone on the chain, either from the person, or from a close relative. To put someone on the list for Sunday prayers, call the office at 283-2208. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

Remember in your prayers, those in need and those in care facilities.

Good Samaritan: Jackie Christiansen, Joe Van Guse, Ruby Radford,
Margi Roeder

Ranier Roost: Ruth Milander



YOGA

POPPIN

November dates and times:

Thursday, Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 20, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 27, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bring a mat or use a chair and stay as long as you like.

November Birthdays

11/1 Douglas Arason Chev Arnold Mary Christensen Timothy Rousseau	Chopper McBride 11/16 Delphine Bernath Erica Bertilson Christy Earley Summer Froemke	11/26 Shawn Mason Vicky Steinbach 11/27 Ruth Herberg Jerrad Holenko Olaf Lindquist
11/2 Steven Schultz 11/5 Logan Weisz 11/6 Evan Amdahl 11/7 Derek Clark 11/8 Douglas Bertilson 11/10 Nick Jackson Hunter Osse	11/17 Harper Amdahl Jessica Bright Jordan Cook Riley Gilbertson	11/28 Andrew Sobkowicz 11/29 Jack Bartlett Erin Rousseau Hannah Rousseau Cindy Wichner 11/30 Amanda Lassila
11/11 Michelle Hebner Kristine Johnson Parker Olson Clara Palm Barb Plasky	11/20 Jeff Herberg 11/21 Jesse Besch Dean Cowman Barb Keeney	
11/13 Debra Landmark George McDonald Sarah Valentine 11/14 Laura Besch 11/15 Kyle Sjoblom Nora Christensen	11/22 Carter Germain 11/24 Bill Germain Grady Larsen Nancy Shermoen 11/25 Becky Roeder James Roeder	

BACKUS COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES FREE, HOT MEALS TO EVERYONE

Call 218-283-7225 to reserve meals for you and your family for pick up from 5-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
There is no charge, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to October's volunteers:
Nancy Johnson, Carol Bass, Penny Wakeley, Sue Mathews,
and Brenda Bertilson

**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ON NOVEMBER 5TH!**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
123 Wayside Lane
International Falls, MN 56649

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
INTL FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 52

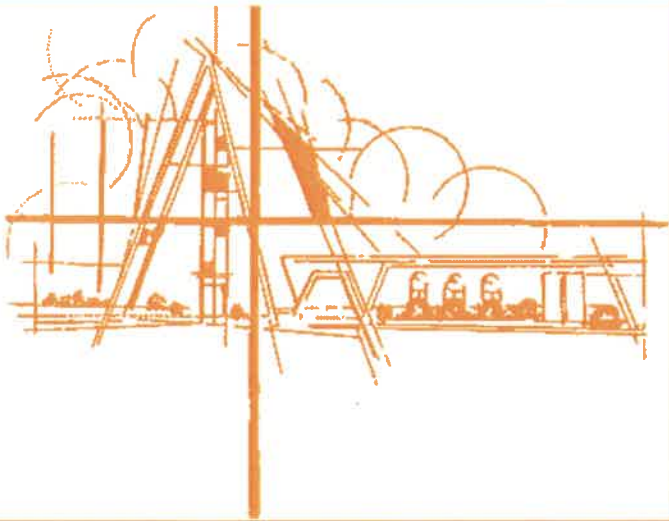
(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)

November 2023
NEWSLETTER



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



First Lutheran's Mission Statement *Sharing God's Grace*

First Lutheran's Vision Statement
*First Lutheran Church will be a congregation
that shares God's grace by:*

- + Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity.
- + Welcoming all to active involvement in ministry.
- + Offering a non-judgmental encounter with God through the celebration of liturgical worship with word and sacrament.
- + Responding faithfully to the Great Commission of Matthew 28 -- to grow.
- + Committing ourselves to serving the needs of our congregation and the community at large.

WORSHIP SERVICE
Available on our website
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!
www.firstlutheranifalls.org
Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Drop Off 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Confirmation	2 830-10 am YOGA POPPIN 10 a.m. 1 pm Clothes Shop 5 pm Community Café	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 5 p.m. Sunday Fun Night 9th-12th Graders	6 830-10am YOGA POPPIN 430 Altar Guild Meeting	7 11 a.m. Bette's Knitters 5 p.m. FELW Meeting 5 pm Community Café	8 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 5 pm Finance Mtg 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Confirmation	9 5 pm Community Café 5:15 p.m. Outreach Meeting	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 5 p.m. Ruby's Pantry	14 10:30 a.m. Building & Grounds Mtg 5 p.m. Executive Meeting 5 p.m. Community Café	15 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Drop Off 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice p.m. Confirmation	16 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Shop 5 p.m. Community Café 5 p.m. Council Mtg	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	20 830-10 am YOGA POPPIN 2 p.m. Northern Lights Quilt Guild VOICE INFO DUE	21 11 a.m. Bette's Knitters 2 p.m. Care Corp Mtg 5 p.m. Community Café	22 No Release Time No Confirmation 6 p.m. Choir Practice	23 THANKSGIVING <i>Offices Closed</i>	24 <i>Offices Closed</i>	25
26 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 6-730 pm YOGA POPPIN	28 5 p.m. Community Cafe	29 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Clothes Drop off 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m Confirmation	30 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Clothes Shop 5 p.m. Community Cafe		



CHRISTMAS Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Handmade Crafts & Home Décor

Christmas Cookies & Candies

Swedish Meatballs – Toffee

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

123 Wayside Lane

(A-frame across from Falls High School)