

The Voice

September 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

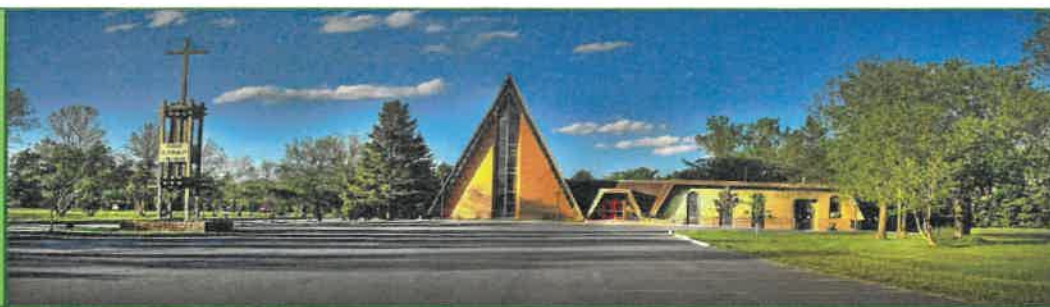
A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA



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Meet and greet Pastor Christie Manisto



Left to right: Lloyd Skogstad, Van Pavleck, Rev. Christie Manisto, Gordie Routier, and Henry Carey share a laugh.

At long last... success!

Reverend Christie Manisto will be officially joining us in September, with her first Sunday on the 24th.

Pastor Christie and her husband Steve Saari grew up in Minnesota and say they're happy to be back among the lakes and trees after a four-year stint in Egypt.

Manisto attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. After being ordained in 2008 in the ELCA, she served as an associate pastor for seven years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minn., and three years at a congregation in Vancouver, Wash. Following that, she left parish ministry and did a one-year CPE residency at Portland Providence Hospital. Once that was completed, she and her husband, Steve, thought about what they wanted to do next. That's when a friend who serves in global mission told them about a call in Egypt.

Christie served as pastor to St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo, an International, interdenominational church in the heart of Cairo. She also served as Chaplain to the St. Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) ministry--an interfaith ministry serving over 45,000 persons who have been forcibly displaced from their homelands and are in Cairo seeking safety.

Steve, a special education teacher, worked with StARS to provide support services to students with cognitive disabilities, and will continue his work through a co-op in Virginia, MN.

We are thrilled to welcome them to our community!



Get Ready for the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Hello world. My name is Tammy Jones West. I am a Deacon in this church, from North Carolina, and I am serving as the Program Director for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. I am honored to have been asked to serve in this way and a little terrified at the responsibility and scope of the work. I also know the impact and importance of this ministry and I will do my best to encourage, support and clear a path for the thousands of volunteers who make this event a reality.

I'm just overwhelmed by the welcome and support. I want the adults who accompany our young people to this event to be just as overwhelmed – in a good way. Overwhelmed at the privilege it is to walk alongside them as they experience the magnitude of God's grace, abundance, and love. That is holy ground and adults, you are walking it. As people of faith, you matter in their faith journey. You are there in their laughter, joy, tears, and pain. I am in awe of each of you. That's why I will stop you if you ever say in my presence – "I'm just a volunteer." You are so much more.

I hope Betty Lohr never uttered those words because she was so much more than "I'm just". She took me to my first Gathering at Purdue University under the theme of "Power in the Cross". She loved me even as a bratty teenager and she is literally why I was involved in youth ministry. She cared and kept taking me to all the events that shaped my friend circle, my world view, and my faith.

This event happens because of you. Adult leaders, volunteers, and partners make the Gathering more than just an event.

It's just a time to widen our perspective on what a Lutheran looks like.

It's just a time to be a part of something bigger than ourselves as we learn about partners such as ELCA World Hunger, and so many more.

It's just a time to get to know our congregational group and share our lives with one another.

It's just a time to worship in new ways and understand that worship might look differently in other places yet it's still worship.

It's just a time to experience scripture differently, shared by different voices, and heard in a new way.

It's just a time to go somewhere new, experience a different city, learn about the history and the stories of their people.

It's just a Gathering led mostly by volunteers. Full stop – it's so much more and you are too. Thank you for your ministry and I hope to see you in 2024.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 20, 2023

Present: President Brian Briggs, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Secretary Carol Bass, Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilson, Discipleship BettyJeanne Henrickson, Fellowship Cynthia Warren, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski, Pastor Paul Erdal

Call Committee: Laurie Lindberg, Pat Ettestad, Harold Schumacher and Pam Peterson as representative from Zion.

Meeting called to order by President Briggs at 5:00 PM.

Devotion – Cynthia Warren spoke a prayer and read a piece “Called by God to be a Pioneer.”

Next month’s devotion by Pastor Paul Erdal

Members of the Call Committee gave an update on the call process. Met with candidate Christie Manisto and were very impressed. Recommend the council approve the next steps in the call process. Meeting to discuss next steps to be held at 4:00 PM on July 25 (this date was later changed.)

Addition to Agenda: There were none.

Minutes from June meeting: Copies provided to all.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the June 2023 meeting.

Made by: Brenda Bertilson

Seconded by: Cynthia Warren

Carried

Treasurer Report: Copies provided to all. In May and June, we had a shortfall. We are currently \$14,917 under expenses. The elevator has been paid off.

Motion: to accept financial reports of June 2023

Made by: Cynthia Warren

Seconded by: Lloyd Skogstad

Carried

Pastor’s Report: Had a great vacation, relaxing and camping. Spent time playing tennis and golf with his younger daughter. Visited his older daughter out East.

The Bob Rousseau funeral is at 11:00 this coming Monday. Kudos to the Care Committee for telling Pastor of needed visits to those hospitalized or shut in.

Committee Reports:

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)

President- Spoke to June Caul of Ft Frances Zion Lutheran and Bishop Amy. Per the Bishop we could contact for pastoral services for Zion Ft Frances but not establish a joint parish. The Zion Council of Ft Frances does not meet in the summer, so nothing further in discussion until September.

Vice-President – The Borderland churches have planned a youth fishing event for August 27.

Service/Outreach – 3 get well cards sent. 6 volunteers worked at Community Café. One prayer shawl was delivered.

Discipleship – BettyJeanne was present for the early part of meeting but had to leave due to a prior commitment. No report this month.

Fellowship – Cynthia reported the picnic went okay. Some leftover food was frozen and some shared with Servants of Shelter. The VNP boat tour was cancelled due to lack of interest. Planning on a pontoon boat get together in August.

Building and Grounds – Lloyd reported that the Range Roofing Company inspected the roof and gave us 3 options:

- Option A Would involve removing 2 wet spots down to the tapered insulation and installing new materials to make the area watertight again. This would cost \$7,190.00.

- Option B Reseam and reseal all penetrations and seams on entire roof to extend the life span. This would cost \$8,925,00.

- Option C A reroofing of entire structure including entrance canopy. \$49,979.00

Lloyd said that Option A to fill the low spots is all that's necessary now. The roof was resealed two years ago (Option B.) The Memorial Hall fund still has some money in it and as the needed repair area is over Memorial Hall, it was suggested that we use the money for that. Building and Grounds budget will also be rolled over into roofing.

Motion: That the remaining money in the Memorial Hall fund and remaining Building and Grounds budget be used to repair the needed areas of the roof.

Made by: Cynthia Warren

Seconded by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

We will be using volunteers for snow plowing this winter, a savings of \$2,000. The sign is working well, and no problem with changing content.

Finance – Nothing further to report.

Worship and Music – Deacon Brenda Tibbetts will be here to provide pulpit supply while Pastor Paul is at Camp Onamia. There will be no communion that Sunday but will have re-affirmation of Baptism.

Nancy is still thinking on re-starting choir but difficulty in finding participants.

Council (continued on page 7)



Shop for school kit needs

The FLW will be preparing school kits again this year for Lutheran World Relief. It may seem out of place to be thinking of school supplies at this time of year, but the best sales of these items are usually in August.

Supplies needed are 70-count notebooks, 24-count crayons, blue or black pens, pencil sharpeners, and blunt or semi-blunt edged scissors. When shopping, please consider picking up a few extras for these kits.



Christmas in July raffle winners: At left, Julie Jaksa with the quilt donated by Mike Carey. At right, Cynthia Warren with the “think green” basket donated by BettyJeanne Henrickson.

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL INFORMATION — AS OF July 31, 2023

	CURRENT MONTH ACTUAL	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
OPERATING INCOME	9,307	14,829	(5,523)	97,065	103,805	(6,740)
OPERATING EXPENSE	17,542	17,091	(450)	120,168	119,640	(528)
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSE	(8,235)	(2,262)	(5,973)	(23,104)	(15,835)	(7,269)

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

YTD- OVERALL SHORT OF EXPENSES BY (\$23,104)

EXPENSES-

YTD—EXPENSES—6 MONTHS—OVER BUDGET (\$450)- GOOD JOB

The great news is that the elevator is paid off (we borrowed from ourselves)
Many thanks for helping to make that happen.
Now we need to get our giving to the general fund back in line.

Elevator cost \$46,241.95.

PAID IN FULL.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES!

People are talking about putting a choir together.

Are you in?

Our first rehearsal will be
Wednesday, September 6th, at 6 p.m.

Tell your friends, and we'll see what happens.

Council (continued from page 4)

Old Business:

a. Question raised s to whether we will be changing the time of services back to 10:30 after Labor Day. Brian will ask for input from the congregation to see what is desired.

b. The joint council meeting with Zion will be on July 25th from 5-7 PM. At First Lutheran. Everyone is asked to bring 3 suggestions

c. for members to be on the joint exploration committee as we investigate possibly becoming one parish (two campuses) with Zion.

d. Three dishwashers needed for Rouseau funeral on Monday.

New Business:

a.. Gideons – Pastor was approached by a member of the Gideons a. to see if one of the group could speak to our congregation about their mission. Pastor has had experience with them before and suggested we set a time limit (5 min.) and if they wish to do a collection it be separate from our offering and perhaps done at back of church as people are leaving. As there was no objection to them coming, Pastor said he would contact them to ask about a suitable date.

b. Donations for pastoral coverage – It is customary to give money and mileage

reimbursement for those doing pulpit supply. Since no one was sure what the synod guidelines were, Brad said he would check on this and let everyone know.

c. Other office coverage reimbursement – On the occasion when both Kathi and Kris are absent should replacement staff be reimbursed? Suggestion for a gift card or debit card and the amount being \$40 (\$10/hr.).

Motion: That Office coverage staff be reimbursed with a \$40 gift card or debt card retroactive to the time when Kathi was gone. (\$10/hr.)

Made by: Nancy McBride

Seconded by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

d. Upgrade office computer hard drive – Slow, having problems. Brad says that upgrade would be \$200 - \$300. He will get an exact quote from Small Town tech and let us know next month.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: August 15, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Next Council Meeting: August 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Carol Bass, Secretary

**Worship is at 10:30
Starting on September 10th.
See you there!**

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

**Release Time begins October 4th, 2:30-4 p.m.
A family potluck is in the planning stage...
Watch for more information here and at church!**



Confirmation for ninth graders will begin Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

The Affirmation of Baptism, sometimes referred to as the Rite of Confirmation, is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 29th. This will be for this year's ninth grade confirmands. Confirmation classes for grades 6-8 are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evenings. Please watch for more information.



It was another great year at Camp Vermilion! Think about going to Vermilion or Hiawatha with your friends next year.



Fun on the waterfront!

20 people enjoyed a warm and sunny afternoon of fellowship on Betty-Jeanne’s deck. Kathi Henrickson and Brad Ettestad captained the pontoon for rides on Rainy Lake. Alyce and Larry Mannausau generously offered their boat. It was a fun time. Thanks to all!!



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**

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

**Thank
YOU!**

To those who helped with worship in August, including: Ardel Henrickson, Marc Glowack, Summer Froemke, Gracie Froemke, Pat Ettestad, Nancy & Duayne Johnson, Brenda Sullican, Barb Bergh, Carol Bass, Hoa Sobczynski, Kitty Sandstrom.

To those who helped with fellowship, including: BettyJeanne, Kathi, and Ardel Henrickson, Cynthia Warren, Sherri Mannausau, Van Pavleck, and Duayne and Nancy Johnson.

To those who helped with music: Kris Jackson, Sue Hewitt, Brad Ettestad, Ryan Skogstad, Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack, and Kathy Thureen.

Thank you so much!!

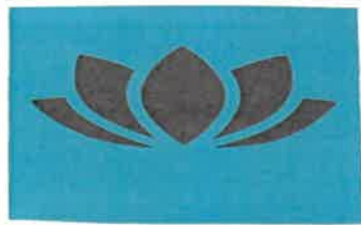
Prayer Chain

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: Margi Roeder

Littlefork Nursing Home: Betty Steinbach



YOGA

POPPIN

Yoga with a certified instructor. \$10 fee with half going to FELC.

September dates and times:

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 22, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

September Birthdays

9/1	Wyatt Amdahl Joshua Sobkowicz	Jakob Eide	9/22	Tenneyson Amdahl Austin Valentine	
9/3	Bill Bergstrom Tony Jackson Braeson Porter	9/12	Sophie Fredrickson	9/23	Riley Larson
9/4	Wade Kennedy	9/13	Isaac Johnson Glen Marcotte Kellie Swanson	9/24	Amy Basaraba
9/5	Linda Martin	9/16	Germaine Lindquist Maynard Nickelson	9/25	Tara Tomczak
9/6	Macey Marcotte		Gail Rasmussen	9/26	Diane Raboin
9/7	Wendy Ness		Charles Swanson	9/27	Brian Briggs Chanin Smith William Wagner
9/8	Tamara Sjoblom Ryan Zub	9/17	Mya Gilbertson	9/28	John Slatinski IV Hoa Sobcynski
9/9	Michelle Boelk	9/18	Adalyn Zub	9/29	Zachary Wichner
9/10	Ron Gilbertson Luke Valentine	9/19	Kristine Jackson	9/30	Jonathan Froemke Kelly Golnick
9/11	Owen Amundsen Kalsie Briggs	9/20	Kyra Hasbargen Ariel Smith Kurt Sobcynski		
		9/21	Tammie Treat		

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**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 August's volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh,
Brenda Bertilson, Nancy Johnson, and Sue Mathews.**

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

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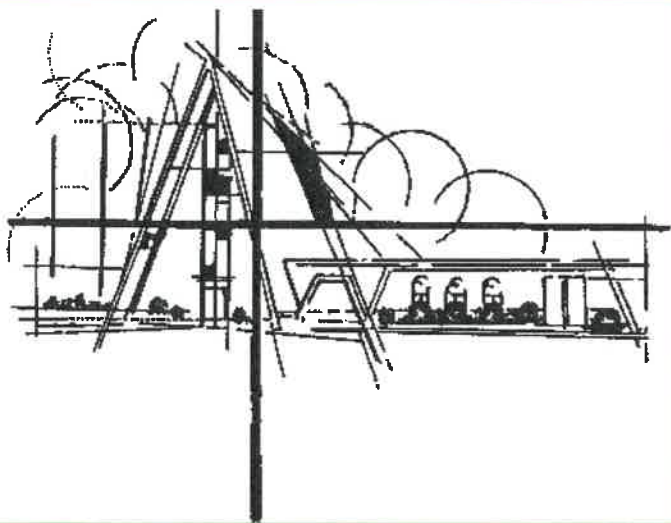
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September 2023
NEWSLETTER



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.