



First Lutheran Church

We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.

January 2023 Parish Visitor

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends in Christ,
I'm sure it comes as no big surprise, but I'm writing to announce that I will be retiring from my position as pastor at First Lutheran Church on May 31st of 2023.

In some ways it seems like I haven't been here long at all, and yet at the end of January, I will have completed my 10th year as one of your pastors. It has been truly a pleasure to serve this congregation. You manifest in so many ways this verse from Psalm 107:1 -

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

For that my heart is full, and I am incredibly thankful for many things.

1. I am deeply appreciative of the working relationships I have enjoyed here with the Office Staff. Especially I want to thank Tonya Tomasek, Becky and Bill Weber, Pastor Mike, Samantha Nielsen, and Kitsi Marks before her – they are not only talented and committed people of deep faith – they're also a lot of fun to be around!
2. There is a true hunger in this congregation to study the Bible – and God continues to raise up people to make that happen! From Women's, Men's, and Youth group bible studies, to our Sunday morning group and *Bibles and Brew*, the Word is being studied and heard!
3. Invariably I hear comments from visitors and new members about the amazing and musically talented people who share their gifts so generously here. I can assure you that any pastor would count it a blessing to serve this congregation for that fact alone!
4. Our Youth and Education programs are stellar and I marvel at the number of families whose children have been blessed by participating in these ministries.
5. I am very thankful to the people who saw the *handwriting on the wall* years ago and led the effort to put screens in the sanctuary, as well as those who have mastered their areas of expertise (graphics/pictures, video, sound, projection, etc.).
6. The competent and talented people who have been, and are, our congregational leaders amazes me. God continues to raise up people with a combination of leadership skills and a servant spirit that keep this congregation grounded. The list of individuals who donate their time to the maintenance of our ministries and facilities is a mile long!
7. And last, but definitely not least, I am continually inspired by First Lutheran's spirit of generosity and concern both for those who are in need and for those who have been marginalized. You are an inspiration to the entire community!

Carolyn and I are looking forward to having the time and health to visit family and friends scattered across the country and the ocean. Yet we also look forward to greeting you at times, our First Lutheran family and friends, as we have no plans to move away.

It's our prayer that God will bless and lead you so that you continue to be a blessing to others, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Children, Families and Youth News

ANYONE NEED SOFTENER SALT???



FLY--Senior High will be selling **Eco-Water Salt-Extra Coarse 50lb. bags starting January 4th**. Cost will be \$8 per bag. This fundraiser will help cover costs associated with this year's SUMMER MISSION TRIP. We will sell until January 18. **Delivery dates will be Saturday February 11 or Sunday February 12.....and we will bring it to you!** Contact the youth if you would like to order!



SHETEK

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

FIGURING OUT

YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR???

I'm really not crazy!! Make sure that Shetek Summer Bible Camp is on that calendar somewhere and then work from there! Get the scoop on summer camp either on **Shetek Wednesday-- January 25 or Shetek Sunday—January 29!** There is something for everyone and every age. We want your family to experience the love of Christ at camp! There is no place like it!! The church scholarships are \$100 for a week long camp and \$50 for a mini camp. Check it out!! (special scholarships may be available by calling Tonya.)

Parent Forum: February 1st at 7:00pm is another parent forum. We target these for the confirmation parents, *but anyone is welcome*.

Topic: "Technology Tips that Your Kids Know and You May Not". 😊



MILESTONE MINISTRY AT FIRST LUTHERAN!!

..... What is a Milestone?

A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important and God is here, too." Marking a milestone is a biblically-based spiritual practice for both home and congregation. It helps all generations recognize God IS the central core of their lives every day!

Upcoming Milestones:

1st Graders Milestone Blessing of Prayer will be Sunday January 15 at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class with your parents will be the same day between services at 9:45am in the FLY Zone.

3rd Graders Milestone Blessing of Stewardship will be Sunday February 5th at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class with your parents will be Wednesday January 25th at 7:00pm in the FLY Zone.

6th Graders Milestone Blessing "God Loves Me" will be Sunday February 5th at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class will be Wednesday February 1st at 7:00pm.



Reminder: TLC Wednesday will begin again January 4 & TLC Sunday will January 8!



8th Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting

On **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:55 pm (right after Confirmation)** there will be a meeting in the Gethsemane Chapel for **8th Grade Confirmation Students, their parents, and 8th Grade Confirmation Captains.** This meeting will have information for you about dates and events leading up to Confirmation day 2023!

Women's Ministry

January 4	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
January 9	7:00pm Esther Circle Bible Study – Movie Room
January 11	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
January 11	10:00am Peace Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
January 18	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
January 25	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

Other Important Items

Coloring for Christ (C4C) Come and join us if you like to color and reach out to First Lutheran members who are shut-ins, who have experienced a death of loved one recently or have a health problem. We will meet Monday, January 2 at 2:00 in Fellowship Hall. Some coloring supplies will be provided or you can bring your own. Questions? Call Paulette Hanson at 507-530-0284.



First Lutheran will be responsible for **Meals in Wheels** February 6-10, 2023 and February 13-17, 2023. Please sign up on the website under Serving Schedules, or call the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Twila Henning 507-360-0828.

First Lutheran's volunteer night at **Esther's Kitchen** is January 23, 2023. If you would like to help please sign up on the website under Serving Schedules, or call the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Twila Henning 507-360-0828.



The First Lutheran Foundation would like to share its gratitude for the response received from its promotional week/weekend. In response to the information given with this campaign ~ \$7,350 was received and deposited into the Primary Account - - and ~ \$1,550 into the Kidder Account. The First Lutheran Foundation appreciates you!

Worship Schedule

Wednesdays – 6:00pm

Saturdays – 5:30pm

Sundays - 8:30am & 10:45am

Services available on YouTube – www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall

Radio – Sundays at 11am on 1400AM or 101.7FM

Local Cable TV – Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 5pm

Spectrum 180 & Bluepeak 17

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www.1stlutheran.org

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!