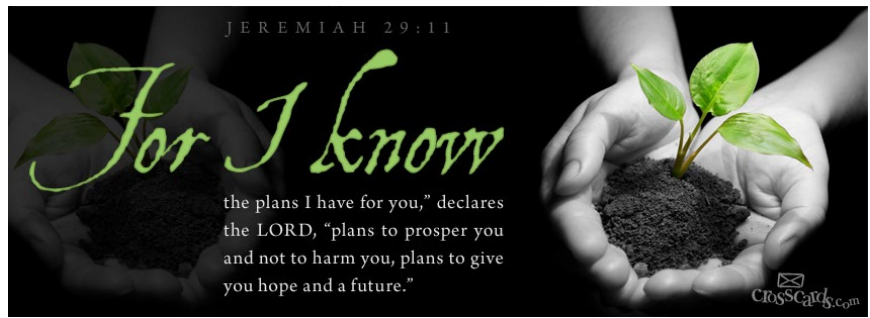


# April 2024 Parish Visitor



## Pastor Sara Vanderpan Interim Pastor

### Unsettling. Stressful. Invigorating. Right.

Ted and I have moved nine times in our marriage (39 years). Education, first call, second call, more education, new roles, on and on. Moving from one home (and town) to another is unsettling and stressful. Yet it is invigorating, too, and somehow right, if that decision fits with the larger hopes, dreams, and goals for our lives.

We may understand this *bigger picture* when we make a move, but that doesn't spare us from actually carrying out the plan, step by step by step —finding a new doctor, mechanic, grocery store, and walking path; setting up the utilities, internet, and trash removal. We can feel overwhelmed, even foundation-less while a major move is happening.

And, inevitably, when we make a move, something doesn't go as planned. For Ted and me, one purchase agreement just about fell apart as the moving truck was ready to pull out of the driveway. Many phone calls ensued! Moves are likely more expensive than you imagined, too.

Transitions between pastors in a congregation can have the same feel and stressors as changing houses. The level of actual details and tasks can be just as high, too. But when the transition is complete, the invigorating and satisfying sense of accomplishment and newness will come, once again.

Be patient, my friends, for there is no question that the calling of a new pastor fits with the larger hopes, dreams, and goals for First Lutheran Church (FLC). It is worth it. Together, we strive for the Gospel of Jesus to be lifted up continually among us. It is Jesus, by his Spirit, who gives new life and vitality to people and congregations alike.

For FLC and for any who are facing transitions personally, I offer a prayer from our faith heritage:

#### **Prayer of Good Courage** (from Holden Village)

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May you be blessed today with faith and good courage in Jesus!

In peace, *Pastor Sara Vanderpan*



## Children & Family News

Samantha Nielsen, Director of Education

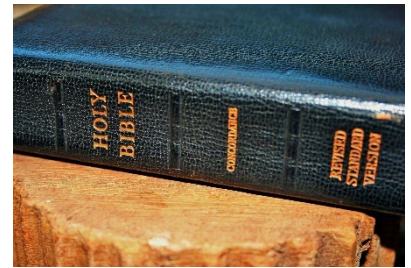
### **TLC WOW (Wild on the Word) Memory Work Presentations:**

TLC Wednesday & TLC Sunday Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have been working in their classrooms and at home on various Memory Work Assignments. On the last day of TLC, each grade level will take turns presenting a portion of their memory work during the Wednesday or Sunday worship services. Below is the schedule...

**Wednesday, April 17** – Last day of TLC & TLC Wednesday **Memory Work Presentations** during the 6:00 Worship time!

**Sunday, April 21** – Last day of TLC & TLC Sunday **Memory Work Presentations** during the 9:00 Worship time!

TLC families will receive a reminder email with all the details at least one week prior to the service of your child's presentation in worship.



### **First Lutheran Education programs are wrapping up for the summer soon. Here are the ending dates...**

Last day of TLC Wednesday is April 17, 2024.  
Last day of TLC Sunday is April 21, 2024  
Last day of Wednesday Worship Services are April 17, 2024  
Last day of Confirmation Classes are April 24, 2024



### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20:**

All First Lutheran 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will travel to Shetek Lutheran Ministries for their Confirmation Retreat. Pastor Sara, Sam, & Bailey along with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Captains will be joining them on this Faith Journey.

### **Confirmation Pictures & Rehearsal:**

**Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00pm** in the Sanctuary: Photoworks will take a "Confirmation Class Picture" and individual pictures, if you wish. Then, after the pictures, there will be a Confirmation Rehearsal for students, parents, and captains.



8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation worship service is May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

# Join us for the 2024 First Lutheran VBS: Stellar!

<https://vbspro.events/p/c1b87e>



Sunday, June 2 – Wednesday, June 5 from 4:00–7:15pm

Early Bird Registration by May 1: \$10/student

After May 1: \$15/student

**\*\* If you register after May 1, you are not guaranteed a T-Shirt\*\***

5th & 6th Graders: Register as a Leader In Training

Do your own craft/projects, help out your Crew Leader & get a T-Shirt.

Take \$5 off your registration fee – and write L.I.T. on the 'Additional Comments' line.

Parents, consider using your gifts to help us as a volunteer for kitchen, crew leader, crafts, stories, and more! Let me know if you have any questions!



## Youth & Family News

Bailey Long, Director of Youth & Family



### **NEW FLY FUNDRAISER...The Pink Flamingos will be landing soon!!**

Sponsored by the youth attending the ELCA Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Starting April 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, these obnoxious long-legged creatures could possibly land on your lawn! We're excited to have fun with this! Here's how it works if they land on your lawn:

- **Option 1:** A \$25 donation will send the flock of flamingos to land on the next yard at the end of the day.
- **Option 2:** A \$50 donation will send the flock to land on a yard of YOUR choosing at the end of the day.
- **Option 3:** You can do nothing, and the flock will roost in your yard for 2 days!

**\*\*Flock Insurance can be purchased after April 4<sup>th</sup> for \$50 to prevent the flock from landing on your lawn\*\***

**We hope everyone can have fun with this FUNdraiser!  
For questions contact the church office.**



## **DON'T FORGET ABOUT BIBLE CAMP THIS SUMMER!! SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**

Shetek Lutheran Ministries has so much to offer youth, families, grandparents...all people! Shetek has worked hard to continue to provide excellent faith building opportunities for our families. And there are some new and exciting camps being created as well as the old favorites! Demands continue to rise for families, and their children as the times in our world change. Summer Bible Camp is the greatest way to keep our young people and families grounded and focused on their faith journey and their love in Christ. It doesn't mean that the demands are not going to be there—but it does promise to remind us that there is a loving God who is with us during all of the changes. And allows us to have some fun in our faith for a week!

Help us keep bible camp a priority. Scholarships are provided for all members of First Lutheran. **\$100 for week-long camps and \$50 for half week camps.** You just register with Shetek and they will bill us for the scholarships at the end of summer. HOWEVER, money is NEVER a reason to NOT go to camp. Special scholarships are also provided and remain confidential. Just contact Bailey at 532-2429 or [bailey@1stlutheran.org](mailto:bailey@1stlutheran.org).

**KEEP THE "SON" IN YOUR SONSHINE THIS SUMMER!!!**

## CLASS OF 2024 RECEPTION AND BACCAULAUREATE SERVICE

Just a heads up that our celebration of our senior class will be Sunday, May 12 at the 9:00am service. A reception and brunch for their immediate families will follow.

**SENIORS - IF YOU HAVE NOT BROUGHT IN YOUR SENIOR PICTURE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR CLASS COMPOSITE, PLEASE DO SO! THANKS!**



**HyVee Cards available for Purchase!** The Summer trip youth will continue selling the Hy-Vee gift cards throughout the year as a part of their fundraisers. During the summer, you can purchase them in the office. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. Everyone needs groceries....and its money you would spend anyway, if not all at one time, eventually. By using the gift cards, part of the money will go to the youth!

## Hey FLY Seniors! Apply for a College Scholarship



First Lutheran Church, with financial support from the First Lutheran Church Foundation, is pleased to announce the opening for applications for the annual Norman and Irene Timm Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was made possible by the generous contribution of the Timm family, in memory of their parents, who were long-time First Lutheran Church members. **The 2024 scholarship is for \$500**, and is open to...seniors that are involved at church, attending college in the fall, and have some goals for your future, which you'll write about in your essay.

Applications can be found at the church or on our website. The deadline is April 30, 2024.

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## **Outreach News**

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Outreach



## **CANVAS AND COOKIES!!**

Join us on **Wednesday, May 22 from 6:30-8:30pm** and bring a friend as we enjoy an evening together. For \$35 per person, you can find your "inner Bob Ross"! Our own, Kayla Padfield, will guide us as we create our own masterpieces. (And enjoy some treats!) All are welcome! Spread the word! Invite your friends!! Deadline to sign up is Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>.



## **Spring Fling!!** MARK IT DOWN AND JOIN US!!

The Youth & Family, Education, and Outreach Committees are teaming up again to host a night FAMILIES won't want to miss!!

You are invited to join us on **Friday, April 12th**, for our **Spring Fling** from **6:30-9pm**.

Come in your PJs for a night full of family fun, a movie, and snacks. Mark it down on your calendars! More details to be announced!



### **The Marshall Lions are collecting glasses.**

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please share your old glasses. There is a drop off box located by the office entrance. Thanks in advance.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Did you know First Lutheran (FLC) has a Prayer Shawl Ministry? We do and we would like to let the members of FLC know that anyone can participate by knitting or crocheting a shawl. Also, to let everyone know if there is someone in your life in great need of support (a member of FLC or in our community), let Ann in our office know and we will try to accommodate by visiting with a shawl.



### **Prayers at First Lutheran:** *Prayer can be defined as “an intimate friendship, and conversation with God”.*

Beyond praying together in worship, people pray for those on our **Prayer List** that you see in the bulletin and on our prelude slides.

The people that are on our prayer list are on for Ongoing Prayer Needs over an extended period of time OR they are on the list for Recent and Short-term Prayer Needs.



We try to keep these organized for our faith family.

Did you know that we also have a **Prayer Chain Email** that goes out for more urgent prayer requests? Many people find comfort in knowing that this email specifically goes out to a prayer warrior group.

If you have a prayer need, contact the church office to have it included.

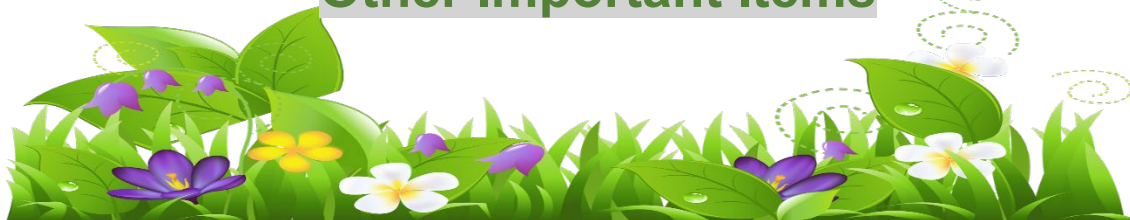
If you would like to be included in the prayer chain, receive the emails and help pray for others, please let the church office know.

***1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT) “I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.”***



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## Other Important Items



**Coloring for Christ** will meet on Monday, April 1 at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome who enjoy adult coloring. Please bring coloring supplies if you have them. Call Paulette Hanson at 507-530-0284 if you have questions.

**Maggie Jean Foundation Project:** If you have finished blankets and hats, please bring them to the church office. We will continue to make and distribute blankets and hats. If you need yarn, please call Twila Henning at 507-360-0828. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this project.

**Free Garage Sale:** If another group would like to take on and be responsible for the Free Garage Sale project from Social Ministries, they would be happy to share notes with you.



**Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering:** Will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Bethany Lutheran in Arco at 9:00am. Special Speaker is Scott Gottschalk and the theme is "Angels Among Us." Contact Corlys at 507-828-6106 for more information.

**Southwestern Minnesota Women of the ELCA Convention** will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 8:30am-3:30pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. Registrations and a fee of \$40 are due by April 22. Registration includes a program, coffee

and lunch. Pick up the registration form in the office if you are interested or contact Corlys at 507-828-6106 for more information.

### **Summer Office Hours**

It's great to look ahead to the summer season and a few changes from school year routines. As you look ahead, please note the church office hours will change for the summer (June through August) as follows. You will find staff members at the church at other times, too, and you may reach them via phone, text or email with questions to set something up.

#### **Summer Office Hours:**

Monday	9am to 1pm
Tuesday	9am to 1pm
Wednesday	9am to 1pm
Thursday	9am to 1 pm



**It's Spring Cleaning at First Lutheran on April 6th!** We are looking for volunteers to sign-up and help clean the church on **Saturday, April 6 from 9-12pm**. We will meet in the office area at 9:00am. Jobs will include cleaning the church pew cushions, washing chairs and tables in the Fellowship Hall, washing windows, dusting and sweeping, etc. Please sign-up by calling the church office at 532-2429 or send Ann an email: [ann@1stlutheranchurch.org](mailto:ann@1stlutheranchurch.org)

**Call Process Update:** Hello! I'd like to provide an exciting update on the First Lutheran Church Call Process. A quick review of the 7-step process:

Step 1: Say goodbye to our pastor.

Step 2: Interim pastor discernment.

Step 3: Complete the Congregation Mission Assessment and Ministry Site Profile. Thank you to that team for their hard work!

Step 4: Establish a Call Committee.

Step 5: Consider candidates.

Step 6: Extend the call.

Step 7: Welcome our new Pastor.



We are currently on Step 4. We have established a Call Committee! The committee members are: Jeff Larsen serving as Chair, Jason Anderson, Dave Gifford, Scott Griebel, Marcy Heemeyer, Sonya Kayser, Sydney Meister, Mitchell Maxwell, Carol Purrington and Grace Rokeh.

The Committee has a Synod orientation March 24th and will be installed April 21st. The Call Committee will interview potential candidates and make a recommendation to the Council. Process details: <https://swmnelca.org/call-process>

Please keep the Call Committee and candidates in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you! - Stacy Frost, Council President

**Bible and Brew:** No session on March 28th due to Holy Thursday. Spring session is April 4- May 16. **Please NOTE: We will meet at KB's Bar & Grill on April 11** with a guest leader. Reminder- All are welcome to join us on Thursdays at 5:30pm for a brew or beverage of choice, along with a menu item, if desired. Dutch treat of course.

We study the upcoming Sunday's Bible reading while enjoying camaraderie, asking lots of questions and gaining insight. All are welcome!

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**April 2024**



14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172  
507-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



- **Apply to work at camp.**  
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

*Happy Spring!*

### **Wish List**

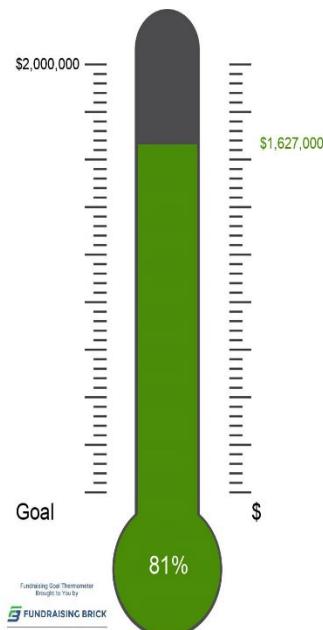
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Mini Vans
- Volunteers

### **Mark your Calendar**

- April 19-20 Confirmation Retreat
- April 22-25 Quilt & Craft Retreat
- May 4 Spring Cleanup
- May 11 Spring Cleanup
- Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information!

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website.  
<https://shetek.org/sl-m-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!

## **First Lutheran Worship Schedule**



**Wednesdays 6:00pm    Saturdays 5:30pm    Sundays 9:00am**

Radio 11:00am Sundays on 1400AM or 101.7FM

Local Cable TV 10:00am Wednesdays and 5:00pm Thursdays

Spectrum 180 & Bluepeak 17

[www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall](http://www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall)

Church Office Phone: (507) 532-2429

Office email: [office@1stlutheran.org](mailto:office@1stlutheran.org)



**Pastor Sara Vanderpan**

Interim Pastor

[pastorsara@1stlutheran.org](mailto:pastorsara@1stlutheran.org)

**Tonya Tomasek**

Director of Outreach

[tonya@1stlutheran.org](mailto:tonya@1stlutheran.org)

**Bailey Long**

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

[bailey@1stlutheran.org](mailto:bailey@1stlutheran.org)

**Samantha Nielsen**

Director of Education

[samantha@1stlutheran.org](mailto:samantha@1stlutheran.org)

**Ann Schlenner**

Office Manager

[ann@1stlutheran.org](mailto:ann@1stlutheran.org)