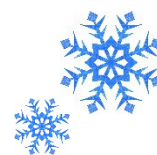


February
2024



Parish Visitor Newsletter



Pastor Sara Vanderpan

Interim Pastor

Thoughts on TRANSITION from Pastor Sara

Transition. It's complicated! It is a call for conversation, detail work, and prayer!

It's true... congregational pastors are like other employees in many ways, like responsibility and accountability to the organization, just doing the job, but in many ways, the pastor's full role is different, more complicated, and the *search* for a new pastor is complicated, too. Let's consider three tasks in the search.

First, conversation. We talk and listen. Because a congregation is a long-term, relational community, the fit for a next pastor needs multiple inputs of information. The insights of the most involved to the most recent newcomer carry weight, as do the current worship, programmatic, and governance needs. All this information takes time to collect, analyze, and put into writing.

In addition, because a congregation is situated in a specific location, a unique community or setting, and its members and mission are connected to that location, the descriptions of the town (region), business culture, educational systems, and medical community warrant a fresh articulation in each call process. This takes time. This takes **detail work**. The MSP Team leads the way, inviting others to contribute.

Then, more detail work. With the help of elected leaders, the MSP Team considers what gifts and skills are important to have in a new top leader. The team looks at the key tasks of the upcoming years and what experience may be needed. Giftedness and training, life experiences and personality will all be considered as the team describes this congregation's needs in a next pastor.

Finally, prayer. There's no question that conversation and detail work go into the writing and assembling of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document. Most of this work is coordinated by the MSP Team, but the final transition task to mention in this article is **prayer** and can be done by all who love this church. So, let us pray. For God the Holy Spirit does the most foundational work of all, connecting pastors and congregations through the decades, for who else sees and knows the movement of people from place to place over time? Who else knows what God is doing here in this place?

First Lutheran Church, let's remember that God knows the needs of this congregation and God knows the gifting and readiness of the person now being called to serve here. Who may God be sending this way? Someone that God knows and is preparing as I write and as you read.

With hope,

Pastor Sara Vanderpan



Children & Family News

Samantha Nielson, Director of Education

3 For Heaven's Sake

3 For Heaven's Sake Class

will meet Sunday, February 18th from 10:15-11:00a.m.

We will now be meeting in the nursery!



The 4th Grade Acolyte Training Session for students and parents will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 10:15am in the Sanctuary and Wednesday, February 28th at 5:15pm in the Sanctuary.

Please email Sam at samantha@1stlutheran.org if you are interested. There will be an installation of new Acolytes during both Worship Services on Sunday, March 10th where they will receive their Acolyte cross and Acolyte Stone for the 4th Grade Milestone Celebration.



Youth & Family News

Bailey Long, Director of Youth & Family



..... 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!

February Milestones:

3rd Graders Milestone Blessing of Stewardship will be Sunday February 4th at the 9:00am service.
6th Graders Milestone Blessing "God Loves Me" will be Sunday February 4th at the 9:00am service.

FIGURING OUT YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR???



S H E T E K
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Make sure that **Shetek Bible Camp** is on that calendar somewhere and then work from there! Get the scoop on summer camp. *Shetek's early bird deadline is February 1st!*

The church scholarships are \$100 for a week long camp and \$50 for a mini camp..... Check it out!! (special scholarships can be available by calling Bailey.)

BROCHURES are available online www.shetek.org

HyVee Cards available for Purchase! AND Chamber Books:

HyVee gift cards throughout the year in the church office. We have \$50 cards, \$100 cards, and a few \$25 cards. Everyone needs groceries....and it's 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! Thanks!

Marshall Chamber Books are \$30 each and FLY will receive \$5 on every book sold.



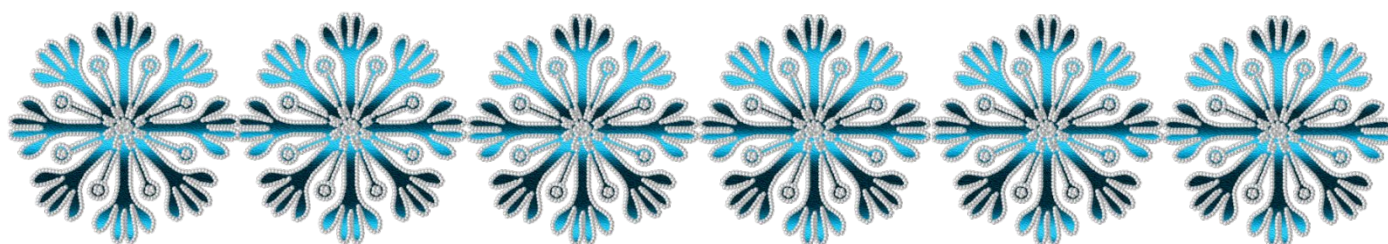
Annual Youth Sponsored Lenten Suppers for you and your family!

Help support Youth and Family Ministry at First Lutheran! Enjoy a nice warm meal together as a family. Invite your friends to join you too. Meals are served from 5:00 -6:05 pm in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday. **These meals are made and served by the youth as a fundraiser for their programming costs.** This is why the price is higher than our "light meals on Wednesdays".

Feb 14	"Chili, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Wild Rice"
Feb 21	"Taco Bar"
Feb 28	"Pasta Night"
March 6	"Pulled Pork Picnic Meal"
March 13	"Baked Potato Bar"
March 20	"Ham and Cheesy Potatoes"



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY!!



Outreach News

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Outreach



Coffee Servers for Sunday Morning Needed

Wondering where you might be able to serve or help at First Lutheran? We are in need of more people willing to be in the rotation to help provide the fellowship time of coffee and donut holes on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, contact Tonya and she will answer any questions.

Welcome to the First Lutheran Family! We're so glad you are here!

Kristel Girgen, Kaden and Kipton
David Girgen & Jacob Jorgensen
Dayna Gunderson & Mikaylee
Nathan & Lory Jo Holden, Roman,
Noah, Ryker, Raelynn & Nolan

Karen Johnson
Sheryl Louwagie
Leah & Kenneth Pesch,
Karissa & Laekyn

Shawn & Ashleigh Remme, Bradley,
Dylan & Emma

Brent & Becky Riess, Brielle & Brody
Kristina Strandmark, Kahmari & Kahlani
Brenda Swoboda
Derrick Watson

Sponsor is Pat Simpson
Sponsor is Jessica Myhre
Sponsor is J Jurgens
Sponsors are Mitch & Elizabeth Maxwell

Sponsor is Wendy Jamison
Sponsor is Denise Myhrberg
Sponsor is Tasha Honebrink

Sponsor is Shannon Clark

Sponsors are Paul & Ellen Griebel
Sponsors are Dealyn Rose & Chris Cordes
Sponsors are Bree & Davett Marlyn
Sponsor is Connie Knott





Other Important Items



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

Let's thrive.®

Help Lutheran organizations that are near and dear to you—even First Lutheran Church. **YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR CHOICE**

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can now recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars SM, part of the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program.

Here's how Choice Dollars works:

- Designated Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums, qualifying contract values and qualifying Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership.
- Choice Dollars are made available as premiums are paid, contract value is determined, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership is identified.
- Choice Dollars can be directed to First Lutheran Church by visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice."

Help support what matters most to you by directing Choice Dollars

Check your eligibility—and act today! Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call **1-800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice." Or contact: Joshua Johnson at (507) 532-2559. Your local Thrivent Financial representative.

Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete Terms and Conditions.



Coloring For Christ will meet on
Monday, February 5th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Please come with your coloring supplies.
Everyone is welcome who enjoys adult coloring!
Please call Paulette Hanson @ 507-530-0284
if you have questions.

Coats for Kids is collecting used and gently used coats. The collection barrel is in the Narthex. United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) is collecting coats that will be distributed to those who need them.



Here are some guidelines for donations:

- Coats can be for children and adults.
- Both new and gently used coats can be donated, used coats will be cleaned by Carroll's Cleaners before distribution.
- If there is a gently used coat with a broken zipper, UCAP has someone who can replace the zipper.
- Collections will be picked by United Community Action Partner



Something is "Brewing" again!

Bible & Brew meets on Thursdays at 5:30pm at Brau Brothers Brewery in Marshall. A handful of past participants will rotate the leadership role. The content is based on the discussion for the upcoming Sunday liturgy. A variety of beverages are on hand there and it's okay to just have water! Many attendees also enjoy something from the menu. Come as you are! Come when you can!

Meals on Wheels: First Lutheran will be responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels the first two full weeks of February 2024. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR DRIVERS!!** The dates are **February 5-9** and **February 12-16**. Please sign up under Serving Schedule on the Webpage or call the church office. If you have any questions, you can contact Twila Henning at 507-360-0828.



Important Winter Weather Policy!

In the event of severe winter weather, a cancellation decision will be made by 7:00am Sunday morning. Listen for an announcement on Marshall Radio. It will also be posted on First Lutheran's Facebook page.

For Wednesday programming, if school is released early or canceled due to severe weather, there will be no TLC, Worship, or youth activities. Please listen to the local radio stations or check First Lutheran's Facebook page. Stay warm and be safe!

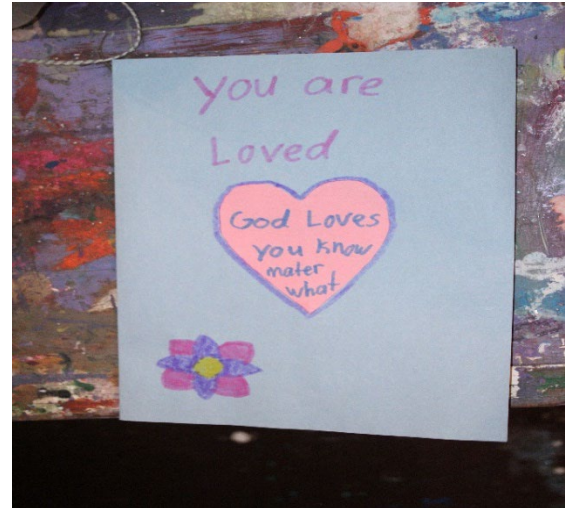
The Social Ministries Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to the Missionary Angel Tree. A total of \$438 was collected and will be sent to the Synod to be distributed to Young Adults in Global Missions. Social Ministries Committee received totals from the Kitchen Table Food shelf for donations in 2023. A total of 3479 pounds of food and \$4575 were donated from First Lutheran. A thank you note from the Food Shelf is posted on the Bulletin Board.

**February
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



Mark your Calendar

- February 4 Comfort Bird Whittling Class
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp
- March 15-16 March Confirmation Retreat
- Register at shetek.org or

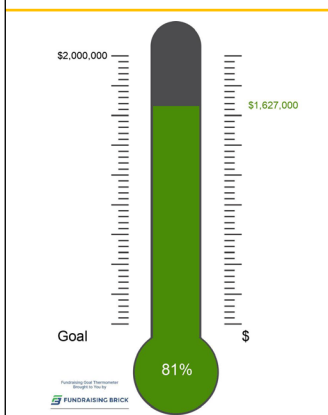
Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff -**

<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

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/slm-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 11am Sundays on 1400AM or 101.7FM
Local Cable TV 10am Wednesdays and 5pm Thursdays
Spectrum 180 & Bluepeak 17

www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall

Church Office Phone: (507) 532-2429

Office email: office@1stlutheran.org



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Interim Pastor

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