



First Lutheran Church

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

June 2023 Parish Visitor

From the Pastors...

Dear Friends in Christ at First Lutheran,

It is with many mixed emotions that I write this, my letter of resignation as a First Lutheran pastor, to you, my family of faith. I am retiring from the ordained ministry after 38+ years, and truly feel led by God to celebrate it. My last weekend at worship will be June 3rd & 4th.

Carolyn and I are not moving away from Marshall, but, as required by the Synod, we will need to resign our membership at First Lutheran.

It will be very difficult to say goodbye to you good people who are so intertwined with the heartstrings of our faith life. We've mourned together at funerals, in hospital rooms and at gravesides even as we have celebrated at baptisms, first communions, confirmations, graduations and weddings. We have weathered storms, re-furbishing projects and staffing changes – and through it all, we have helped make First Lutheran a place of welcome to the whole community.

I feel indebted to so many of you – for your faith in God, your partnership, your dedication to scripture and prayer, and your will to make us a congregation of faithful and friendly folks. I will greatly miss the everyday interactions with your talented and dedicated staff. And I am greatly thankful to the incredible array of First Lutheran musicians who weekly make it possible for us pastors to join our spirits with yours in worshiping God with an amazingly beautiful and joyful noise.

So thank you, members of First Lutheran Church, for your love for Jesus Christ, for the way you show the Spirit's welcoming love for our neighbors, and for the way you live out your love for this family of faith. It is my prayer that you will support your staff and one another while you look to call a new pastor. I have no doubt that person will be one whom you will grow to love, and who will love you in return.

Carolyn and I will also be cheering you on as you prepare to celebrate 100 great years of ministry as a vital part of the family of God here in Marshall.

Blessings in Christ,

Pr. Scott Fuller

From The Pastor Too....(2.0)

Except for the fact that I am much shorter, and shave less frequently, people have, on more than one occasion stated, "you guys could be twins." I am talking about Pr. Scott Fuller of course. I met Pr. Scott in August of 2021 when I interviewed here at First Lutheran for the opening of the "Associate Pastor" position. The term "associate" was dropped from the title of my position, but I would be the "non-senior pastor" to Scott's "Senior Pastor." Later, Pr. Scott stressed that we would play to our strengths; and I would be more a "Visitation Pastor" and he would be the "Administration Pastor" which served us well.

In my position, people were more likely to see what I do, than to see Pr. Scott's administrative part. Thankfully, Pr. Scott knows how this church runs: he handles numerous phone calls, emails, inquiries, handles the angry person no one else wants to deal with, puts out fires (almost literally, as the fire alarm has accidentally gone off), building issues, bats, and helps the rest of the staff figure out what our position is. This is in addition to Pastor Fuller's work preaching, worship planning, leading Bible studies, funerals, weddings etc. I am not an administrator, I could not do Pr. Scott's job at a church this size (despite some comments to the contrary, First Lutheran is a big church in the ELCA and attendance is quite good). I have to say this: Pr. Scott is excellent at what he does.

On occasion, people will tell me how happy they are that I (and the musicians and lay leaders) have come out to senior living facilities to do worship. I also hear people compliment other members of the staff for doing their jobs. While Pr. Scott gets his compliments too, truth be told, the rest of us couldn't do our job very well, if Pr. Scott didn't do his job well. Pr. Fuller is also a very good sound board. He doesn't try to solve your problem, but helps you to find the ability yourself to make progress in dealing with the issue at hand. He has this God given gift to allow God to inspire us to do better than what we thought we could do.

With the exception of my internship, I had never worked with another pastor before in the same congregation. I learned a lot from both the direction and observation of Pastor Scott. One of Pr. Scott's gifts includes leading small groups, including the staff meetings. I remember the first time I heard him lead a group Bible study, and how he drew the participant's answers out of their own questions. The study was clearly about God and the participants, and not himself. Along the same lines, when I first joined the staff, there was a great chemistry and a strong bond between the existing employees, I was worried I wouldn't fit in: Pr. Scott made sure I was a full-fledged staffer immediately. While he treats everyone on the staff as equals, he has the leadership to keep us focused when we need to be, and make a final decision when one needs to be made. He has shown humility and is willing to apologize when he believes he has made a mistake, whether the other side admits its own fault or not. Finally, his sermons are in depth, spirit filled, thought provoking and reflect the faithful man he is.

I hope my page doesn't sound too much like a reference letter, but I certainly would recommend Pastor Fuller for any pastoral position. A lesson I learned with both of my parents passing this year: you never know what you had until it is gone. It was a wonderful experience to have Pastor Scott as a mentor, he will be missed, and Michele and I wish him and Carolyn a blessed retirement.

God's Peace,
Pr. Mike

Children, Families and Youth News



Make sure to check out THE ROCK- “Summer Style” to see what’s going on with FLY this summer! ☀️

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BIBLE CAMP THIS SUMMER!!



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. HOWEVER, money is NEVER a reason to NOT go to camp. Special scholarships are also provided and remain confidential. Just contact Tonya at 532-2429 or 530-1697.

KEEP THE “SON” IN YOUR SONSHINE THIS SUMMER!!!

Register your children for Treasured VBS 2022, pay the registration fee, AND register to Volunteer ALL online!! It's so easy!!

<https://vbspro.events/p/f00edc>

MONUMENTAL VBS 2023 @ First Lutheran
June 5-8 from 4-7:15pm
PreK (must be 4 by September 1, 2022) through
6th Grade (completed)
After April 28: \$35/student (\$100 family cap)

5th & 6th Graders: Register as a Leader In Training
Do your own craft/projects, help your Crew Leader &
get a T-Shirt.
Take \$5 off your registration fee – and write L.I.T. on the
'Additional Comments' line.



Thursday, June 8th

Come to the Monumental: Discovering God's Greatness VBS Celebration!!
The VBS Program will start at 6:55pm in the sanctuary. Then there will be Ice Cream (free will). Be sure to take time to visit the story rooms with your child(ren) as well!

Women's Ministry

June 7	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
June 14	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
June 14	12:00pm Peace Bible Study – Narthex
June 21	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
June 28	6:30am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

Peace Bible Study will be meeting at noon on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month during the summer. Bring your lunch and join us starting June 14th in the Narthex.

Other Important Items

Coloring for Christ will meet Monday, June 5 at 2:00pm in the Movie Room. All are welcome to come & color, for prayer and fellowship. Please bring coloring supplies if you have them. Coloring supplies will also be available. If you have questions, please contact Paulette Hanson at 507-530-0284.

First Lutheran's volunteer night at Esther's Kitchen is Thursday June 22nd. 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.

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

We are excited to announce that Bailey Tomasek has accepted the call to become our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries! As an active member of our church who has volunteered extensively with our youth programs for years, we are thrilled to welcome Bailey's contributions in this leadership role.

Likewise, we are also incredibly grateful for Tonya's years of ministry with our youth in this position. She has left a legacy and has impacted so many people during her tenure. Moving forward, Tonya will mentor Bailey during this summer's programming to ensure a smooth transition. This fall, we plan to formally 'pass the torch' from Tonya to Bailey during a September worship service.

God's Blessings,

Rick Purrington
Council President
First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 5:30pm
Sundays - 9:00am ** NEW TIME

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

Church Office Phone: 507-532-2429
Church Office Email: firstluth@iw.net

Pastor Mike Mannisto

Email: mmannisto001@luthersem.edu Phone: 651-249-4310

www.1stlutheran.org

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!