



May 2024 Parish Visitor



CHOICES and TALK

In one difficult moment of my life, when neither of my options seemed the obvious best, a wise person coached me, “Make your choice, *then* make it a good one.” I knew there was wisdom in her words. They helped me take action, and then keep taking action to support that decision to the best of my ability.

The saying is true. Many juncture in life call for simply making your best choice and then embracing it faithfully moving forward. Not questioning, but committing. Again, and again.

In the call process at First Lutheran Church, many choices have been made by you and your leaders since you learned your senior pastor was retiring. Each time, the congregation has rallied to move forward.

Now, as the Call Committee itself discerns and makes decisions, these choices will lead to one major choice, a final candidate to bring to the council and then to the congregation. Much discerning and choosing will have been done along the way.

If the congregation votes “yes” to that candidate and a call is issued, more arrangements will be made to set up the logistics of your pastor’s arrival. But it won’t take long until the proverbial *ball* is tossed to you, the members of this faith family.

It will be up to you, to take your choice of this new pastor and *make it a good one*. It will be you that embraces the *getting-to-know-you* phase, the *first-hard-decisions* phase, and the *changes-for-the-better* phase. It will be you who add your support and energy, or hold it back.

It will be you who can season your speaking, your *talk*, here at FLC and *in the community*, with grace and kindness. It is you, with your words, who will help this new pastor be a well-received leader, and your church an honorable place, for all whom God is calling to be part of this church, or simply connected to it. By your actions. By your *talk*.

Some other helpful words in my life come from Colossians 4:5-6. They seem to apply here, for *great power lies in our words* when we’re setting out to *make a choice, then make it a good one*.

*Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time.
Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.
Colossians 4:5-6 (NRSV)*

With hope and anticipation, *Sara*

Children & Family News

Samantha Nielsen, Director of Education



EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



MAY
2024

First Lutheran Confirmation

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 AT 2:00PM

Thirty of our young members will be affirming their Baptisms as we the Body of Christ stand with them on this new faith journey.

Sawyer Bradley
Charlie Moline
Grady Wajer
Colton Werner
Cash Heemeyer
Carter Phillippe
Austin Coudron
Hawkin Hartman
Nathan Scheele
Brodren Stensrud
Jalen Padfield

Braden Luckhardt
Bradley Remme
Jack Bly
Coby Guenther
Alex Fink
Nathan Larsen
Eli Paulzine
Brody Riess
Bella Anderson
Katelyn Moberg
Hailey Larsen

Lauren Paulson
Mikaylee Gunderson
Bella Brockberg
Peyton DeMuth
Julia Fahl
Brooklyn Purrington
Lexie Roberts
Avery Schauman



THANK YOU to all who teach, assist, or help in any way with our education programs!! We are blessed that you have chosen to share your faith with our first lutheran youth!!



Upcoming

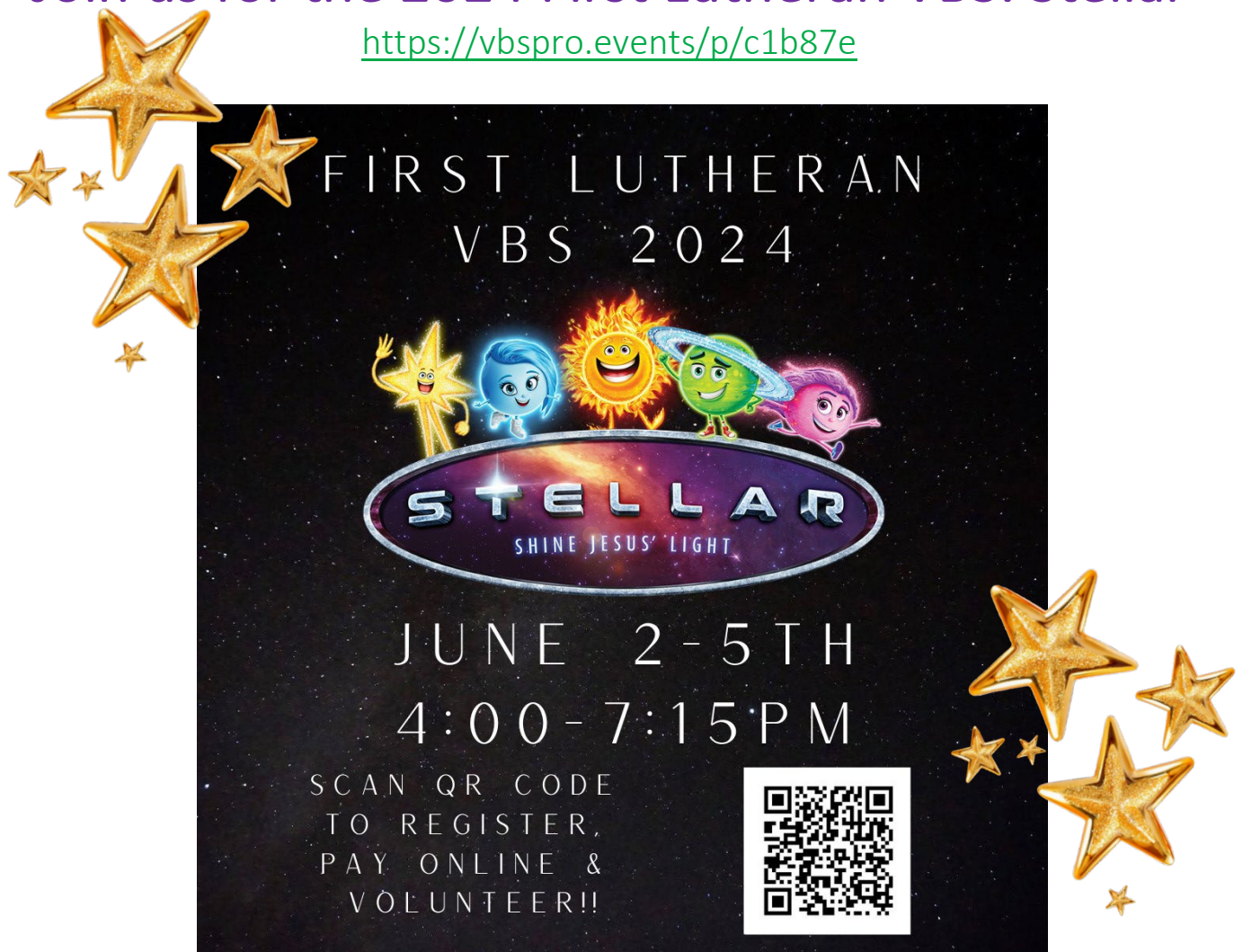
Stellar VBS!

June 2-5

4:00-7:15pm

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!



Sophia Fischer



Sydney Brandt



Halle Pedersen

If you experience Shetek Lutheran Ministries this summer, you will see some very familiar faces from First Lutheran Church. Sophia, Sydney and Halle will be working there as summer staff. We are proud of you ladies. Keep shining your light!



Youth & Family News

Bailey Long, Director of Youth & Family

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. 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 829-1771. KEEP THE "SON" IN YOUR SONSHINE THIS SUMMER!!!

Class of 2024 Baccalaureate Service

We at First Lutheran Church congratulate you on your upcoming graduation from high school. What an incredible milestone and we celebrate this with you and your families!



The Baccalaureate Worship Service will be on Sunday May 12th at the 9:00am worship service. Senior Reception for the immediate family members follows at 10am in the fellowship hall. Plan to bring your graduation gown and your confirmation stole and wear them during worship.

First Lutheran's Class of 2024:

Hailey Bahr, Morgan Bjella, Cadence Brink, Isaiah Brusven, Halla Jo Casavan, Paige Christianson, Ella Cole, Kennedy Drake, Olivia Enderson, Cora Fischer, Lillian Guggisberg, Rylee Jacobson, Anna Kuecker, Garrett Maes, Chase Mellenthin, Macie Murphy, Lydia Moore, Braeden Myhre, Sierra Nelson, Jason Padfield, Tavy Paulsen, Talan Plante, Gwen Roberts, Brendan Scheele, Jocelyn Schlenner, Kara Schmig, Samara Sumerfelt, Anthony Verschelde, Joe Voit, and Chase Werner.



Silent Auction Online A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Silent Auction Online this year and our Palm Sunday Brunch. We raised over \$5,000. We hope you had fun. Thank you for always supporting our youth! First Lutheran is amazing!

Outreach News

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Outreach



Canva 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! The deadline to sign up in the office is Wednesday May 8th.



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."



Staffing Update: First Lutheran Church would like to announce that Tonya Tomasek will continue in her position as Director of Outreach along with the additional responsibilities of Congregational Care. During this time of interim pastoral leadership with Pastor Sara, the decision was made to have Tonya help with some of the additional leadership responsibilities within the church. Recently, you have seen her upfront leading worship, helping Pastor Sara with some of her responsibilities and just filling in where needed. First Lutheran Church is blessed to have Tonya continue in her new role of Director of Outreach/Congregational Care. Congratulations Tonya! You are truly a 'Rock' at First Lutheran!



Coloring for Christ will meet on Monday, May 6th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Graduation will be our focus. 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.



The First Lutheran Call Committee has begun the process defined by the Synod for a Senior Pastor Call. At this point the team has established our process, is reviewing the initial set of paperwork of the candidates, and beginning the scheduling of the interview process. We ask the congregation to pray for the committee as we move forward in the process of discernment.



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). You will find staff members at the church at other times, too, and you may reach them via phone, text or email with questions if you need to set something up.

Summer Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am to 1pm

Announcements and Messages will be printed in the Saturday and Sunday worship bulletins for three consecutive weeks. After that, announcements and messages will be removed.



Spring Cleaning at First Lutheran will be on May 15th from 1:00-4:00pm! We are looking for some volunteers to do some light cleaning in the church. We will meet in the office area at 1:00pm. Jobs will include cleaning the church pew cushions, washing chairs and tables in the Fellowship Hall, washing windows, dusting and sweeping, etc. If anyone has an upholstery cleaner on hand, please bring this with. Please sign-up by calling the church office at 532-2429 or send Ann an email: ann@1stlutheranchurch.org

Bible and Brew: Spring session will continue through May 16 at Brau Brother's Brewery. 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. We study the upcoming Sunday's Bible reading while enjoying camaraderie, asking lots of questions, and gaining insight. All are welcome!

Narthex Refresh: A special thank you to Ray & Julie Henricksen, Mark & Jean Mather and Lee & Norma Raske for painting the Narthex! They are going to continue their efforts and paint the whole Narthex area as time allows. Thank you for your time and talents in giving the space a fresh new look. Special thank you to Chuck Muller for hanging the tv to display announcements.



TV Screen Announcement

Centers: Check out the new announcement welcome centers in both the Sanctuary Narthex and Office Narthex. These areas will be designated for all information, announcements, Christ in Our Home devotionals, etc.

Southwestern Minnesota Women of the ELCA Convention will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30-3:0pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. Registrations and 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.

Sound/Projection Room: Ed Henning and Steve Hamner are looking for help on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in the Sound/Projection room running the equipment for worship services. If you are interested, talk to Ed or Steve. Call Ed Henning at 507-360-3064 if you are interested.



Thank you from Social Ministries Committee to all who donated to the Pack the Pews project. First Lutheran, with the help of our Presbyterian friends, collected 929 pounds of food and \$1924. Many families were able to benefit from your generosity. If you missed the event or were unable to donate, the shopping cart is always in the Narthex, and you can donate at any time. Donations are taken to the Food Shelf weekly.



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

May 2024

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



- *Apply to work at camp.*

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

We still have room on our river trip!

Wish List

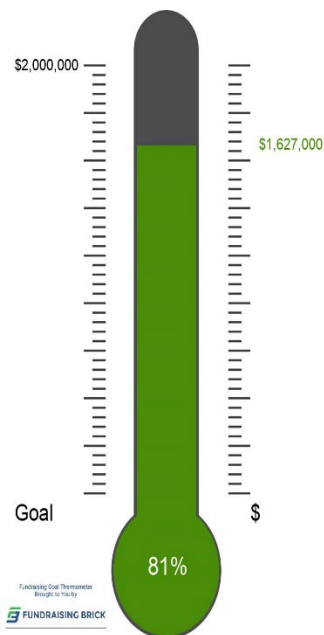
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Power Strips
- Mini Vans
- Volunteers

Mark your Calendar

- May 4 Spring Clean up
- May 11 Spring Clean up
- June 9 First Day of Camp
- June 17 GOLF Fundraiser
- June 21 Garden Tour and Quilt Preview
- Register at shetek.org

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

Church Office Phone: (507) 532-2429

Office email: office@1stlutheran.org



Pastor Sara Vanderpan

Interim Pastor

pastorsara@1stlutheran.org

Tonya Tomasek

Director of Outreach

tonya@1stlutheran.org

Bailey Long

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

bailey@1stlutheran.org

Samantha Nielsen

Director of Education

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Ann Schlenner

Office Manager

ann@1stlutheran.org