



THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STEPHEN, MN

November 2024



CHURCH CONTACT INFO

573 STEPHEN AVE IN STEPHEN

Phone: 218-478-3895 | **Email:** firstl@wiktel.com | **Mail:** PO Box 72, Stephen, MN 56757

Web: www.flcstephen.com | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/flcstephen

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

DARLENE BATES, SECRETARY

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am–12 pm

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFO

REV. BROTHER JEFF BROWN

Phone: 218-230-6583 | **Email:** flcpastor@wiktel.com | **Days:** Sun–Thurs (off Fridays)

FROM THE PASTOR

¹O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

~Psalm 95:1-2

It's hard to believe November is already here. As the days get colder and (perhaps) snow arrives for the first time this fall, I encourage you to stay grounded in God's presence – with thanksgiving, as Psalm 95 says. For us as Christians, thanksgiving is a way of life. Everything we have – life, health, clothing, food, shelter, family, friends, work, hobbies – is a gift from God, which we should be thankful for every day. Martin Luther writes in his explanation of the Creed that God gives us all this “out of a pure, parental, and divine goodness and mercy.” Our response, as Christians, is “to thank and praise, serve and obey God,” Luther says. So, be thankful! God has, and continues to, give you all good things.

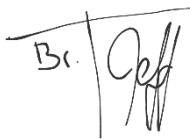
November this year will include some wonderful occasions in worship:

- + **November 3rd:** All Saints Sunday. This is the Sunday we remember those in our faith family who have passed away the past year and give thanks for their lives. It's also a time for us to reflect on the promise Jesus has for us in our baptism: “Where I am, you shall be also” (John 14:3).
- + **November 10th & 17th:** Stewardship Sundays. We will have brief resources and opportunities to reflect on where you can use your “time and talent” gifts in our church as well as grow your “treasure” (i.e. offering) into 2025.
- + **November 24th:** Thanksgiving Sunday with Pastor Birgitte from Peoples Church. Due to several factors, we will not be having an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service, so this day we will be having a Thanksgiving-themed worship, with Pr. B preaching!

Also, a big THANK YOU for Pastor Appreciation Month, which I was delightfully surprised with on October 20th. Thank you, everyone, for your love and support in my call as your pastor. I feel the appreciation and love getting to serve in ministry with you!

Peace and everything good to you this month!

Your pastor,
Brother Jeff



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 2, 2024

Members Present: Jeff Nelson, Melanie McGlynn, Kris Ann Pietruszewski, Whitney Weisenberger, Debbie Benson, Betsy Jensen, Brian Hendricks, Jeanne Hendricks, and Pat Heggen.

Also in attendance: Deanna Swendseid, Darlene Bates and Pastor Jeff.

President Jeff called the meeting to order.

Melanie gave devotions.

Secretary's report: Melanie presented September's Secretary's Report. A small error was made towards the end when servant group changes were talked about. The minutes should read "next month", not "next week". A motion was made by Kris Ann to accept the September minutes with that change, seconded by Whitney. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Darlene presented September's treasurer's report. Brian made a motion to accept September's treasurer's report. Melanie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Offerings for September

September 1st-\$5,445.00

September 8th-\$2,597.00

September 15th-\$2,932.00

September 22nd-\$1,403.81

September 29th -\$1,756.00

Vanco for September-\$1,455.00

September's Loose Change-\$175.00 Northland Rescue Mission

Membership changes: None

Committee reports

Deacons:

-Brother Jeff will be gone October 13th. Tim Peterson will cover.

Trustees:

-Brian patched some areas on the roof by the bell tower.

-Brian & Tim fixed the sign on the south side of the church.

-Pat has called Thief River Glass about the handicapped door button. They say they are coming, but haven't come yet.

-We will be fixing the sign that hangs on the balcony wall. Most of the lights have burnt out.

Parish Education:

-The start to our year is going very well!

Stewardship:

- The Harvest Festival was a success. We've received many compliments about the change in the menu. We served 114 people.

Pastor's Report:

-Brother Jeff brought up doing a special offering to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. He will bring it up in church on Sunday to let people know. There will be a box in the back for people to put donations in.

-We will be doing a focus on Stewardship for the month of November. Each Sunday will be a different focus on ways we are able to give.

-The worship and music committee met last week. They looked at the survey results about communion. We will be doing communion on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays.

-Brother Jeff is rethinking our ecumenical Thanksgiving service because of the fundraiser that goes on that night. We will instead be doing our normal Sunday service as our Thanksgiving service.

-Brother Jeff has been asked to continue to help out in Kennedy through the end of 2024.

-Brother Jeff would like to change his Healthcare coverage for next year. Pat made a motion to switch the insurance from Gold+ to Value Copay. Debbie seconded it. All in favor, motion carried.

-We went through the Mission Statement ideas. We were really drawn to: **Welcome like Jesus, Love like Jesus, Serve like Jesus.**

Old Business:

-We are going to put out sign-up sheets for our monthly servant groups. We are looking for people to help serve. We will talk about this at next month's council meeting so we know what months we need help and put a sign-up sheet in the back of the church on November 10th.

New Business:

-Deanna Swendseid was here on behalf of the Synod Council, which she is just finishing up her 3rd year serving on. After their last meeting, members were tasked with meeting with the various church councils in their area. Deanna was here to thank us for our giving and also talk to us about how the Synod spends the money we send to them. For every \$1.00 needed by the Synod, \$3.00 needs to be raised to cover that. We will bring this information forward to the congregation during the month of November when we talk about Stewardship.

-Abbey Johnson has requested use of the church to conduct her piano lessons. Council approved this request.

-Darlene has been doing the newsletter as an additional volunteer duty. We will pay her what we paid Connie to do it. Betsy made a motion to approve this. Melanie seconded it. All in favor, motion carried.

-Kris Ann brought up that she'd like to go back to a monthly newsletter. Council discussed. Kris Ann made a motion, seconded by Jeanne. All in favor, motion carried.

-A council member requested that we update our church picture on the website. We plan to wait until the new sign gets put up, picnic table in Stacy's memory, and our toddler flowers installed. We also thought it would be a good idea to wait until the trees are back in bloom. Darlene and Pastor Jeff will update the picture used on the newsletter right away.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be on November 3rd at 10:30.

Submitted by Melanie McGlynn, Church Council Secretary

CHURCH NOTES

Pre-filled Communion Cups are available for members who are unable to attend live church services. Grape juice and wafers in single serving disposable cups. Please contact the church office to pick up a supply.

THANK YOU

Dear Selma Fodstad Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the very generous \$1000 scholarship! It will be great at UND this fall!
First Lutheran has meant a great deal to me because it taught me how to walk by faith!
Thank you again, Charlotte Rogus

Thank you for being a part of our work! Thank you and God bless you all for your generosity to help our moms and babies.

Susan, St. Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home

Dear FLC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the Fodstad and Wilson scholarships. Entering my 4th and final year of college has made me appreciate everything the church has done for me and your support throughout my undergraduate years.

Thank you, Holly Jensen

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$175.00. Your donation to the Mission is an act of kindness, compassion, and solidarity. By nurturing hope and providing vital resources, you are helping individuals regain their footing within society. Your contribution also motivates us, the shelter's staff and volunteers, to continue striving for a brighter future for all those we serve. We extend our warm appreciation to you for compassionately donating to our cause. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of the homeless.

God Bless, Susan Shirek, Executive Director

FOOD SHELF

The donations for Thanksgiving must be in by November 10th. Distribution is on November 12th. Any items of cheer for Thanksgiving and Christmas: Spices, canned cranberries, stuffing mix, pie crust mix, packaged hot drinks such as cocoa, apple cider, teas, canned pie fillings, etc. Pet food too! Any question, call Jane Smidt, FLC coordinator or 92180478-2456. THANK YOU!

THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE will meet for Bible study on Monday, November 11th at 6:30 pm at the church. Bible study will be from the Sept/Oct "Gather" magazine. Pat Heggen is the hostess.

LOOSE CHANGE: Loose Change Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of each month. November's Loose Change will be for Marshall County Sharing Tree Project.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" 1 Peter 4:10

With the natural disasters the school & health kits have been used in North Carolina, Florida, and other affected areas. A huge thank you to our local congregation for donating cash and items. A Thrivent grant of \$250 and Modern Woodman grant of \$200 enabled us to send 116 school kits and 81 health kits!

MEMORIALS

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Jamie Rybaski	Steve & Melanie McGlynn	Undesignated
Jim Vetsch	Steve & Melanie McGlynn	Undesignated
Judy Sondrol	Mark & Kim Anderson	Undesignated
Nan Anderson	Mark & Beth Kroulik	Technology Fund
Lois Pagnac	Penny Jensen	Altar Fund
Lois Pagnac	Tim & Darlene Bates	Technology Fund
Lois Pagnac	Michael & Cheri Douglas	Education Fund
George Whitmer	Michael & Cheri Douglas	Education Fund
Irene Kazmierczak	Michael & Cheri Douglas	Education Fund

CHURCH FINANCIALS UPDATE

Weekly Sunday offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Loose Change</u>
Sept. 1	\$5584.00	\$785.00	
Sept. 8	\$2597.47	\$205.00	
Sept. 15	\$2932.00	\$155.00	\$175.33
Sept. 22	\$1403.81	\$155.00	
Sept. 29	\$1756.00	\$155.00	
Oct. 6	\$2323.00	\$380.00	
Oct. 13	\$1270.00	\$155.00	
Oct. 20	\$2572.00	\$155.00	

Current balances of Funds available for donations:

Technology Fund	\$-15,660.11
Schendel Family Fund	\$9,798.25
Undesignated	\$2,449.36
Altar Fund	\$250.00
Education Fund	\$680.00

2024 BUDGET:
\$162,752.95

CURRENTLY
BEHIND
\$20,061.47

.....
STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAYS:
NOV 10 & 17
.....

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Also available on the church website: www.flcstephen.com. Click on the Calendar tab.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor's sabbath	2
3 ALL SAINTS SUN 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 am Council	4	5	6 12 pm Wednesday Prayer (Fb) 6 pm Wednesday School 6:30 pm 7 th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 9 th Grade Confirmation	7	8 Pastor's sabbath	9
10 9 am Worship	11 Quilting 6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	12	13 12 pm Wednesday Prayer (Fb) 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm Wednesday School 6:30 pm 8 th Grade Confirmation	14	15 Pastor's sabbath	16
17 9 am Worship w/Holly Communion	18	19	20 12 pm Wednesday Prayer (Fb) 6 pm Wednesday School 6:30 pm 7 th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 9 th Grade Confirmation	21	22 Pastor's sabbath	23
24 9 am Thanksgiving Worship	25 Quilting	26	27 12 pm Wednesday Prayer (Fb) NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION	28 THANKS -GIVING	29 Pastor's sabbath	30

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/3 Rylan Klamar	11/16 Chrissy Nelson	11/26 Odin Hoper
11/4 Shawna Peterson	11/17 Earl Anderson	11/27 Carly (Peterson) Black
11/4 Deanna Swendseid	11/17 Jean Hendricks	11/27 Reece Setterholm
11/5 Maynard Peterson	11/17 Tom Woinarowicz	11/28 Will Halfmann
11/8 Roberta McGlynn	11/18 Ashley Grandstrand	11/28 Mark Kroulik
11/9 Steve Weberg	11/20 Brynn Benitt	11/29 Muriel Bring
11/13 Hazel Douglas	11/20 David Jensen	
11/15 Geoff Swendseid	11/21 Easton Anderson	
11/16 Brian Hendricks	11/22 Luna Thompson	ANNIVERSARIES
11/16 Erica Breedlove	11/13 Teegan Erickson	11/8 Mark & Kim Anderson
	11/25 Jan Anderson	11/23 Gayle & Pat Field
		11/25 Larry & Pat Grabowska

THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

First Lutheran Church
PO Box 72
Stephen, MN 56757

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
STEPHEN, MN 56757
PERMIT NO. 1**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

for Wednesday
School Families

Sunday, November 17th

2nd graders receive their Bibles & Wednesday
School kids sing during church

Sunday, December 8th

Christmas Program @ 5:00pm