



# THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE

First Lutheran Church of Stephen, MN

**May ~ June 2024**

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## CHURCH CONTACT INFO

573 STEPHEN AVE IN STEPHEN

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

**Web:** [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com) | **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/flcstephen](http://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](mailto:flcpastor@wiktel.com) | **Days:** Sun–Thurs (off Fridays)

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# DEDICATION

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**THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO OUR BELOVED  
SISTER IN CHRIST, CONNIE TROSKA,  
WHO FAITHFULLY MANAGED THE FIRST  
PERSPECTIVE NEWSLETTER FOR YEARS  
WITH INCREDIBLE CREATIVITY.  
REST EASY IN THE ARMS OF JESUS, CONNIE.**



**CONNIE TROSKA**  
1965 ~ 2024

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## FROM THE PASTOR

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Dear First Lutheran faith family,

Blessings to you as we enter May and June 2024. These past couple months have been a lot of pastoral care, in journeying with the family of our dear sister in Christ, Connie Troska. Connie was so faithful to God and her church, and of course, her family and community. In her service to God and First Lutheran, Connie faithfully attended to all things church newsletter, so we are having to embark on a new way of doing things. We are pleased to dedicate this newsletter edition in Connie's memory.

May is always an exciting month in the life of God's people – graduations, end of the school year, warmer temperatures, vacations starting, and so much more. Here are a couple important Sundays to look forward to:

**+Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Senior Sunday**

- Congratulations to our graduating seniors, Charlotte Rogus and Nick Winge!

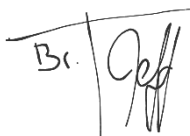
**+Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Sunday**

- Congratulations to our newest Confirmands: Emma Korynta, Mason Smith, Ava Weisenberger, Olivia Winge, and Madison Woinarowicz!
- This is also Pentecost Sunday, so please feel free to wear red (the color used to symbolize the Holy Spirit!)

**Looking ahead, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is happening June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>!** Park River Bible Camp counselors will lead VBS again.

In June, I will be taking some time off at the beginning of the month, to visit my family in Montana. I appreciate your prayers for some rest and relaxation after these busy few months. May the Lord give you peace!

Your pastor,  
Brother Jeff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line separating the "Bro." from "Jeff".

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# CHURCH NOTES

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**THANK YOU**

The Argyle Food Shelf would like to thank First Lutheran's Congregation. Your 2023 participation of 181 lbs. of food along with monetary donations and household items went a long way in serving our area needs. We look forward to a partnership again in 2024.

Sincerely,  
Karen Gunderson, director

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Remember to change the paraments and fill the candles. Communion is served the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. Committee members prepare the altar.

**THE MARTHA/RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the church. Bible study lesson will be from the "Gather" magazine. Kris Ann Pietruszewski is hostess for both months.

**BULLETIN SPONSORS:** If you would like to honor or remember a family member, you can sponsor a bulletin. Sponsorships are \$20. Please contact the office with your request.

**A HUGE thank you** to all who helped out getting some of the jobs at the parsonage crossed off the list. Thank you in advance to those who have contacted the parsonage committee about doing work in the future! An extra big thank you to Brian Hendricks and Tim Bates who took out the cement chimney in the garage!  
The Parsonage Committee

**Our February loose change offering** went to People Helping People. The money spent went to a single dad and his 4-year-old son: socks and underwear for the boy, socks for the dad and mattress covers for the donated beds. The dad and son were very grateful for all they received. Linda says "God's hands were in it all the way. May thanks to First Lutheran!"

**LOOSE CHANGE:** Loose Change Sunday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. May's Loose Change is Marshall County Social Services. June's Loose Change is the Violence Intervention Project.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES** are printed and available in the basket in the fellowship hall. They will no longer be printed in the newsletter.

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# MEMORIALS

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<i><b>In Memory of</b></i>	<i><b>Given by</b></i>	<i><b>Fund</b></i>
Luther Johnosn	Friends & family	Undesignated
	David & Debbie Benson	Undesignated
	Larry & Pat Grabowska	Undesignated
	Tim & Jody Paulson	Technology Fund
	Norma Hvidsten & family	Undesignated
Dwaine Rud	David & Debbie Benson	Undesignated
Vernon Dagoberg	Curtis & Lavonne Lundeen	Undesignated
	Gannon & Chrissy Nelson	Undesignated
	Ellen Anton	New Sign Fund
	Roger & Yvonne Kazmierczak	Schendel Family Fund
	Friends & family	Undesignated
	Fredrick & Mary Beth Parnow	Undesignated
	Rolf & Linda Paulson	Undesignated
	Darrell & Linda Laudal	Undesignated
	Tammy & James Wacek	Undesignated
	Julie Bie	Undesignated
	Larry & Juanita Eftefield	Undesignated
	David & Debbie Benson	Undesignated
	Bruce & Aase Hamnes	Undesignated
	Scott Laudal	Undesignated
	Keith Szczepanski	Undesignated
Jeff & Jamie Nelson	Technology Fund	
Mark & Beth Kroulik	New Sign Fund	
Audrey Swendseid	Technology Fund	
Norma Hvidsten & family	Undesignated	
Tom Rogus	David & Debbie Benson	Undesignated
Arlyss Anton	Larry & Eileen Opp	Undesignated
KC Kuznia	Mike & Cheri Douglas	Education Fund
Matt Kuznia	Mike & Cheri Douglas	Education Fund
	Penny Jensen	Altar Fund
Roger Regimbal	Norma Hvidsten & family	Undesignated

***In Memory of***

***Given by***

***Fund***

Connie Troska

Brian & Betsy Jensen  
Charles & Kathy Labine  
John & Shawna Peterson  
Tim & Darlene Bates  
Michael Schendel  
Garry & Sharon Kotts  
Myron & Kris Ann Pietruszewski  
Earl & Jan Anderson  
Mike & Cheri Douglas  
David & Debbie Benson

Technology Fund  
Technology Fund  
Technology Fund  
Technology Fund  
Technology Fund  
Undesignated  
Technology Fund  
Undesignated  
Technology Fund  
Technology Fund

Troy Bazey

Kathy Labine

Education Fund

# MAY CALENDAR

Also available on the church website: [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com). Click on the Calendar tab.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  7:45 Council	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Senior            Sunday</b>  9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5 pm Bible Study  6:30 pm 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 am Worship	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Martha/Ruth Circle	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	<b>16</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>17</b>  Synod Assembly	<b>18</b>  Synod Assembly
<b>19</b> <b>Confirmation            Sunday</b>  9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook  5 pm Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 am Worship	<b>27</b> <b>Memorial            Day</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Pastor's sabbath	

# JUNE CALENDAR

*Also available on the church website: [www.flcstephen.com](http://www.flcstephen.com). Click on the Calendar tab.*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9 am Worship	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Martha/ Ruth Circle	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook  5 pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>17</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>18</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>19</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9 am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10 am Morning Prayer on Facebook  5 pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Pastor's sabbath	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 am Worship						



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# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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## BIRTHDAYS

5/3 Ann Woinarowicz  
5/4 Kathy Labine  
5/5 Venita Rogus  
5/7 Jean Nyland  
5/8 Jane Smidt  
5/11 Audrey Swendseid  
5/11 Garry Kotts  
5/13 Larry Grabowska  
5/15 Kenny Heggen  
5/18 Dave Smith  
5/20 Diane Danielson  
5/23 Ron Weiland  
5/26 Nona Carl  
5/27 Bernice Lindell  
5/27 Ava Weisenberger  
5/31 Kayla Benson  
6/3 Debbie Benson  
6/4 Maddie Weberg  
6/4 Nola Clausen  
6/5 Betty Pikop  
6/5 Pastor/Brother Jeff  
6/6 Travis Weiland  
6/6 Connor Jensen  
6/8 Dan Riley  
6/10 Madison Woinarowicz

6/12 Jenny Setterholm  
6/13 Leatrice Field  
6/14 Keith Szczepanski  
6/15 Darlene Bates  
6/16 Yvonne Kazmierczak  
6/16 Kayla Smith  
6/26 Melanie McGlynn  
6/26 Cheri Douglas  
6/29 Jace McMahan  
6/29 Kory McMahan  
6/29 Liam McMahan

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/1 Justin & Krissy McMahan  
5/8 Brian & Jean Hendricks  
5/14 Trevor & Tamara Benitt  
6/11 Robert & Dianne Dammann  
6/11 Larry & Karen Nybladh  
6/16 Tim & Jody Paulson  
6/16 Tyson & Tara Jarshaw  
6/17 Cliff & Jean Nyland  
6/19 Al & Ellen Anton  
6/20 Charles & Kathy Labine  
6/21 Matt & Kayla Benson  
6/22 Garrit & Staci Winge  
6/28 Tim & Darlene Bates  
6/30 Jeff & Jami Nelson

**THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE**

**First Lutheran Church**

**PO Box 72**

**Stephen, MN 56757**

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ORGANIZATION  
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