



# Living Connected... To GOD & EACH OTHER

November-December  
2022

SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

*Written by Pastor Bonnie Wilcox*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Word..... 1  
Ministry News..... 2-8  
*2023 Pledge Form  
(inserted)*

Sunday Worship  
(All Age Worship)  
Hours:

8:45 Chapel  
10 AM Sanctuary  
10 AM Online  
(Facebook, YouTube,  
FLCCH.ORG)

Pastoral Staff:  
Bonnie Wilcox  
*Senior Pastor*

Jill Bergman  
*Associate Pastor*

The Caller Newsletter is  
Published by First  
Lutheran Church  
Editor: Joyce Weaver,  
[joycew@flcch.org](mailto:joycew@flcch.org)

## BUILDING FAITH & LIVING CONNECTED

We created this mission narrative in 2019 to guide our work:

### **First Lutheran Mission Narrative: Living Connected...to God and each other!**

At First Lutheran Church, we are called to connection with God, each other, and our neighbors in and beyond Columbia Heights.

God connects with us through the reconciling act of Jesus Christ and the daily ministry of God's Spirit.

We connect to God as a spiritual community through worship and prayer, study and the sacraments, and mutual support and service. This sacred connection calls us into a relationship with our neighbors with whom God's love has knit us together.

We connect especially to the neighborhood and its youth who have been an essential part of our story from the very beginning when a rural ministry to immigrant children evolved into a long-standing and ever-present calling to love, nurture and mentor young people in our community.

As our neighborhood and world changes we commit to adjust as well, making space for growth, healing, generosity and community-building. We will honor each other's diverse stories and continue living connected to God and to each other. We rely on God's Spirit to guide us.

Everything we do can be lifted up to this statement to verify that what we are doing helps us to live connected to God and each other.

Every dollar you give to First Lutheran Church contributes to the continued story of God's

work in us through Jesus Christ for the sake of our neighbors! That is exciting to consider – through the donations you make, along with the donations of people sitting across from you at church, or who attend the other service, or who join us for worship online – all of YOUR GIFTS make a difference in whether the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ are shared with others.

Commitment Sunday for the 2023 General Fund support will be on November 20. I ask you to prayerfully consider what your household is able to contribute to the work we do in Jesus' name through First Lutheran Church.

1. A Pledge form for 2023 is included in this Caller and will be available in our bulletins in November. It was also mailed to homes with your giving statement through September 30.
2. Your commitment before Nov. 20 helps us to plan our budget (our missions) for 2023.

It is true that salaries and benefits for staff represent a sizable number in our budget. Consider our pastors and program staff as conductors of an orchestra, or of several musical ensembles. We invite people to share their unique gifts and talents. And together, we create something bigger and more beautiful than anything we can do on our own. I'm grateful for the support this congregation showed to our staff when we were separated by the pandemic. We adapted and learned and continued to center ourselves in Christ.

Thank you for the gifts you and your household offer out of the generosity God has provided to you. Remember, we are not all asked to give the same amount, but in proportion to what God has given us.

*Pastor Bonnie*

## Church Council & Property Management Updates



Read more below about these projects lead by council and staff:

- A. Updating the Constitution**
- B. New! Welcoming & Inclusion Statement**
- C. Two Town Halls about both these matters - after worship, 11:15 AM, Nov. 13 (in person) & 27 (on Zoom)**
- D. Facility Projects: Parking Lot Update; Lighting Project; and Replacing the Sanctuary Roof**
- E. Annual Meeting (01/22/2023) and Budget Town Hall (01/15/2023)**

\*\*\*\*\*

- A. Updating the Constitution:** Our congregational president, Warren Watson, has been reviewing the ELCA Model Constitution in order to update our Constitution, which has not been updated since 2010! Attend one of the two Town Halls on Nov. 13, 27.
- B. A First Lutheran Welcome & Inclusion Statement:** Over the last few years we have had several requests to clarify our stance as to whether our church supports the LGBTQ+ community. We have had specific requests from gay and transgender parents of our After School program, several LGBTQ+ youth and parents in our church, gay and transgender parents from our tenant, Marigold Preschool. We also regularly are in conversation with LGBTQ+ community members looking for a local church. Our staff tells people that we support LGBTQ+ families and couples in our church. But we would like this stance to also come from the church council and congregation. The Church Council approved the Welcome & Inclusive Statement below in September, and will ask the congregation to formally adopt it at the Annual Meeting.

**WELCOME & INCLUSION STATEMENT:** First Lutheran Church strives to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone in our church, our community, and our partner organizations. We seek to connect and serve our neighbors wherever they are on their faith and life journey. We aim to support people of every race & culture, age & ability, family structure & economic status, and every sexual orientation & gender.

*The statement will be reviewed at the Town Hall Meetings in November.*

REMEMBER, the Nov. 13 Town Hall will be at 11:15 in person at church. The second Town Hall on Nov. 27 will be held by Zoom, with the link published at least one week prior.

- C. Facility Projects:**
  - a. The Parking Lot has been repaved, more handicap parking places added, new raised gardens constructed and partially planted (some plants were not available this fall), and added sidewalks to improve pedestrian access. Now we will be working on signs to educate the community about our project and how they can better manage water use where they live.
  - b. Lighting: Thanks to an anonymous donation and a grant from the MNCEE (Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment), we will replace all of the 1,000 indoor florescent light fixtures in our building by Nov. 15.
  - c. Replacing the Sanctuary Roof. Again, thanks to an anonymous donation, we have the funding to (1) replace the shingles on the Sanctuary roof; and (2) repair/modify the cupola atop the Sanctuary.

## Business of the Congregation!

### Town Hall Meeting (re: Budget)

Sunday, Jan. 15, at 11:15 AM (Sanctuary). We will review First Lutheran's 2022 financial results and the 2023 Budget. *Community Lunch to follow.*

### Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, 11:15 AM. To do the yearly business of the church, we will approve a budget, elect leaders, pray and celebrate our ministry!

### Council Board Retreat

Saturday, Jan. 28, 9:30 AM-1 PM. This event is for members of all the Boards, Church Council, and standing committees. It is to get acquainted as a new group of leaders and work on goals for the year.

### 2022 Contribution Statements

Will be mailed to your home mid-January. Please email Jana Dietering with any questions: [Jana@flcch.org](mailto:Jana@flcch.org)

### HOLIDAY HOURS & CALENDAR

#### The church office will be closed:

- \* Friday, Nov. 25
- \* Mondays Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

#### No Community Meal will be served

- \* Sundays, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

#### First Lutheran Calendar

For calendar items & events, visit [flcch.org](http://flcch.org) or contact the office for a printed copy.



# SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES / DRAMA / CONCERTS

## Advent

"Songs of Wonder: Psalms in Advent."

This Advent we will journey through the psalms, finding in them the pleas of a people — our spiritual ancestors — for renewal and transformation, for justice and peace, for hope and comfort. Based on the ELCA World Hunger resource for Advent 2022.

### Worship in November

#### All Saints Day

Sunday, Nov. 6, 10 AM

We will read the names of those who have died from our community in the last twelve months, as well as invite everyone to light a candle during communion in memory of saints who have died.

#### Commitment Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 20 (8:45 & 10 AM)

On or before this date, you are invited to make a formal monetary commitment to the church for mission support in 2023.

#### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 7 PM

Thanksgiving Eve Worship, followed by PIE! (see info about this fundraiser for our Youth Trip to Mission Jamaica next summer on page 6).

### Advent, Christmas & New Year Worship

#### Lessons & Carols

Dec. 11, 10 AM

Join the Campanile Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir and other musicians for our annual Lessons and Carols Service. You will hear familiar Advent/Christmas readings as well as music to get you into the festive spirit of Christmas. Hope to see you there!

#### Children's Christmas

**Program:** *The Christmas Checklist*

Dec. 18, 10 AM

Join us as the children present their special Christmas program and invite the congregation to join in singing Christmas hymns! *Worship will be followed by...*

#### Happy Birthday Jesus Party



All ages are invited to join us for a Christmas party at 11 AM. There will be crafts, Christmas music, a decorating cookie-station, cupcakes and singing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

#### Christmas Eve

**Worship & Holy Communion**

Friday, Dec. 24  
4 & 6 PM

We worship the birth of the Savior of the world led by special music (Choir & Bells) playing at both services.



#### A Casual Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 AM

Come as you are for a laid-back, joyful celebration of Jesus' birth!

#### New Year's Day Sunday

Jan. 1, 10 AM

Our worship will end with a balloon drop from the balcony!



### Concerts in December

#### Mississippi Valley Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 PM

First Lutheran welcomes back the Mississippi Valley Orchestra conducted by Ho-Yin Kwok for a concert entitled *Bach Double*. There will be a pre-concert talk at 2:15 PM and music by Weinberg, Bach, Gipps and Respighi will be included on the concert. Enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary filled with wonderful music during this season.



#### Christmas at First

Dec. 11, 3 PM

Join the musicians of First Lutheran in a Christmas concert entitled *Christmas at First* on Sunday, Dec. 11. Included in this concert will be sacred as well as secular holiday favorites to get you in the Christmas spirit! All are welcome!



#### Minnesota Boychoir

Sunday, Dec. 18,  
4 PM

Join the Minnesota Boychoir in their festive Christmas concert at First Lutheran. Conducted by Mark Johnson, this is the oldest boy choir in the Minneapolis/ St. Paul area and boasts over 150 singers ages 6-18. These choirs will dazzle us with their beautiful voices! See you there!



#### First Lutheran's Drama Ministry

will be performing "Burn the Church," an original play by Nathan Roberts about the heroic acts of a European Lutheran Church during WWII. A city is surrounded by the Nazi's and the town is forced to survive a cold winter by burning everything they have... including their church. Come see our amazing FLC actors and crew put on this powerful story Nov. 3rd and 4th at 7 PM.



**LIRS**

80 Years  
of Welcome

## Invitation & Information about FLCCH's Immigration & Refugee Ministry Team

First Lutheran Church's Spiritual Growth Board with eleven other members of our congregation has taken its first steps in helping immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We are officially members of the EMMAUS Network with Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services (LIRS) after completing a three-week discernment process together in August and September. A certificate is expected to be presented to Council at our annual board meeting in January.

Now that we are members of EMMAUS the next step is to form a ministry team to meet quarterly to learn, pray, and communicate recommendations for action to council on immigration issues as they impact



our community, neighbors, and members of our congregation.

If you are interested in joining this new ministry team please contact Randy Bergman, [randyparkplace@gmail.com](mailto:randyparkplace@gmail.com) by Thursday, Dec. 1.

There will be more information to come in future Caller Articles as immigrants and refugees are expected to be coming in vast numbers next year to Minnesota from Afghanistan, Mexico, and Ukraine. Please pray with us in solidarity with Ukraine and for all people seeking and needing to migrate due to political unrest, poverty, and war in their native countries.

## Financial Peace University Returns!



Is money a constant source of stress in your life? Do you feel like you can never get ahead? I would like to share with you the financial program that changed my personal financial journey and empowered me to achieve my financial goals and dreams. Financial Peace University is appropriate for you

at any age, relationship status, or financial level. Following Biblical principles in the management of our money leads to financial peace.

New this time, we will be meeting over Zoom! I will be leading the 9-week course beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6 PM. You can register for the course at: [fpu.com/1153121](https://fpu.com/1153121). We will meet over Zoom one hour per week. You will watch the videos on your own and we will meet to discuss and work together. Contact [Pastor Jill](#) with questions. I can't wait to get started!



## Check out our Advent Podcast

We're back! Several members of our First Lutheran community have contributed to our Advent podcast. We are sharing thoughts on some of our favorite psalms. Tune in daily during

the season of Advent to hear a psalm, a thought, and a prayer. What better way is there to prepare and wait for the coming of Christ? You can find our podcast on many platforms. Look for First Lutheran Church Columbia Heights MN. **Day 1 is Nov. 27.**

## From 5% to ALL IN

*So are you telling me  
something must change?*

**Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:15 AM**



John Miller is sharing his highly animated testimony in full living color at Adult Forum in the Chapel at 11:15 AM, just before Thanksgiving Weekend. John's story truly reminds us of what to be thankful for and whom to give all praises and glory. All are welcome to listen in to John's powerful, life changing, and highflying message.

## Prayers for Ukraine

In Solidarity with Ukraine, we offer up the following prayer, shared with us by the Lutheran Immigration and

Refugee Service (LIRS.org) and encouraged by our First Lutheran Refugee Task Force:

*If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.  
If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.  
If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbors.  
If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
There must be peace in the home.  
If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.*

(Traditional Taoist poem credited to Lao Tzu)



Travel with us to Rome & the Holy Land!

## Rome & the Holy Land

Is your spirit calling you to know Jesus more? Would you like to walk where some of the best stories in the Bible happened? These are real places and people and we're going to experience the Holy Land and Rome for ourselves in **March 2023!** Trip brochures are available near the Welcome Desk or [here](#). **Final payment is due November 12.** See Pastor Jill for more information.



# FINANCIALS / GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## Financial Update:

First Lutheran's major checking and savings accounts and balances as of September 2022 are represented below. For questions or more specific details, please contact Jana Dietering, 763-788-9653 x 104.

<b>General Checking at 9/1/2022</b>	<b>\$ 80,693</b>
Offering received	\$ 27,699
Transfers In	\$ 138,391
Other Deposits	\$ 1,522
Rent Deposits	\$ 52,816
Payroll Expenses	\$ 37,061
Administration Expenses	\$ 47,770
Property & Maintenance Exp	\$ 10,453
Other Expenses	\$ 46,779
Transfers Out	\$ -
Parking Lot Repair Expenses	\$ 99,075
<b>General Checking at 9/30/2022</b>	<b>\$ 59,983</b>
<b>Mortgage &amp; Maintenance at 9/1/2022</b>	<b>\$ 35,353</b>
Offerings, Interest & Transfers	\$ 10
Mortgage Payments	\$ 8,589
Other Expenses	\$ -
<b>Mortgage &amp; Maintenance at 9/30/2022</b>	<b>\$ 26,774</b>
<b>Perpetual Reserve Balance 09/30/2022</b>	<b>\$ 107,504</b>
<b>Special Projects Balance 09/30/2022</b>	<b>\$ 383,039</b>
<b>Memorial Fund Balance 09/30/22</b>	<b>\$ 44,605</b>
<b>*Endowment Fund Principal +Interest 9/30/2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,069,896</b>
<b>**Undesignated Earnings</b>	<b>\$ 139,512</b>

\*Endowment principal is held in perpetuity and cannot be spent

\*\* Only the investment earnings are available for use with the approval of the Endowment Committee

## GIVING

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights is financed by the generous, direct monetary gifts of its members and friends.

There are several ways you can bless this mission of Jesus with your gifts:



- Drop off your **Check or Cash** during Sunday Worship or send a check thru the mail. Please use an offering envelope so we can give you credit for your gift.

- **Stock Transfers to FLC**
- **Electronic Funds Transfer**  
See our website, [flcch.org](http://flcch.org) (upper right hand corner) to set your donation frequency.
- **Bill Pay.** Follow the directions of your bank or credit union to create First Lutheran as a Payee at 1555 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. Choose weekly or monthly offerings.

For more information, contact Jana Dietering 763-788-9653, [jana@flcch.org](mailto:jana@flcch.org)

## We Welcome Jana Dietering to FLC!



Jana serves as the Finance and Operations Manager at First Lutheran Church.

She was born and raised in Germany and loves to go back there to visit with her family. Jana has a B.A. in Macroeconomics and has a strong background in non profit/fund accounting.

In her spare time she volunteers preparing taxes for low income families, going on walks with her partner and puppy Hansel, reading, hiking and spending time with her three young adult children.



## Christmas Garden ...

*A wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.*

Purchase poinsettias for worship on behalf of a loved one. Sign up at the welcome desk in the Commons to donate a plant, \$12 each (we will purchase the plants). Make checks payable to "FLC" by Dec. 16. Those who purchase a plant for the Sanctuary may take one home following worship on Dec. 25.

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

Your 2023 Offering Envelopes are scheduled to arrive at the church in mid-December. Look for opportunities to pick them up before Christmas! Please contact the church office to request that they be mailed.



**For End of Year Giving**, please consider the ease and security of giving electronically or dropping your gifts off at the church. If you are unable to do so, please mail any donations or payments to be postmarked on or before Friday, Dec. 31 in order to be credited to your 2022 Year End Statement.

*Many blessings to you and yours this holiday season!*



## SpudFest

Youth Ministry Fundraiser

**On Sunday, Nov. 6** the youth will be serving up their renowned potato feast for lunch! 11 AM-12:30 PM baked potato bar (with all the fixings) in support of their youth ministry fundraiser. \$5/person suggested donation.

## Confirmation Classes



During the months of November & December, Confirmation Classes will focus on financial stewardship and faith, using the Generation Change curriculum. Pastor Jill Bergman will be teaching the youth how to be wise with our money. Nathan Roberts will be a guest speaker on Faith & Consumerism. Parents are invited to join in as well.

### Please Note:

- ◆ No Sunday School or Confirmation classes: Nov. 27, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

## Stock Sale!

**First Lutheran is sending a team of 12 Youth & Young Adults to Mission Jamaica in 2023!**

Pray for the people of Jamaica and pray for our team as we prepare to serve. The cost for the mission trip is approximately \$1,800 per missionary. To support our trip, we will have a stock sale! Buy a share for \$25 and invest in our youth going to Mission Jamaica. We will have a shareholder's dinner in the summer to report on the return on your investment!



## Pie Fundraiser

As a fundraiser for Mission Jamaica, the youth will be sponsoring this year's pie social after the 7 PM Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Please consider donating 'uncut' pies (homemade or store bought) and whipped toppings. Pies can be dropped off from 6-7 PM. Then, be sure to stop by after worship for a slice of your favorite pie!

*Any unused pies may be purchased for your family's holiday gathering!*



## Help for Homelessness

**Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

An all ages service project. Join us in packing kits you can safely pass out to people on the streets. After this event you will also be able to pack more kits on your own. This is a great way to learn about homelessness with children.

## Christmas Gift Card for Teens in Need

The local food shelf (SACA) has a Christmas give away and they have asked First Lutheran to donate \$10 - \$20 gift cards for parents in need, to give to their teenage children. In November, please take a card off the tree in the Commons, purchase a gift card, and drop the envelope and card in the church office!



## Community Pride Event

First Lutheran was a sponsor of the Columbia Heights Oct. 8 Pride Event. We provided water and Roger and Junia sold handmade stuffed bees. It was a wonderful day of celebrating respectful relationships and community in all its many forms!



## After School continues...

**4:30-6 PM Tuesdays / Thursdays**

We are excited to have a full program of After School students and a wonderful team of volunteers. Jane & Larry Bugbee work with Rock & Kari Hauser to provide healthy meals. Karen Mattison and Linda Fowler help create great crafts. Joe Stinson, Molly, Ben, Angela, Shanequa, Nathan, Rachel & our College Intern Carly help create a fun and safe place for kids to grow, play and learn.



## Courtyard Clean-up

We had a fantastic group of volunteers help spruce up the Courtyard with tree trimming and pulling weeds on Oct. 9. Special thank you to Larry Bugbee, Paula Million, Randy Barnaal, Roger Johnson, and the Sunday School children & families. Thank you to Paul Eddy for painting the windows at church with his big, very small brush.

## Kids Christmas Program 2022

**Sunday, Dec. 18**

The Kids Christmas Program will practice during Sunday School in November & December. There will be roles for all interested children. More information and parts will be emailed to you this month.







### Young at Heart

Tuesday, Nov. 15. Church Basement Ladies show at the Ames Center Theater in Burnsville. The stage show is entitled, "Plowin' Thru" and features Greta Goetch and Janet Paone who have been in the cast of all nine hilarious shows thru the years. \$28 for show plus \$5 for van ride. 12:15 PM depart church, 1 PM curtain rises on 2-hour show. Sign up on bulletin board.

### Music Enrichment

Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:15 AM  
Have you ever wondered about the fine instruments we use in worship? We have been exploring the different instruments that shape our worship here at First Lutheran. Join us in November for a brief talk/demonstration to learn more about the techniques in playing handbells!



### 911 Changes

911 Calls go to an Anoka County Dispatch in downtown Anoka. The dispatcher questions the person calling to triage if the CH rescue squad is needed for life threatening emergencies, i.e., unresponsive, chest pain, & seizures. Non-life threatening calls will dispatch an Allina Ambulance (which takes 15-20 min.). Allina will then care for our emergency situation and determine if the person needs to be transported to the hospital.

### 55+ Singles

Singles, age 55+ gather to eat and socialize on Fridays at 5 PM. Emails are sent out weekly to invite interested Singles and advise you of any meeting changes. Please bring your own supper & drink for meetings at the church. Contact Faith with questions or to be included in the group's email. 612-799-4245, [whitefa@comcast.net](mailto:whitefa@comcast.net)

### First Lutheran Book Club

The Book Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 1 PM. Join them for a book discussion, fellowship & refreshments. For the book of the month, contact: Char, [charzarich@gmail.com](mailto:charzarich@gmail.com)

### Gideons International

The Gideons distribute Bibles and New Testaments throughout the world. They recently handed out over 1,000 pocket New Testaments to local school and university students, and often place Bibles in hotel rooms. The Gideons are pleased to have the continued support of First Lutheran. If you wish to learn more about the mission or membership of the Gideons, pick up a pamphlet and materials near the Welcome Desk or reach out to FLC members Bob Nelson or Mel Robinson.



### Find Your Connection Point!

Connection Points are small groups that connect people at a common interest point, and bring them together. This month we are highlighting service-type Connection Points. These are groups that gather to share a service or complete a task. Check them out – you might find one that interests you!

### Holiday Market

Saturday Nov. 12, from 9 AM - 2 PM  
It's almost here! Tell your friends, plan to eat & shop, buy your 2023 Lutefisk Dinner tickets, support missions, and consider ways to help! Contact: Dorothy Markowitz, 651-645-9458  
Cheryl Ballingrud, 651-633-0679  
Lyn Larson, 763-424-2323.

### Mission Workshop

Are you interested in quilting or like to sew? Mission Workshop has a variety of sewing projects that can be done onsite or at home and brought to church at your convenience. For details and meeting schedule, contact Lisa Tenhoff, 763-789-4101 and leave a call-back message.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Learn about Prayer Shawls at First Lutheran – where they come from, why we give them to people, what you can do to be a part of this ministry. Contact Mona Wold, [gmawold@hotmail.com](mailto:gmawold@hotmail.com)

### Baptismal Hosts

Be part of a ministry team that welcomes and nurtures the whole family of one who is being baptized. Help put together the gifts presented at baptism, and provide a warm welcome to the new members of our Christian family. Contact: Joyce Weaver, [joycew@flcch.org](mailto:joycew@flcch.org)

### Funeral Ministry

Taking care of details for those who are grieving a loss is a special calling. You can contribute by providing food, helping prepare for a service, etc. Contact: Joyce Weaver, [joycew@flcch.org](mailto:joycew@flcch.org)

### Sunday Worship Team

Consider being the friendly face of First Lutheran and serve as an Usher, Greeter or even a Sunday Bus Driver! Contact: Joyce Weaver, to get connected, [joycew@flcch.org](mailto:joycew@flcch.org)

### Gardeners

We provide vegetables grown in our community garden to neighbors in need. Vegetables are available with a free-will offering after church on Sundays, and the rest is donated to Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA), a local food shelf. If you are interested in helping with the garden, contact Dan Fishbeck at [dan.fishbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dan.fishbeck@gmail.com)

### Kitchen Crew

The Kitchen Crew at First provides our neighbors and church attenders with a free home-made meal each Sunday, September through May. If you are interested in cooking, shopping, set up, etc. contact Nathan Roberts, Director of Community Engagement at [nathanr@flcch.org](mailto:nathanr@flcch.org)

If you have questions about these or other Connection Points, you can contact the leaders listed above or Michelle Edwards at [shell-lyn@hotmail.com](mailto:shell-lyn@hotmail.com)



First Lutheran Church  
1555 40th Avenue NE / Columbia Heights, MN 55421-3195  
WEB: [flcch.org](http://flcch.org) / PH: 763-788-9653

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Twin Cities MN  
Permit No. 1813

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**8:45 & 10 AM**  
YOUTUBE &  
FACEBOOK LIVE  
**COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**11 AM-12 PM**

**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

*Daylight  
Saving  
Time ends*



*on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022  
at 2 AM. On Saturday  
night, clocks are set  
back one hour (i.e.,  
gaining one hour) to  
"fall back."*

## *First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights*

### **IT'S BACK!!! 2023 Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner**



Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 for the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner! After a long pandemic break, we are pleased to be bringing back the perennial favorite dinner fundraiser. Tickets are \$23 and will start going on sale at the Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 12.

It has been said that many hands make light work, but in this case, many hands make for a lot of fun! It really is a fun time to get together with all of our First family and deliver what is widely recognized as the BEST Lutefisk dinner in town.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the Commons early in December. Sign up early to get your favorite job. Babysitting will be provided for workers on the day of the dinner, but if you need a sitter you must sign up so we will know how many sitters to hire. As an added bonus, ALL volunteers qualify for half-price tickets to the dinner! Youth volunteers and their parents also get camp credits for helping out!



Contact Ruth Dodson if you have questions - [ruthdodson@msn.com](mailto:ruthdodson@msn.com) and watch for the volunteer signup sheets in December.







**LIVING CONNECTED**  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## COMMITMENT INVITATION FOR THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 2023.



Please fill out this statement of intent (front & back) and return to First Lutheran on Commitment Sunday, Nov. 20, or by the end of November. *To email, send to Jana Dietering, [jana@flcch.org](mailto:jana@flcch.org)*

*In gratitude for how generous God has been with me/us,  
I/we offer these gifts with joy and thanksgiving:*

Please Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My 2023 Total Annual Pledge will be \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**1. General Fund:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per Week/Month/Year (circle one)

*The General Fund pays the day-to-day expenses of ministry and mission, including building utilities and staff salaries.*

**2. Mortgage & Maintenance \ Building Fund:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per Week/Month/Year (circle one)

*To pay the monthly mortgage payment, along with building repairs.*

**Automatic Giving:** *(No envelopes needed. You'll be assigned an ID Number)*

- ☐ I plan to give electronically through my bank or financial institution.  
*Please contact the church office to verify or request your personal "envelope" or ID number to assure your giving statements are properly credited.*
- ☐ I am currently using Vanco (formerly *Simply Giving*®) and would like to continue with this program. Please adjust my giving to reflect my 2023 Pledge amount. There is no change in my banking. *Provide your signature:* **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please contact the church to verify personal "envelope" or ID number as it may change in 2023.*

**Legacy Planning:**

- ☐ I/We have included First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights in my/our estate.
- ☐ I/We would like more information on how to leave a legacy gift to First Lutheran.



**Do you have any updates to share?**

Cell phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Family Updates? New family members? Children who are living elsewhere? Winter or summer address change to keep on file? Emergency contact?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you want to receive these weekly or occasional email announcements?**

Please include your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ First Prayers (weekly prayer concerns)
- ☐ Verse of the Week (devotional)
- ☐ The Caller (monthly newsletter)
- ☐ 1st FAM! (children, youth & family emails)
- ☐ Weekly Announcements / Notifications
- ☐ First Lutheran Community Facebook Group