



French River Lutheran Church  
5310 Ryan Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

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Duluth, MN  
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**Address Service Requested**

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(please call before coming to the office)

E-mail: [FRLC5310@gmail.com](mailto:FRLC5310@gmail.com)

[www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)

Pr. Kim Sturtz: [frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com)

ph: (218)393-7444; available Mo-Th Pr. Kim  
will be in the office or parsonage,  
depending on her schedule.

FRLC Mission Statement: "To live and love  
as God commands, accept His grace, and  
share the Good News."

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

"Like us" on Facebook Please recycle

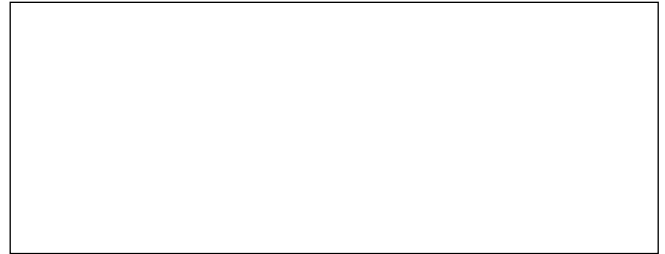
See *The Parables* in color on-line at  
[www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)

Please contact the office to if you would like to  
be removed from our mailing list.

See *The Parables* in color online at

[www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)

**10 AM WORSHIP**



*THE PARABLES* † *December 2023*

"Let every heart prepare him room!"

FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, DULUTH

CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023  
• 4 PM

All are welcome to join us in person or online!

<https://youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>

*Scandinavian Christmas on the Shore*

Olde World Baked Goods

FRENCH RIVER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5310 RYAN RD  
SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 9TH  
9 AM – 2 PM

FANCY BAKED GOODS  
LEFSE ☆ CANDY SHOP

ARTISANS & CRAFTERS ☆ PANTRY ☆

Fika Cafe

Soup choices: Chicken Wild Rice or Beef Barley – \$5.00

Sandwich choices: Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese on a  
Croissant – \$5.00

Dessert choices: White Christmas Pie, Fruit Soup, or Brownie  
with Lingonberries – \$5.00

Beverage included with each food purchase


Merry Christmas God Jul

Hyvaa Joulua Froehliche Weihnachten

Gledelig Jul Joyeux Noël

QUESTIONS? CALL 218.525.5659

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>3</b> <b>10a</b> Worship in-person & online <b>10:45a – 12p</b> Sunday School <b>Pageant Rehearsal</b> 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	  6p Adult Bible Study	 <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>  <b>5:45p Exec. Council</b> 7p AA	  <b>5:30-7:30p Cocoa &amp; Carols</b> 5:30-6:30p Fish Force 6:45-7:30p Confirmation <b>7p Choir</b>	  <b>5p Riversong Rising</b>	   8	   <b>9a-2p</b> <b>Scandinavian</b> <b>Fest</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>10</b> <b>10a Blended Worship</b> in-person & online <b>10:45a – 12p</b> Sunday School <b>Pageant Rehearsal</b> 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	  6p Adult Bible Study <b>7p Finance</b>	 <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>  <b>7p Council</b> 7p AA	   <b>7p Choir</b>	   <b>10:30a W&amp;M</b> <b>1p WELCA</b>  <b>5p Riversong Rising</b>	   15	   16
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>17</b> <b>10a Contemporary Worship</b> <b>Christmas Pageant!</b> In-person & online 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	  6p Adult Bible Study	 <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>  7p AA	 <b>7a D/NSSD</b> <b>20</b> <b>9a Parables Deadline</b>	   <b>21</b>  <b>1p F.R. Readers</b>	   22	   23
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>24</b> <b>10a</b> Worship in-person/online 11:15a Coffee Fellowship <b>4p Christmas Eve</b> <b>Candlelight Service</b> In-Person & Online	  <b>Merry Christmas!</b> 	 <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>  7p AA	   <b>9a Parables Assembly</b>  <b>7p Choir</b>	   <b>9a Outreach</b> <b>11a Hospitality</b>	   29	   30
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> <b>31</b> <b>10a Lessons &amp; Carols</b> Worship in-person & online 11:15a Coffee Fellowship		Opportunity sign-up to help with shoveling is in the narthex; shovels are in the small shed or entry ways. Thank you!		Please be mindful of little ones coming and going in the parking lot. Bulky winter clothing might make it harder for them to see cars 😊		

Date	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assist.* / Counter	Coffee Fellowship	Altar Guild
<b>3</b>	Phil & Babs Strom	Sue Baker	Loren Slette*/Adam Marks	O'Leary, Moe, Wilman	Skipper Sironen
<b>10</b>	Doug & Lynne Compton	Ann Rankila	Sheila Laiti*/ArMand Nelson	Bonnie Smrstick	Kathy Pierson
<b>17</b>	Kevin S. & Jacquie E.	Joanne Kronstedt	TBD	Peggy & Sandy Dahlberg	TBD
<b>24a/p</b>	Dick & Marilyn/Sue & Steve	Elda H./Haeli P.	TBD	-	Lynne Compton
<b>31</b>	TBD	FRLC Youth	TBD	Don Mattson	Brita Aug

**Prayer Chain:** Babs Strom 525-6200      **Coffee:** Galilee; Cheryl Moe 525-5011 & Bonnie Smrstick 730-7443

FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT:

“To live and love as God commands, accept His Grace, and share the Good News.”

“Virtual worship” is available by visiting [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)

**A Message from Pastor Kim**



Advent is here, the beginning of the giant holiday Season. Between the different religions of the world, there are over 14 different celebrations between November 2nd -

Jan 15th. Thus the reason for the phrase, “Happy Holidays,” and when broken down to its linguistic origin means - Happy Holy Days.

Also within this season, there are often complaints about the word or usage of “X-mas”. “They’ve taken Christ out of Christmas,” decry some. But in actuality, X-mas is the most Christ focused way of honoring the coming Christ in this season.

The holiday itself might have been replaced by commercialism in the celebration of this Festival season, but that isn’t where the “X” comes from. Christ isn’t being “crossed out.”

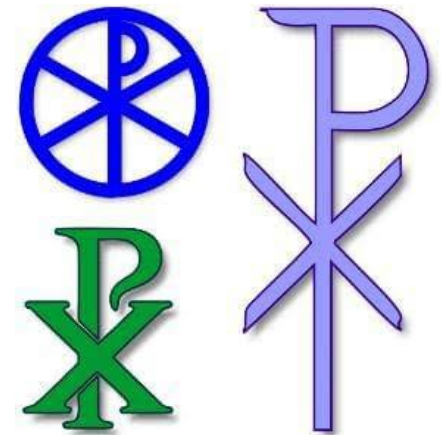
Now as Christians we prepare and gather together to get our hearts ready for Christ to be born into our chaotic world. The English word “Christmas” is a shortened form of “Christ’s Mass”. The word is first recorded as *Crīstesmæsse* in 1038 and *Crīstes-messe* in 1131.

Let us journey into the formation of linguistics of the word:

The word “Christ” in Greek looks like this: ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (pronounced “christos”). Christ comes

“*The Parables*” † December 2023 † page 3 from the Greek word χριστός (chrīstós), meaning “anointed one”. The word is derived from the Greek verb χρίω (chrīō), meaning “to anoint.” In the Greek Septuagint, χριστός was a semantic loan used to translate the Hebrew (Mašiah, messiah), meaning “[one who is] anointed.”

*(Phew.. does your brain hurt a little from this mini theological deep dive? Take a deep breath because we are going back to the surface. )*



Okay back to ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ....The first letter is an “X,” but it isn’t pronounced as an “ex” as in our alphabet, but a “chi” (rhymes with “sky”) in the Greek alphabet. This letter has a “ch” sound – like in the word “Christ”.

While the second letter looks like a P (pea), but in Greek it is a “Rho” and sounds like the English “R”. Now we put them together.

The “chi rho” is common Christian symbol that uses the first two letters from ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. Because of the shape of the letters, the symbol is often mistaken for a “PX”. A chi-rho symbol is one of the oldest Christian symbols. Some examples of the Chi-Rho symbols are attached. There are different ones in our congregation in our liturgical décor.

Spelling the holiday “Xmas” doesn’t necessarily take Christ out of the holiday; neither does spelling the word “Christmas” put Christ into the holiday. They are mutually exclusive of one another and can be used interchangeably.

If you hear someone getting feisty about the “abbreviated” form of Christmas, you can show them this article and give them a mini-lesson on Biblical Greek and the history of how appropriate X-mas actually is for us all. Hopefully, that will lessen their concern and enlighten them to rejoice that we all can welcome the Jesus into

**Volunteers at Second Harvest**

Christ is coming into our hearts and might in so many different ways. This is the season to help open minds and understanding to the mystery and good will that He brings to all.

FRLC formed a team of eight to assist with the Backpack Program at Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank. Monthly, volunteers pack a balance of nutrition with easy-to-open, easy-to-prepare food into bags. Bags are put into boxes and transported to school districts within six Northland counties. Children enrolled in the Backpack Program receive their bags on Friday, just in time for the weekend. Volunteers enjoyed being part of the team, and two hours went by very quickly!

Blessings.

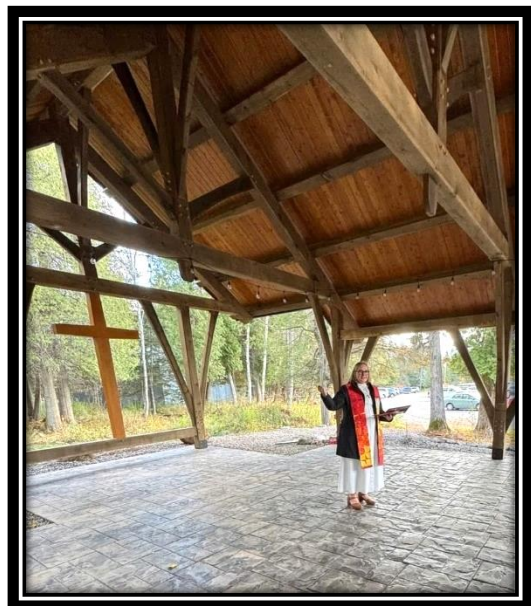
+ : ) Pastor Kim Sturtz

**Recently at FRLC**

On October 29<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the confirmation of Anders Hastings and Steinar Anderson. Congratulations!



We also had a dedication of our Outdoor Gathering Space on the same day.



FRLC Volunteers at  
Second Harvest  
Northern Lakes  
Food Bank

## Upcoming Events

### Scandinavian Fest

**Mark your calendars for our Scandinavian Sale on December 9 this year.**

We're offering a soup and sandwich lunch option with or without your choice from our dessert menu, and vendors will fill the fellowship hall with their wonderful products.

We're looking for all the usual cookies and baked goods, pantry items, craft items and glassware to fill the narthex with a festive holiday atmosphere. There will be a bread baking day, a cookie packing day, set up and clean up opportunities, as well as workers needed for the different shifts on Saturday.

Want to learn how to make Christmas pie? Can you drop off a poster or two at some of your usual stops? Do you knit, craft, work with wood, paint, or get together with friends to make anything?? What is your favorite holiday cookie, bread, or candy? Do you know someone who might want to have a table? Or friends who may want to come to the sale? There are so many ways to participate!!

Please consider how you can help make this a wonderful day of outreach and fellowship during our Advent Season.

#### Scandinavian Festival contacts:

Comments or questions –  
Barb Jackson 525-5992

Or Peggy Dahlberg 525-4469

Bread baking – Carolyn Marino 525-6431

Lefse – Bonnie Smrstick or Peggy Dahlberg

This is our major fundraiser for benevolence and projects. Thank you for your support!

### Salvation Army Bell Ringing



It's time to warm up those bells!  
Here is the link to sign up for the **Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CAAA-F2EA7F85-45938771-2023#/>

FRLC will not be taking an entire day. Using this sign up to **ring at SuperOne—Two Harbors**

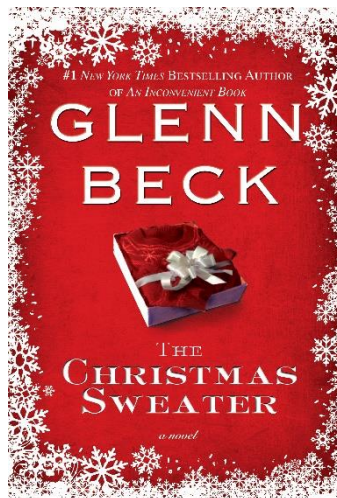
**“The Parables” † December 2023 † page 5** allows you to pick and choose a time/day based on your availability. Don't wait to sign up!

If you do not have Internet capability, call me and I'll look for an open spot for you.

Thank you for supporting the Red Kettle Campaign.

Sue Baker, 218-341-4181

### French River Readers



December is our annual Christmas Gathering! We have chosen The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck as our Christmas book. We will have a Dice Game, so bring several wrapped small gifts. Bring hors d'oeuvres to share, sweet or savory. The fun begins on

Thursday, December 21st at 1 PM in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. It will be a great time!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Surine at 218-525-4426 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com).

### FRLC Youth

- Advent Workshop is Sunday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> during Sunday School time. All ages are welcome! We will be making ornaments for the Scandinavian Christmas on the Shore event!
- Sunday School time will be extended to 12:00p on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for Advent Workshop and pageant practice.

Upcoming Dates for Youth:	
Sunday, December 3	<b>Advent Workshop</b> 11:00a-12:00p (during Sunday School)
Wednesday, December 6	<b>Cocoa &amp; Carols</b> 5:30p-7:00p
Sunday, December 10	<b>Christmas Pageant Practice</b> 11:00a-12:00p (during Sunday School)
Saturday, December 16	<b>Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant AND Angel Breakfast</b> 9:00a-11:00a
Sunday, December 17	<b>Christmas Pageant</b> at 10:00a service (no Sunday School)
Sunday, December 24	No Sunday School (Merry Christmas!)
Sunday, December 31	No Sunday School (Happy New Year!)
Sunday, January 7 (and forward)	Sunday School resumes after communion until 11:30a

## Take Note

### Thank You

"Coffee Hour" after church in November was hosted by members of the Jericho Service Team. Thank you to all the faithful servants, both on the team and the many hands from other teams, who pitched in and contributed to this important time of continued fellowship.

Sincerely, Sue (2023 team captain)

**French River Lutheran Church**  
**Cocoa & Carols**  
 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2023  
 5:30-7 pm @ the Timberframe

Come celebrate the light and warmth of friends & community on the shore!

(back up weather day: Dec 13)



### Greetings

Hello FRLC friends!

Mari Strong, daughter of Pastor Art Solberg, here. Thank you for including us in your mailing list of *The Parables*. It is a delight to read the updates and see pictures each month. We thank God for all He continues to do in, through and around all of you. Thank you for your faithfulness as a beautiful Body of Christ. And congratulations and abundant blessings on your 100 years of ministry too! What a tremendous milestone to celebrate!




My dad is now in assisted living memory care, and is also receiving hospice care in Bloomington MN. He continues to flow in the rhythms of his signature spunk and joy, despite the changes he has gone through physically. All things considered at 98 years of age, he's doing 'pretty well.' Feel free to share our mailing address with anyone who would like to send him a note or card, and we'll be sure to bring it and read it to him as we visit him. He (and all of our family) still have a very warm place in our hearts for all of you ~ you will always be considered friends and extended family. :)

Many thanks ~ you all are loved and lifted up,  
 Mari

**A Storybook Christmas Pageant!**

*The story of Christmas with tales told by the actual people that experienced it!*

**French River Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday December 17, 2023**

**During Worship 10 am!**

If your youth or child would like to be a part of the pageant: Please be in attendance in Sunday school or Wednesday Fish Force to receive an assigned role and practice



Ever wonder why there are wicker baskets in the narthex? The baskets are for receiving non-perishable food for CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) and for where needed most, gently used or new clothes and personal hygiene items. Specifically for CHUM, we collect Ramen Chicken Noodle Soup. Our goal is to bring 100 packages/month; lately, we’ve fallen short and haven’t met that goal. Thank you for helping to remedy this situation, and remember to check expiration dates before placing edible items in the baskets. Thanks!

### Community Partners

Hello,  
Community Partners is working with Victory Chorus to start a Victory Chorus Program in Two Harbors. Victory Chorus offers Dementia friendly singing programs. Here is their website: [www.thevictorychorus.org/](http://www.thevictorychorus.org/) We are looking for someone to be a pianist for this program which will meet on Friday mornings starting in January. The sessions run for about 8 weeks, then take a week or 2 break and then start up again. We are also looking for singing partners. If you would be interested in participating or would like more information about participating, please reach out. If you know someone else who may be interested in participating, please pass this information to them. We will also be working with Two Harbors High School on this project. It will be a great intergenerational, musical experience. Please spread the word!  
Dana

--  
Dana Thewis  
Program Coordinator, Community Partners  
Regular Hours: Monday - Thursday 9a-3p  
work: 218-834-8024 ext. 2  
work direct line: 218-302-4810



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Supporting the independence of people 55+ and their caregivers in the Two Harbors area.

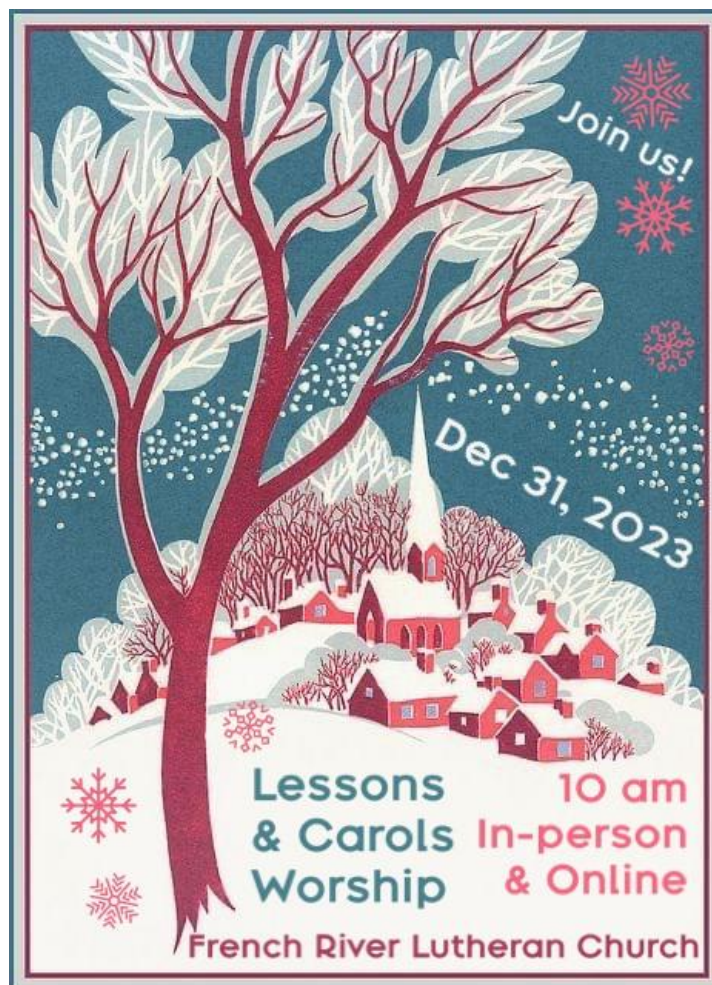
## FRLC Annual CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 21, 2024 following the 10:00 AM worship service (“Snow Date” is Jan. 28). How will you serve the congregation and God’s Kingdom in 2024? Prayerfully consider this question for elected and appointed positions of leadership!

### FRLC Financial Facts

September budget 10,889  
September offering 10,780

October budget 24,151  
October offering 17,943



**December Celebrations**



- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Brette Garnatz      | 16 Robert Jackon     |
| 1 Cal Anderson        | 16 Joe Majerus       |
| 1 Les Grumdahl        | 16 Tracy Torgersen   |
| 1 Christopher Ruberg  | 17 Andy Aug          |
| 2 Amanda Anderson     | 17 Vi Aune           |
| 2 Grace Ludtke        | 17 Tara Johnson      |
| 2 Asher Sorvik        | 17 Penelope Sturtz   |
| 3 Elsa Norlen         | 18 Casey Eckman      |
| 4 Scott Anderson      | 18 Barb McNickol     |
| 4 Susan Oberg-Martin  | 18 Kenneth Peterson  |
| 4 Don Schraufnagel    | 19 Val Saline        |
| 8 Rebecca Peterson    | 20 Earle Surine      |
| 8 David Kruger        | 21 Terry Hesch       |
| 8 Kimberly Olmstead   | 21 Jonathan Mattson  |
| 8 Josie Strom         | 21 Merry Mattson     |
| 9 Beau Buckwalter     | 22 Teegan Anderson   |
| 10 Nathan Atkinson    | 22 Keith Darsow      |
| 13 Ryan Grumdahl      | 24 Kevin Olsen       |
| 13 Adam Kuettel       | 24 Cody Dallum       |
| 13 Jacquie Eubanks    | 28 Ali Burke         |
| 14 LouAnn Hendrickson | 28 Rod Garver        |
| 15 Greg Libby         | 28 Emily Hesch       |
| 15 Elyce Klos-Maki    | 29 Carol Pearson     |
| 16 Robert Jackson     | 31 Elayna Buckwalter |



- 8 Terry Johnson & Angel Poe-Johnson
- 15 Jim & Kathy Croyle
- 17 Michael & Joanne Sirard

See something wrong? Help update our records by contacting the office with changes. If you know of someone who needs to be added or deleted from *The Parables* mailing list, please contact us. Switching to receive by email is also an option! Thank you!

**Lessons This Month**

**December 3 – First Sunday of Advent**

[\*Isaiah 64:1-9\*](#); [\*Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19\*](#); [\*1 Corinthians 1:3-9\*](#); [\*Mark 13:24-37\*](#).

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

**December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent**

[\*Isaiah 40:1-11\*](#); [\*Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13\*](#); [\*2 Peter 3:8-15a\*](#); [\*Mark 1:1-8\*](#).

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**

[\*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11\*](#); [\*Psalm 126\*](#); [\*Luke 1:46b-55\*](#) (alternate); [\*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24\*](#); [\*John 1:6-8, 19-28\*](#).



## French River Lutheran Church

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

### December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#); [Luke 1:46b-55](#);

[Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26](#) (alternate);

[Romans 16:25-27](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#).

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

### December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas

[Isaiah 61:10--62:3](#); [Psalm 148](#);

[Galatians 4:4-7](#); [Luke 2:22-40](#).

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

## CHUM News -A Place For Warmth

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, we opened our Warming Center again for the season. On the very first night we had 52 guests, and we are expecting that number will only continue to rise. The low on that Wednesday night was in the 20s. If you can't stay dry in conditions like that, frostbite can set in faster than you would expect. That Wednesday night, we made sure that 52 people in our community were safe. We made sure that 52 people in

our community had a roof over their head. This season we will see far more people than this using our Warming Center. Last year we had 637 unduplicated guests stay at our Warming Center, and a 58% rise in guests compared to the prior year.

We are so joyful that we can provide this service to our community. But it takes a lot of work to keep it open, and many volunteers. If you are interested, please take a few minutes to fill out our volunteer form so that we can serve these folks to the best of our abilities and keep this space open as long as possible.

Our volunteer form is available at:

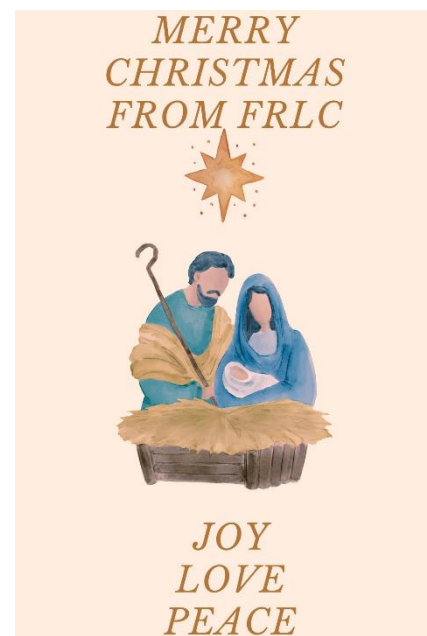
<https://www.tfaforms.com/5018891>

## Service Teams

Everyone at FRLC is encouraged to participate on a Service Team. If you are not sure which team you are on, please contact the office. Teams serve a different month each year. The schedule for the next three months is:

Team	Captain	Month
Galilee	Cheryl Moe 525-5011 Bonnie Smrstick 730-7443	Dec `23
Jerusalem	*Needs Captain	Jan `23
Jordan	Kay Libby 390-3281	Feb `23

A 2024 calendar is available for coffee fellowship sign-up. Look for it on the Welcome Center in the narthex.



# French River Lutheran Church

## MEETING MINUTES – November 14, 2023

*"To live and love as God Commands, accept His Grace, and share the Good News"*

2021-2024		2022-2025		2023-2026	
Sheila Laiti	P	Sue Baker	P	ArMand Nelson	P
Ken Peterson	P	Rolf Carlson	P	Dave Edblom	P
Haeli Pettis	XX			Adam Marks	P
Loren Slette	P			<b>Others</b>	
				Pastor Kim Sturtz	P
				Barb Jackson	P

*P-Present      XX-Excused      MSC-motion made, seconded, carried      □-Action Item*

1. **Call to order @ 7:01 PM by Rolf Carlson**
2. **Devotion: Rolf**
3. **Adjustment to the agenda**—a few additions were made to new business
4. **Devotions for council 2023**
  - A. Dec – Ken Peterson
  - B. Jan '24 – ArMand Nelson
5. **Offering Counters: \*helps with communion**
  - A. November 19 – Dave\* / Ken
  - B. November 26 – Sue\* / Haeli
  - C. December 3 – Loren\* / Adam
  - D. December 10 – Sheila\* / ArMand
6. **Financial Report – Loren**
  - A. Approved the September 2024 financial report. MSC (Ken/Loren)
  - B. Approved the October 2024 financial report. MSC (ArMand/Adam)
  - C. Approved donating to 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest (7 x match) for Thanksgiving offering & Damiano Center/Union Gospel Mission Christmas offering envelopes MSC (Pastor Kim/Loren)
  - D. Budget draft distributed and briefly discussed
7. **Secretary's Report:**
  - A. Approved the October secretary's report via email on October 16th. *(majority approved plus the president)*
8. **Pastor's Report – Highlights for past month**
  - ✓ Bronchitis attacked our family
  - ✓ Sabbatical Pulpit/Pastoral Care in Process
  - ✓ Reformation Sunday/Confirmation/Dedication
  - ✓ Trunk or Treat
  - ✓ All Saints Sunday
  - ✓ Turkey Bingo Calling
  - ✓ Advent/Christmas Planning
  - ✓ Pastoral Visitations /Hospital or Home Visits: 8 by Phone or in Person
9. **Standing Reports: \*reports submitted**
  - A. Approved standing committee reports. MSC (Loren/Ken)
  - B. Christian Life (*liaison: ArMand Nelson, Adam Marks, Haeli Pettis*)
    - i. Faith Formation (Youth/Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Education/Bible Study)
    - ii. Hospitality (Compassion/Care\*: Prayer Shawls, Wellness/BP Screening, Sunshine Ministry, Scrap Happy Quilters)
    - iii. Long Range Planning
    - iv. Memorial
    - v. Worship/Music (Altar Guild)

- C. Mission Life Committees (*liaison: Sue Baker*)
  - i. Outreach\* (Seafarers; Scholarship; Compassion/Care: CHUM, MN Foodshare, Days for Girls)
  - ii. Stewardship (Eco Faith)
- D. Operations (*liaisons: Dave Edblom, Loren Slette*)
  - i. Audit\* (*Carol Surine, Carolyn Marino, Kim Marks*)
    - a. *Approved Audit Committee recommendations and ask Barb to follow up with Shelley Peterson. MSC (Ken/ArMand)*
  - ii. Finance
  - iii. Property
- E. Women of French River (WOFR\* / WELCA) Auxiliary
- F. Executive Committee (Pastor, President, VP, Secretary)
  - i. Mutual Ministry (Pastor, President, Steve Berntson, Carol Surine, Kim Burke, Ken Peterson)
  - ii. Staff Relations

## 10. Correspondence

- A. Nice letter from Mari (Solberg) Strong with an update on how her dad Pastor Solberg is doing, now at age 98. His address will be published in the Parables. He enjoys cards and messages.

## 11. Old Business

- A. Sabbatical
  - i. Pastor Kim reaching out for pulpit supply
- B. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - i. Looking into getting a memorial plate or keepsake
  - ii. Digital video
  - iii. People starting to volunteer for planning
- C. Photo directory report – ArMand
  - i. Working with company on compiling the directory. Should see it sometime in 2024, will check on timing.
- D. Health care
  - i. Pastor renewing health care policy
- E. Property insurance audit recommendation
  - i. Discussed proposal that we purchase 3 keyed bank bags and a safe
  - ii. Currently feel comfortable with the multiple checks and balances in place and two counters each Sunday

## 12. New Business

- A. Budget planning
  - i. Finance met to start budget planning on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Will encourage online givers (10-12) to direct pay from their banks to save at least \$600/year in fees
  - iii. Vetted the proposed budget figures in detail. Expenses needed to run the church are tight, but expenses are still higher than expected revenue. Work needed in education of giving needs and growing membership to fit budget needs for our size church.
  - iv. Deciding how to account for finance secretary donating pay to church
  - v. Changing organist and choir director from hourly to salary
  - vi. Pastor mentioned some people coming back and other recruiting in progress.
- B. Annual review/discussion with 7 staff members
- C. Annual meeting planning
  - i. January 21 or January 28 if snowed out
  - ii. Open Council positions to vote on at Annual Meeting: 4
  - iii. Nominating committee for January 2024 elections: Rolf, Steve, and Peggy Dahlberg
  - iv. Rolf and Steve's terms will end at the conclusion of the 2024 Annual Meeting.
  - v. Treasurer – Barb Jackson willing to be Treasurer for one more year and train someone this year

## 13. Upcoming:

- A. Council Meeting minutes email approval by Sunday, November 19th
- B. Parables Deadline —Friday, November 15, 2023
- C. Timber Frame Use Policy meeting - Thursday, November 30, 2023

D. Executive: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 5:45 P.M.

E. Finance: Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

F. Council: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

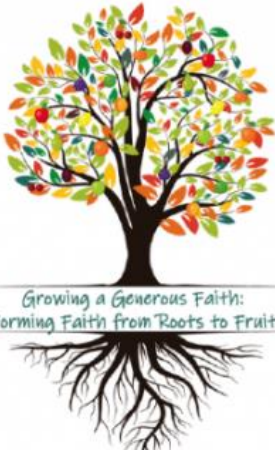
**14. Meeting adjourned** at 11/14/2023 @ 9:06 P.M. MSC (Pastor Kim/ArMand)

**15. Closing with The Lord’s Prayer**

*Submitted by Sheila Laiti, Secretary*



### **“GROWING A GENEROUS FAITH”**



**“...deeply rooted and built up in Christ, and established in the faith, just as you were taught, to be graceful and abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:7 NRSV**

“Thanksgiving” appears on our calendar once a year, but consider celebrating it daily. The combination of “thanks” and “giving” (or flip their order: “giving thanks”) is a simple phrase but speaks volumes.

THANK YOU, body of Christ, for growing together as a church family, for supporting one another, the community, and the larger Church, for using God-given gifts to encourage and nurture within and beyond FRLC, and for forgiving one another as God forgives us.

The mission of French River Lutheran is “To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News.” It’s a tall order and takes all of us to work together as we grow, change, and strive to carry it out – THANK YOU!

FRLC has much to be thankful for, and our 100-year anniversary celebration in 2024 will be a testimony of “thankful for.” Indeed, it is good to give thanks for our past, present, and future.



#### **Ways to Worship**

**FRLC offers in-person worship, as well as the option to continue to worship virtually.**

- To worship virtually, visit [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org) or send your email address to our office, [frlc5310@gmail.com](mailto:frlc5310@gmail.com), and receive a weekly email to the direct link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>
  - Visit [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)  
**HOME PAGE** for a link to archived services.

Please contact the office with any inquires. If you call and reach voicemail and need quicker assistance, please email the FRLC office.

In case of an emergency please contact Pr. Kim Sturtz at 218.393.7444 or [frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com)

**FRLC office: [frlc5310@gmail.com](mailto:frlc5310@gmail.com) 218.525.5659**

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