



French River Lutheran Church  
 5310 Ryan Road  
 Duluth, MN 55804

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Duluth, MN  
 Permit No. 115

**Address Service Requested**

ph:(218)525-5659 Mon, Thur 10:30am-1:30pm

(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 † February 2024*

*Authentic Scandinavian Smörgåsarbord  
 &  
 Silent Auction*

The proceeds will be used to fund our Centennial Anniversary Celebration.

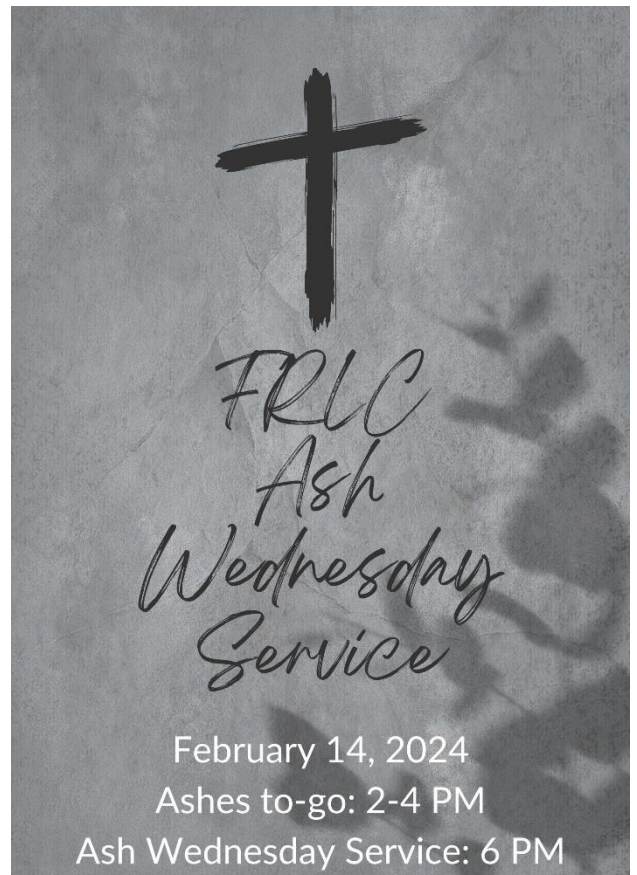
**FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 5310 RYAN RD  
 SATURDAY  
 FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 5 – 6:30 PM

**MAKE A RESERVATION**

Advance tickets are \$20; age 0-12 years, \$10. tickets at the door will be \$25.

**Silent Auction**

- Quilt made by Sandy Dahlberg
- Family Portrait by Eric Sturtz
- Many more...



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 😊				1	2	3
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 4</b> 10a Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a Sunday School</b> 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 11a-12:30p Alice's 100 <sup>th</sup> B-day Celebration <b>2p Lake Superior Conf.</b>	5 6p Adult Bible Study <b>7p Finance</b>	6 <b>9a Bulletin Deadline</b> <b>5:45p Exec. Council</b> 7p AA	7 7p Choir	8 10:30a W&M 1p WELCA 5p Riversong Rising	9	10 5 – 6:30p Scandinavian Dinner/Silent Auction
<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord 11</b> 10a Blended Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a Sunday School</b> 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	12 6p Adult Bible Study <b>7p Finance</b>	13 <b>9a Bulletin Deadline</b> <b>7p Council</b> 7p AA	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>2-4p Ashes to-go</b> 6p Ash Wed. Service	15 1p F.R. Readers 5p Riversong Rising	16	17
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent 18</b> 10a Contemporary Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a Sunday School</b> <b>11:15a Coffee Fellowship</b>	19 6p Adult Bible Study	20 <b>9a Bulletin Deadline</b> 7p AA	21 7a D/NSSD <b>9a Parables Deadline</b> 5:30p Lenten Soup Supper 6:30p Holden Eve. Prayer Service 7p Choir	22 11a Hospitality	23	24
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent 25</b> 10a Worship in-person/online <b>Youth in Worship Day</b> <b>10:45a Sunday School</b> 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	26 6p Adult Bible Study	27 <b>9a Bulletin Deadline</b> 7p AA	28 9a Parables Assy 5:30p Lenten Soup Supper 6:30p Holden Eve. Prayer Service 7p Choir	29 9:30a Outreach 5:30-7P First Communion Class		

Date	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assist.* / Counter	Coffee Fellowship	Snow Removal
4	Phil & Babs Strom	Ann Ranila	Ken Peterson*/Sue Baker	Dahlberg Family	
11	Doug & Lynne Compton	Sue Baker	Haeli Pettis*/ArMand Nelson	Heather & Dick, Tracey	
18	Kevin S. & Jacquie E.	Joanne Kronstedt	Rolf Carlson*/T.B.D.	Kim Burke	
25	Dick & Marilyn Story	FRLC Youth	T.B.D.	Kay Libby	
<b>Prayer Chain:</b> Babs Strom 525-6200 <b>Coffee:</b> Jordan -Kay Libby 218-390-3281 <b>Altar Guild:</b> Lynne Compton 525-1226					



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

## A Message from Pastor Kim



Peace be with you dear friends in Christ —

As I round the corner on 3 years as the pastor of this beautiful, wonderful community of faith, I feel blessed and humbled by creative hearts and actions come into fruition for what and who we stand for in being children of God.

I am thankful, grateful, and hopeful for what the future has in store for us. Visiting, planning, working alongside, and being with you all in all life's trials and triumphs gives me joy and energy. You are a blessing to me and so many of our church and surrounding areas. Our hearts of good have grown a bountiful space and place for so many.

As we come together this year to celebrate 100 years together, I would like to lift up areas where we have some growing edges to work on, as well as where we have thrived this year. In everything we do there is always room for improvement, change, and creativity in becoming new in Christ. You all have done well in making these things happen. In all we do we know that Christ has provided, cared for, and given us direction in a hope for the future.

Working Towards the Future with Growing Edges.  
I am optimistic in the continued future of this holy place, we will continue to work toward the welcome

“The Parables” † February 2024 † page 3  
and inclusion of those around us, as Christ has commanded for us all.

However, there is a need and focus for stepping up in our offerings we give each week. While we have been generous in our special projects or our special offering Sundays —our tithing to the general offering has dropped. Each week, our finance committee has explained that we are often short by a couple hundred of what is needed in our proposed yearly budget. Most of the time we have the ability to make it up throughout the year, but sometimes it causes some concern that we meet up with what our expenditures require for coverage.

While we are not in a dangerous situation as of yet with not meeting monthly expectations for pledges and giving—the cost of living and keeping the light, heat, and our missional giving on course, keeps going up. It could easily become something more serious if we don't make an effort to share that there is a great need for us to be generous in our faith. If we aren't careful, or are unfocused on this situation, at some point something is going to give.

In bringing this to light, we are not asking for people to give their inheritance or give what they cannot afford, but merely step up a bit in your gift to the church. Sally Struthers used to say on the commercials for Christian Children's Fund, “for the cost of a cup of coffee, you too can support this worthy cause.” In this day and age, a cup of coffee from Starbucks or Caribou is around 5 - 9 dollars, and most of us indulge in buying one at least once or twice a week. Most of us could add \$5 more each week to our weekly giving, and it would make a profound change in making up the difference of our offering to expenses to benevolence leveling out better in our yearly budget.

In my parables article in Dec 2023, I encouraged us to give boldly in this year of Centennial worship and Celebration. Whether it is to the general fund to keep the ministry here thriving, or to the greater world of God's creation, we need to be more focused on giving forward what God has given to us.

Thank you for all who have given what you can, whether in time or talent or tithe. Your gift is well appreciated and received in humble thanks. We hope you are encouraged by the ministry that we do and hope to continue in this wonderful sanctuary of faith.

## French River Lutheran Church

### Notable highlights to Celebrate:

Our average weekly worship online and in person continues upward. The Covid-19 Pandemic caused us all to become hermits for a while, but we are seeing an increase of attendance in our worship services, our events, and missional work together. It's great to see so many beautiful faces gathered together in whatever space that the Spirit invites us forth.

We have built an amazing outdoor worship space, due to generous hearts, hands, and helpers. The "Timberkyrka" Timber Church has been built with the first phase complete. This summer saw many days in the hot sun with hands helping treat the wood, timber framers placing beams, putting on purlins, installing tongue and groove, and installed metal roof (*all which might have given the pastor heart palpitations in seeing some of our church volunteers high on the scaffolding*). So far, we have already had a few events under the Timber Frame including an Appreciation Picnic for donors and volunteers, and our annual Cocoa & Carols event. We are looking forward to this being a well-used space not only by our church people but by the community as well.

Different styles of worship began this past June for those who appreciate and desire traditional & contemporary music. Our Contemporary worship team known as Riversong Rising, has come together, with a wide age range leading us on certain Sundays. The schedule of Worship different styles goes as follows: 1st Sunday - Traditional Worship, 2nd Sunday - Blended Worship (Traditional & Contemporary music), 3rd Sunday - Contemporary Worship, 4th Sundays - Traditional but with Youth Helpers, and if we have them, 5th Sundays - Hymn Sing Sunday - where we arrive early sing beloved hymns, then chose the hymns for the day together! As with any new way of doing things, there are some who love and/or dislike the change in worship styles. However, this has made way for different ways of welcoming different varieties of people to feel comfortable and experience the vast array of how the Spirit comes to us through song.

We now have a screen in the sanctuary that helps lead the congregation with where we are in worship. There are hopes that we can eventually move away from the use of physical bulletins to be able to lessen our use of paper, and have the screen be our worship service guide. Baby steps to get to that point though.

We worked on a few more renovation items, to help beautify our church for the 100th anniversary, 45-year-old Carpet in the Fellowship Hall was torn out this fall, and replaced by carpet tiles, that can be

## "The Parables" † February 2024 † page 4

pulled out and replaced as needed through the years. While the former red carpet really held up over the years, it was a real blessing to see it go, and to have the new carpet installed. The new carpet blends in so well, that some people don't even realize it's new! And that might be the best way to have a project of this level be seen and appreciated.

There are many other things that we enjoyed and worked through together this year, but you can read about those in the other reports in this document. The thing I love most about this church family is how if help is needed, people show up, people give care, people give prayers, and people get to work especially in times of need. Many hands together make light work, and a joy of seeing projects or support for each other more worthy and enjoyed. This includes physical projects and event planning, and especially for those missional moments of coming together to help one another or a group in need of goodwill and hope.

As we come together this year to celebrate 100 years of faith, fellowship, and friendship, we reflect on how our ministry has evolved through highs and lows, and how we kept Christ at our center, in all we do with one another and in our community.

We have done a lot of good with so much heart for and with the people of God. Sometimes it takes an annual meeting to see all the good that has been shared. I encourage you all to continue in good kindness, positivity, and growth for the future together that we have at French River Lutheran, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with God the Creator, in Jesus Christ. We together are a force for good in the world, and your hope brings good cheer and good soil to flourish together.

God's blessings to all!  
+ Pastor Kimberly Sturtz

### ***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.

## Recently at FRLC

During mid-November through Christmas 2023, the **Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign** took place in our area. Once again, members and friends of FRLC participated in this fundraiser.

An online tool, SignUp Genius, made it easy to select times to ring a bell at SuperOne in Two Harbors. FRLC had 16 people involved there, some ringing multiple two-hour shifts, covering a total of 20 hours. Not only did we provide ringers (and our actual bell choir, French River Ringers), but singers also spread Christmas cheer!

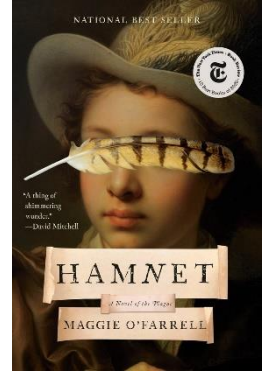
In a note from the Red Kettle coordinator Carey Hoganson of Cooperative Power & Light, “...Two Harbors contributions were \$19,780.74. This was slightly higher than last year.” Thank you to all who rang, sang, and contributed at this location and at other venues.



## Upcoming Events

### French River Readers

For February, the group has chosen Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 15th at 1 PM in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. Our hosts will be Elda Hein and Gail Johnson. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Surine at 218-525-4426 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



### **FRLC Authentic Scandinavian Smörgåsbord & Silent Auction**

**Join us on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
5 to 6:30 P.M.**

**\*Advance tickets \$20; age 0-12 yrs old \$10; tickets at the door will be \$25**

**\*\*See the cover page of this newsletter for more details! \*\***



Please join us in Celebrating Alice Dahlberg's **100<sup>th</sup>** Birthday on February 4<sup>th</sup> with her children and grandchildren during coffee fellowship from 11a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at French River Lutheran **NO GIFTS or CARDS please.**



### French River Lutheran Church



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!

### FRLC Centennial Celebration

#### FRLC Centennial Celebration!

We now have co-chairs, Kate Edblom & Barb Jackson, to plan the FRLC Centennial fundraisers to raise money for expenses of the celebration in September of 2024.

There will be an organizational meeting soon. Please leave your name & number with Barb, Kate, or the office if you are interested in helping!



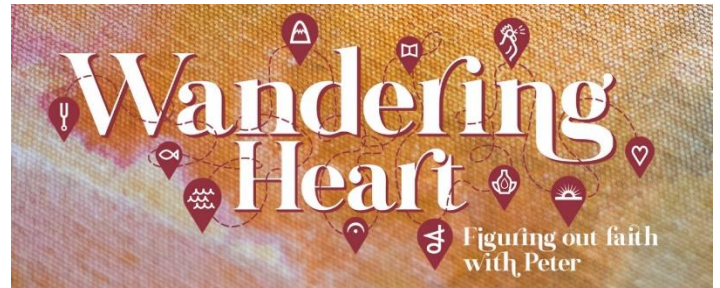
#### SILENT AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 10 DONATIONS WANTED!

- Gift baskets \* Antiques \* Stained glass
- Computer repair \* Pet watching \* Gift cards
- Cabin stay \* Babysitting \* Homemade candy
- Canned/baked goods \* Fishing trip
- Game dinner \* Hockey tickets \* Quilts
- Sewn items \* Wood crafts \* Craft items

#### WHAT DO YOU MAKE? WHO DO YOU KNOW? LET US KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DONATE!!

- Some of the things you'll see there:
- Family portrait – Minnesota quilt
- Wooden side table – Cookie of the month
- Staghorn cactus – Game Day basket
- New Scenic gift basket – Tackle box

### Lenten Services



#### Lenten Series Sunday Worship - Wandering Heart - Following in the Path of Peter

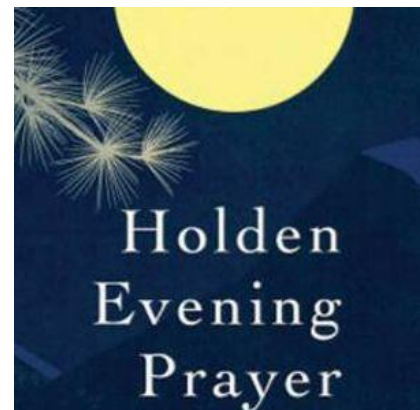
- \***Ash Wednesday - Feb 14th:** "Tune my heart" PSALM 51:1-17
- \***First Sunday of Lent - Feb 18th:** "Jesus Sought Me" LUKE 5:1-11 | PSALM 25:1-10
- \***Second Sunday of Lent - Feb 25th:** "Rescue me from danger" MATTHEW 14:22-33 | PSALM 22:23-31
- \***Third Sunday of Lent - March 3rd:** "Praise the mount" MATTHEW 16:13-20 | PSALM 19
- \***Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 10th:** "I'm fixed upon it" MATTHEW 16:21-23 | PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22
- \***Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 17th:** "Teach me" MATTHEW 18:15-22 | PSALM 119:9-16
- \***Palm Sunday - March 24th:** "Songs of loudest praise" JOHN 12:12-16
- \***Maundy Thursday March 28th:** First Communion/Healing Service 6pm
- \***Good Friday March 29th:** Peter's Holy Week – Stations of the Cross 6pm
- \***Easter Sunday - March 31st:** "And I hope" LUKE 24:1-12

#### Lenten Soup Supper and Services

Wednesdays starting

February 21st through March 20th.

Join us at 5:30pm Soup Supper, 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Service. Please come and enjoy community in contemplative space and time.

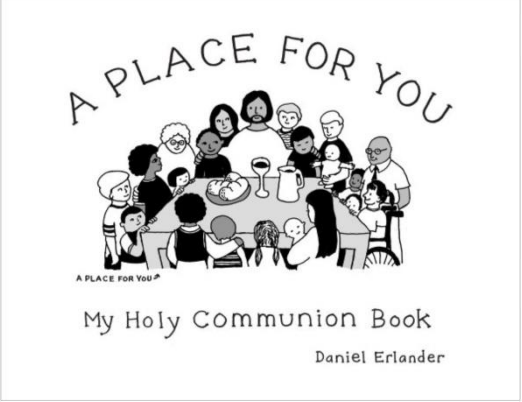


# FRLC Youth

**Sunday School:** Children stay with their families during Worship Service and then go down to Sunday School after communion until about 11:30am.

**Youth in Worship - February 28<sup>th</sup>:** Is your child interested in reading, being an usher/greeter, acolyte, special music? Please contact Kim Marks at [FRLCYouth@gmail.com](mailto:FRLCYouth@gmail.com) to sign up!

**Fish Force & Confirmation Class:** Please see bulletins for updates on these classes upon Pr. Kim's return from sabbatical.



**5:30-7pm February 29, March 7, March 14th in the Fireside Room.**  
 For any child/youth interested in learning that there is a place for you at the Table of Grace First Communion will be given on Maundy Thursday Service March 28 at 6pm. Please Let Pastor Kim Sturtz know if you would like your child would like to participate.  
[frcpastorsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:frcpastorsturtz@gmail.com)

# Take Note

†Marlow Bakken, a member of our church, passed away on December 29, 2023 in Cambridge, MN. Stan and I were special friends of both Carolyn & Marlow. Blessed be his memory.  
-Cheryl Moe

(A funeral service was held on January 5, 2024, at Williams Dingmann Funeral Home in Princeton, MN with Chaplain Nick Matchefts officiating.)

# Thank You



The December coffee fellowship was a team effort! Thank you to Bonnie S., Rhonda O., Phil K., Tammy W., Nora & Finn, Peggy D., Sandy D., Cheryl M., and Don Mattson. We all enjoy socializing after worship!

-Cheryl Moe & Bonnie Smrstick

Dear Pr. Kim,  
I am sending this note in a Christmas card because it reminds me of our family's wonderful visit to your church this past Christmas Eve. Your 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service reminded us of our neighborhood Lutheran church when our now adult kids were growing up. The candle lighting in the congregation seemed to pluck a heart string with all in our group.



Happy New Year & God Bless!  
Mark & Sandy Setterholm




**Adult Bible Study**

**Adult Bible Study** is considering taking a field trip to the movies! Watch Sunday bulletins for more details; we are considering seeing season four of “The Chosen” on the big screen. The fourth season is broken down into segments with episodes 1-3 described as “Clashing kingdoms. Rival rulers. The enemies of Jesus are closing in while His followers are struggling to keep up, leaving him to carry the burden alone.”



Note—Rating: TBD, Not Rated - Some content may not be suitable for young children and could include mild violence, stronger language and some sexual situations/dialogue. Parents may want to watch with children under the age of 9. Runtime: 3 hours, 24 minutes.

**MN FoodShare March Campaign 2024**

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith



communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has

distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund. This is the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the campaign.

**The 2024 March Campaign will run February 26th – April 6th. For more information, visit**

<https://gmcc.org/march-campaign/>

*This is just one idea of “how/where” a donation in honor of FRLC’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary could go toward. See the poster in the narthex for additional gift suggestions.*

Your 2024 offering envelopes can be picked up near the usher’s stand. a box and want one, please contact Kay Libby, Financial Secretary, at 218-390-3281.



**Lessons This Month**

**February 4 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#); [Psalm 147:1-11, 20c](#); [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#); [Mark 1:29-39](#).

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord**

[2 Kings 2:1-12](#); [Psalm 50:1-6](#); [2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#); [Mark 9:2-9](#).

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus’ baptism and end with three disciples’ vision of his transfiguration. In Mark’s story of Jesus’ baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus’ three closest friends hear the same words naming him God’s Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus’ face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God’s glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

**February 18 – First Sunday in Lent**

[Genesis 9:8-17](#); [Psalm 25:1-10](#); [1 Peter 3:18-22](#); [Mark 1:9-15](#).

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent**

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#); [Psalm 22:23-31](#); [Romans 4:13-25](#); [Mark 8:31-38](#).

The second covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God’s promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul



## French River Lutheran Church

says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

## 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
Jordan	Kay Libby 390-3281	Feb `24
Bethlehem	Loren & Patti 525-2914	Mar `24
Hebron	Lynne Compton 525-1226	Apr `24

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

## FRLC Financial Facts

December offering \$21,576

December budget \$19,484



You can sign up to help with shoveling this winter, in case it ever snows! A sign-up sheet is in the welcome center located in the narthex. Shovels are in the small shed or entry ways. Thank you!

## February Celebrations

### Happy Birthday

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Zachary Eckman     | 17 Finn Wilman     |
| 2 Andrew Vatne       | 17 Pam Nelson      |
| 3 Mary Garmer        | 18 Kelly Steinmetz |
| 3 Jo Johnson         | 19 Marilyn Story   |
| 3 Donna Olson        | 19 Owen Adams      |
| 4 Heather Mindestrom | 21 Bob Adams       |
| 4 Scott Smrstick     | 21 James Poe       |
| 5 Wells Masterson    | 25 Tammy Wilman    |
| 6 Cora Emeott        | 26 Kyler Kinn      |
| 6 Kay Libby          | 28 Jerry Hauge     |
| 7 Jim Atkinson       | 28 George Rolfe    |
| 7 David Dahlberg     |                    |
| 9 Evan Gorny         |                    |
| 9 Bill Tasky         |                    |
| 9 Wolfgang Hechtl    |                    |
| 10 Jon Luikart       |                    |
| 11 Rick Berg         |                    |
| 11 Loren Slette      |                    |
| 13 Alice Dahlberg    |                    |
| 13 Craig Sievert     |                    |
| 13 Megan Smitke      |                    |
| 14 Carolyn Bakken    |                    |
| 15 Katie Edblom      |                    |
| 15 Bo Emeott         |                    |
| 15 Jason Kuettel     |                    |
| 16 Steve Baker       |                    |
| 16 Wendy Johnson     |                    |



### Happy Anniversary

- 4 Beau & Jenny Buckwalter
- 4 Butch & Julie Sievert
- 15 Kathy & Bruce Larson
- 22 Bob & Barb Jackson



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.

# French River Lutheran Church

## MEETING MINUTES – January 9, 2024

“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 @ 7:02 PM by Rolf Carlson**
- 2. Devotion:** ArMand
- 3. Adjustment to the agenda** – add: Reschedule March meetings
- 4. Devotions for council**
  - A. Feb – Pastor Kim
- 5. Offering Counters:** \*helps with communion
  - A. Jan 7 – Sue\*/Dave
  - B. Jan 14 – Ken/Rolf\*
  - C. Jan 21 – Sheila\*/Loren
  - D. Jan 28 – Sue/Dave\*
  - E. Feb 4 – Ken\*/Sue
  - F. Feb 11 – Haeli\*/ArMand
  - G. Feb 18 – Rolf\*/???
- 6. Financial Report – Loren**
  - A. Approved the December 2023 financial report. MSC (Adam/Sue)
  - B. 2023 would have broke even if the ~\$11,000 property insurance bill for 24' was not paid in Dec
- 7. Secretary's Report:**
  - A. Approved the December secretary's report via email on December 17th. *(majority approved plus the president)*
- 8. Pastor's Report – Highlights for past month**
  - ✓ Sabbatical January plan 3.0 – Solo trip to Stockholm Sweden for this time period. (one of the countries I wanted to visit during my Sabbatical 1.0 plan)
  - ✓ Sabbatical Pulpit/Pastoral Care for Jan 14 – Feb 3, 2024
    - Jan 14 – Pr. Kris Garey
    - Jan 21 – Pr. Greg Garmer
    - Jan 28 - Pr. Kris Garey
  - ✓ Weekly Pastoral Care for Pastor Kim's Sabbatical Part 1 (hospital visits, funerals, pastoral needs)
    - Pastor Liz Davis – Cell: 218-461-0933
    - Pastor Jeff Davis – Cell: 218-994-9455
  - ✓ Pageant Practice – Performance 28 kids participated / angel breakfast big hit!
  - ✓ Christmas Eve Services well attended / Lessons & Carols
  - ✓ Scandinavian Dinner Fundraiser
  - ✓ Lent is coming – Feb 14 Ash Wednesday – Planning in place
  - ✓ Pastoral Visitations /Hospital or Home Visits: 10 by Phone or in Person
- 9. Standing Reports:** \*reports submitted
  - A. Approved standing committee reports. MSC (Sheila/Loren)
  - 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*)
  - 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. Thank you card visitor who attended our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

## 11. Old Business

- A. Budget Finalization
  - i. Approved the proposed budget to present at the annual meeting. MSC (ArMand/Adam)
  - ii. Made the few finalizations as discussed last month and adjusted for moving the HSA for Pastor to an HRA. Ken sent to Tiffany for Annual Report.
  - iii. Working to move away from Vanco online payment to save \$600 annually.
- B. Annual Meeting Nominations – Rolf
- C. Annual Meeting – roles & responsibilities
  - i. Ballots, microphones, head count – Loren, Adam (Sue, Ken too if more help needed)
  - ii. Tiffany did a great job compiling the Annual Report and sent it to membership email list
  - iii. Starting for next annual meeting, suggested the Council puts together the annual report since this is also such a busy time for our church secretary. The job description for Admin Assistant would need to be updated if she feels the annual report is too much.
- D. Annual Meeting – potluck
  - i. Served by council (will not be in town ArMand, Dave) - setup 9:00 AM, serve, cleanup
- E. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - i. Hospitality fund raiser plan - Rolf
  - ii. Booklet – Barb and Pastor Kim reviewing ideas
  - iii. Organize with chairperson(s) and committee
  - iv. Chairpersons: Barb Jackson and Katie Edblom
  - v. Will call general planning meeting after annual meeting pot luck
  - vi. Dinner, silent action
- F. Timber Frame Use Policy
  - i. Adam made edits and shared with the Outreach committee for review
  - ii. Feedback email from one Outreach member was read to Council.
  - iii. Outreach committee meeting in January 25<sup>th</sup> to review

## 12. New Business

- A. Received updated insurance policies (workman's comp, business owner's, umbrella)
- B. Mutual Ministry – Feb 27 or Feb 20 – Ken will coordinate date with the committee
- C. Lent soup suppers – ArMand is coordinating the schedule

## 13. Upcoming:

- A. Council Meeting minutes email approval by Sunday, January 14th
- B. Parables Deadline —January 17, 2024
- C. Executive: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.
- D. Finance: Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
- E. Council: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
- F. Council: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M. (moved due to Township elections 3/12)

14. Meeting adjourned at 1/9/2024 @ 8:13 P.M. MSC (Pastor Kim/ArMand)

15. Closing with The Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by Sheila Laiti, Secretary



## Stewardship

Here’s a resource for learning more about combining ecology and faith: <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>  
The following text and materials are from the EcoFaith Network.

### The EcoFaith Network

NE-MN Synod ELCA with Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation

The mission of the EcoFaith Network is to live out God’s call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.



We know that we are called to be stewards of God's wondrous, intricately interdependent creation. The question is not whether to be those stewards, but *how*? How do we work for the healing of God's world?

The EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod is a growing network of ELCA Lutheran congregations and their members with a mission to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.

The network encourages creation care awareness and action among the 133 congregations and serves as a catalyst for creation care awareness and action throughout the upper Midwest. The EcoFaith network meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact [ecofaith@nemnsynod.org](mailto:ecofaith@nemnsynod.org)

## Announcing the EcoFaith Summit 2024

CROSS + CURRENTS IN THE FLOOD  
BUILDING ARCS TOGETHER  
FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024  
9AM - 4 PM

Keynote speaker: Larry Rasmussen

Location: First Lutheran, Duluth

Registration opens February 1<sup>st</sup>

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**

**French River Lutheran Church † 5310 Ryan Road † Duluth, MN 55804**