VOL. 27 ISSUE 9

Council Meetings

6TH-LN 7PM 12TH-C 7PM 13TH-F 7PM 20TH-ML 7PM T 7PM

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Pastor's Notes

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So last night I sat down and popped in my copy of the movie "The English Patient", and it was a fun experience. I sat back and let the images on the screen play in front of me while I let my mind wander and think back on things that largely have nothing to do with the movie itself. A little inside information: The English Patient is the movie that Olivia and I watched nine years ago as we waited for Delilah to be born. I still clearly remember Olivia asking me to pause the movie whenever a contraction would come, and then press play when the discomfort was gone. FYI, The English Patient is already over 2½ hours long, so you can imagine how long it takes to watch with the method we were trying.

Fun Fact: The English Patient has never been one of my favorite movies. It is beautiful to look at, but it's a bit slow and I have always had a hard time connecting with it. Also, just between you and me, I still harbor a nearly 30 year old grudge against The English Patient for beating out "Fargo" (absolutely one of my favorite movies) for that year's Best Picture award at the Oscars. And yet, every year at this time I get the inclination to throw on a movie that I have never really cared for, all because it reminds me of one of the most important days of my life.

It is always interesting to me how in this rich and beautiful world that God created for us, he can take something that is largely without meaning to us, and turn it into something much more. Like I said, on its own The English Patient is not a movie I really care for. It does however point me towards something I love deeply. The only way I can describe how I feel about my daughter is that she and the love I feel for her are a gift from God. Even now as I write this, and can hear Delilah and Harry fighting over the television, I will not let their deeply annoying habits bring me down. I will instead happily remember how God, a little baby girl, and The English Patient changed my life forever.

God's Peace be with you all, Pastor Dan Morton United In Christ

SEPTEMBER 2023

PARISH NEWS

Concordia Lutheran Church Concordia Lutheran Church PO Box 615 Fertile, MN 56540 1923-2023 Saturday, September 30th 4:00 pm Anniversary Choir Rehearsal Concordia Sanctuary, all are welcome 5:00 pm Registration - Fertile/Beltrami High School Commons 5:30 pm Dinner - FBHS Old Gym 7:30 pm Program -Concordia Sanctuary Sunday, October 1st 9:30 am Worship Service of Praise & Thanksgiving with Coffee & Cupcakes & Open House Please share the Anniversary

information with family & friends



PARISH/CLC NEWS

Pastoral Acts for August

Maple Lake:

Wedding-*-Tomina Leigh Slevin & Cody Carl Starke;* Pr. Dan Morton

SEPTEMBER 2023 Concordia Worship Participants

Thank you for serving in this capacity! If you are unable to serve on the Sunday listed please exchange with someone on the list and notify the church office.

9:30 a.m. Worship

Altar Guild: Susan Yell Sylvia Rickey

SEPTEMBER 3

Ushers: Chad & Karin Braun Greeters: Dick & Kelsey Braun Lector: Verna Norland Communion Assistants: Natty & Lori Messick Live Stream:

SEPTEMBER 10-RALLY SUNDAY

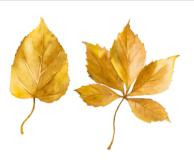
Ushers: Tyler Christianson & Tim Sykes Greeters: John & Deb Schmalenberg Lector: Brandon Neibauer-Adams Assisting Minister: Acolytes: Communion Assistants: Ray & Sylvia Nelson; Heidi Haaven Live Stream:

SEPTEMBER 17

Ushers: Chris & Caiden Swenby Greeters: Ryan & Kylie Strem Lector: Taylor Sannes Assisting Minister: Acolytes: Communion Assistants: Taylor & Amber Sannes; Tammy Hemmah Live Stream:

SEPTEMBER 24

Ushers: Trevor & Bristen Desrosier Greeters: Justin & Kristi Benson Lector: Richard Wellman Acolytes: Communion Assistants: Mark & Sue Lindberg; Verna Norland Live Stream:





Concordia Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 8, 2023

President Taylor Sannes called the Concordia Church Council meeting to order @ 7:03 pm on August 8, 2023. Those present were Taylor Sannes, Pastor Dan Morton, Nick Neibauer, Mackinzie Burke, Tina Sandberg, Salome Hansen, Liz Lisburg, Karl Tollefson, Lori Walters, and Sue Lindberg.

Taylor Sannes opened with devotions from Romans 8:28.

Secretary's Report was reviewed via email and accepted as presented. M/S/A (Nick/Karl)

<u>Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Report</u>: Several discussions occurred including the by-laws, signing the signature cards at the Red River State Bank by the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and the Financial Treasurer and the 3 and 6 month CD's to be renewed as they come due. The report was accepted as presented. M/S/A (Nick/Sue)

<u>Pastor's Report:</u> Pastor Dan stated that a contract has been offered to Phil Blom as Interim Pastor for Sept. 2023 to Jan. 2024, which is awaiting his signature. Pulpit supply continues with Pastor Darrell Morten and others assisting. First Communion and Confirmation classes have yet to be scheduled.

Committee Reports:

<u>Home & church Life</u>: (Liz) A discussion was held regarding a Minnesota Twins game bus trip. Would anyone would be interested in organizing a trip in the near future? Pastor Phil previously had planned and promoted these trips. A parish Turkey Bingo night was discussed as a possibility for a future event.

<u>Outreach</u> : (Mackinzie) Mackinzie would be willing to add a page for the Concordia Food Stand, to the UCLP Facebook, listing menus and general information.

Education: (Tina) Quotes were obtained for blinds for the education unit rooms (12) and daycare rooms (8). A motion was made M/S/A (Lori/Karl) to purchase room darkening blinds for these rooms. The 12 blinds will be purchased using monies from the Education Memorial Funds (\$2,027.81) and the 8 blinds will be purchased using monies from the Building Maintenance Fund (\$1,351.87). Nine white boards (\$1,890.00) will be ordered and installed in the education unit and Dorothy Schuschke is donating monies in memory of her husband Art Schuschke. Rally Sunday will be Sept. 10th . A new curriculum is awaiting approval from Pastor Phil Blom.

<u>Daycare</u>: (Lori) Eight new room darkening blinds will be purchased for the daycare unit windows using funds from the Building Maintenance Fund. The motion made M/S/A (Lori/Karl).

Worship: (Carol) Carol was absent. No new business.

<u>Management and Finance</u>: (Nick) Nick is obtaining quotes for needed carpet areas. The kitchen dishwasher is no longer working and a new one will need to be purchased. There is one gutter that needs cleaning as it is plugged.

Old Business: The Concordia Food Stand had another successful year. The Fertile Fair Board has been paid \$250.00 with a few outstanding bills remaining. Dean Rasmussen is making new screens for the building. Some new tables could be used for the stand. The parsonage committee members for the carpentry issues are Isaac Larson, Mackinzie Burke, Carol Swenby, and Karl Tollefson. The committee members Tyler Christianson, Ryan Strem, and Loren Abel are working with the H Vac, electrical, and plumbing areas.

New Business: A motion M/S/A (Karl/Nick) to purchase Summer Fill Pre-Buy propane was made in the same amount as last year. Plans for Concordia's 100th Anniversary celebration continue with photos being downloaded for a video with Teri Gustafson compiling pictures. Pictures are needed to complete the video. Discussion was held on purchasing cloud storage to maintain Concordia's history for the church. This was tabled until next month. An external hard drive will be purchased for temporary storage.

A motion to adjourn was made @ 9:05pm. M/S/A (Nick/Tina) The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Sue Lindberg, Secretary

CLC NEWS

Little Norway September Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

19-Jerry & Lisa Orre

Birthdays

02-Mark Benson 04-Dan Morton 05-Diane Erickson 09-Elliona Sandness 14-Myra Kaste 19-Dean Radke 29-Sharon Engelstad

September Deacon-Kim Larson Janitor-? Altar Guild & Communion Prep (July, August, September 2023) Colleen Kaste, Teri Johnson, & Carolyn Troite Esther/Mary Circle- Sept 7, 2:00 pm at church Dorcas Circle- Sept 18, 7:00 pm at church September Readers- Sept 3-Jennifer Larson Sept 10-Kathy Christensen Sept 17-Chuck Schulstad Sept 24-Kim Larson



LITTLE NORWAY NEWS

LITTLE NORWAY COUNCIL

August 2, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Benson, John Gullickson, Colleen Kaste, Lisa Duckstad, Heidi Benson, Pastor Dan, Brent Bakke, Jim Larson, Kristin Larson, and Jamie Morvig

-Mark called the meeting to order.

Colleen gave devotions.

Pastor's Report: Dan reported he has been busy with weddings, Aakre wedding at LN July 29th. More information under new business.

Secretary report: Jamie read the minutes from the June meeting, Jim motioned to approve, Lisa second/ passed.

Treasures report: Colleen gave the financial report from April through July. Reviewed the profit and loss, balances on each fund and balance sheet. Colleen also passed out the list of charities given in 2022 for review. Jamie motioned to approve the report, Heidi second, passed.

Vice President report: Jon reported- Parish gave Pastor Phil & Darcey \$2500 from the Parish and donated \$2500 to the Water to Thrive project in Pastor Phil name. Pastor Phil's last day was July 23rd. Looking at a benefit at the fire hall date TBD. Pastor Phil Blum will be our Transitional pastor from September through January 2024. Donations to the Water to Thrive to go to parish treasurer. **Deacons**: - Heidi reported we need a Janitor September and November.

Trustees: Jim reported the tree has been removed and bill will be shared with the Cemetery, Insulation has been completed, light bulbs need to be replaced. We prepaid propane at \$1.45, last year we paid \$1.75

Education: VBS date August 26, 9-2 "Christmas in August". 6 children are signed up. Need help volunteers. September service starts at 9, Sunday School at 10:00. Backpack day will be the first day of Sunday School.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Vacation Bible School- August 26th
- b) Water to Thrive- Donations to go to parish treasurer.
- c) Suggestion Box reviewed.

New Business:

- a) Sunday School Curriculum presentation was given to the parish, recommended by Pastor Blum. Luther Crest, Web based. We currently are using "Sermon for Kids", this follows the Gospel given each week. Looking for more information on Luther Crest. This new curriculum would be parish wide. We will wait for more information.
- b) Community Mural- Pastor Blum suggested a community mural project for the parish to paint. Council decided Little Norway would pass.
- c) 3rd Sunday church service at Concordia- Suggestion to have one service a month at Concordia. Council discussed what this would mean to Little Norway and our goal to increase our membership. We felt this would not help. We could look at doing lay service. We don't want to discourage new members coming to Little Norway. We would host, but due to the Video recording this would not be possible.
- d) September Janitor needed ASAP.
- e) Review of the charities given in 2022, Alaskan Mission no longer suggested giving \$1000 to Water to Thrive. Colleen motioned to give the \$1000 from Alaskan Mission to the Water to Thrive and all charities given in 2022 to remain as are with a total of \$8000, Kristen second.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2023, at Little Norway Devotions: Kim Larson

Lunch: Jamie Morvig

PARISH/ FAABERG NEWS

Parish Office Hours

Starting after Labor Day Weeked:

The Parish Office will be open

Monday-Thursday 8:30a.m.- 4:00 p.m.; Fridays 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

If at any time you need a Pastor, you may reach Pastor Dan at 320-260-6955.

Thank you.

The parish office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4th.



Faaberg Announcements

The Faaberg WELCA will meet Thursday, September 7, at 9:00 a.m. with Vicki Krogstad leading the devotions. We will be organizing the School Bag kits and the Personal Care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The School Bags will be filled with the Sunday School on Rally Sunday, September 10.

The Afternoon Bible Study will be held Monday, September 11, at 1:30 p.m. with Dorothy Harstad leading the study.

MAPLE LAKE NEWS

Thoughts on September:

- School!!
- Sunday School resumes YAY! Rally Sunday on Sept. 10th at 10:00; Worship at 11:00. Lunch will be served by the WELCA following services. All good!
- Looking forward to the beautiful fall colors....
- Less mowing
- Bible Study Fellowship begins on Tuesday, Sept. 12th at Concordia from 2:00 3:30. This year the study will be on the book of John. The study is 30 weeks long which sounds terribly long, but it really gets you into the Bible and learning about God's love and promises. Consider joining!
- Cooler temperatures that's good and bad at the same time.
- The nominating committee will be calling on members to fill positions for 2024. Opportunity?
- The ladies packed 27 school kits that are ready for delivery in either Sept. or Oct. Need to find a LWR pickup site and date! Thanks ladies, and thanks to Sue K. for the delicious supper!
- Welcome to Pastor Phil Blom as our interim Pastor. We praise God for his provisions!
- Looking forward to the SWO conference to be held on Sept. 9th in TRF. Kind of curious what the attendance will be like and hope to come home inspired and refreshed!
- Football and volleyball games begin. Bring on the family schedules...
- Council meeting on Sept. 20th at 7:00 p.m., everyone is welcome to attend.
- Custodians for this month are Craig and Brenda Langved.
- Greeters are John and Kathy Swanson.
- Acorns, acorns, acorns...
- Trustees continue to work on the steeple project. Interesting problem to solve.
- Our worship attendance goes up in the fall!
- How can we be better servants/stewards of all that God has done for us and given to us? Will there
 be a special need in the community this month in which we can show our love and God's love? We
 pray that we do not miss these opportunities.
- September brings on Fall and a season of promise. Thank you, Lord for keeping us in your care.

Submitted by: Marlene Block

Maple Lake Church Council Minutes

Date: August 16th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attending: Karen Lunak, Tracy Johnson, Marlene Block, Brenda Langved, Pastor Dan, Mike Slevin, & MaryBeth Swanson. Devotions: Mike Slevin

Secretary's Report: MM/S by Brenda Langved/Marlene Block to accept minutes as submitted. MC.

Treasurer's Report: MM/S by MaryBeth Swanson/Mike Slevin to accept report as submitted. MC.

Pastor's Report: We will need to look at potentially moving our meeting date/time so we are not meeting at the same time as Trinity. It was added to the agenda. We are still in a time of transition. Pastor Dan is asking to keep an open mind as we navigate an interim pastor and call process. An idea was presented to Sunday School teachers/leaders about using a curriculum from Luther Crest. The same curriculum would be used in all churches. However, it has been difficult to communicate with Luther Crest, so it has been suggested to table this idea for the time being. A meeting has been set for September 13th to meet with the Acting Bishop to start the call process to replace Pastor Phil. Dan is still trying to schedule other pastors for services as Pastor Blom is an interim, and not full time.

Parish Board Report: Next meeting August 17th, 2023. There is the potential to finalize/sign the contract with Pastor Phil Blom as an interim pastor from now until January.

Deacon's Report: Mike will again send the Portals of Prayer to our college Freshmen as a way for them to know that our church is thinking about them while they are away.

Trustees' Report: No Report

Old Business:

- 1. The Church weather vane: The trustees have not found a cost-effective solution to reach the weather vane. The weather vane has fallen down from the steeple, but there is a large hole at the top. Someone will need to see what impact the water entering this hole is having on the steeple.
- 2. Snow Removal costs: Still no ideas as of yet. One possibility would be to see if a community member would be willing to complete the work as a tax write off.
- Culligan is discontinuing the Carbon filter exchange tanks (12/31/23). Tracy did some research and it would be \$1300-1500 for a water softener and instillation. After that, it would require a bag of salt and to be manually regenerated twice a month (Which could be added to the cleaning schedule). She will pass this on to the trustees to make a decision.
- 4. Quarterly letter on giving: Tracy spoke to Maynard and brainstormed that possibly emailing the reports to members vs sending them in the mail might be an option. Tracy was going to gather emails from the church office.
- New Sidewalk project is still on hold for now due to health concerns in the Qualley family.
- 6. Pastor Phil and Darcey loved the gift from Bergeson's. They may be able to plant their maple trees yet this fall.

New Business:

- 1. The elevator is currently not working. Marlene spoke to Nick Aakhus, and he will stop by the church tomorrow to assess the situation.
- 2. An all-leader meeting (Councils, Sunday School, etc.) has been set for September 13 with the Acting Bishop to discuss & begin the call process for a new pastor.
- 3. The remainder of funds from the Gene Erlandson estate have been deposited into the savings account. Brenda recommended a CD vs adding to the Endowment Fund (CD is a guaranteed rate of return, the endowment has been losing money). She will call a few different banks to find the best rate. A motion was made by Mike Slevin to put \$20,000 from the Erlandson Estate into a short-term CD. Motion Seconded by Marlene Block. MC.
- 4. Marlene had asked Melby's tree service for a quote to trim the Maple trees by the church. They came and completed the job at no cost. The council will send a thank you as we are very appreciative of a job well done.
- 5. September 17th there will be a pancake breakfast & silent auction at the fire hall in Fertile. Proceeds will be donated to Pastor Phil and Darcy. Members are asked to donate a "basket" to be used in the silent auction.
- 6. The calling tree needs to be updated before winter. Shelia Fontaine has the document and will be contacted with updates.
- 7. Our council meeting and Trinity's meet at the same time. Pastor Dan has asked us to consider moving our meeting date to a different day and/or time. He will discuss with the Trinity council. A decision has been tabled until the next meeting.

8. The microphone was having troubles on Sunday. Marlene asked Tommy to come and double check things. Adjourn: MM/S to adjourn by Marlene Block/Brenda Langved. MC. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:54 p.m. Next council meeting: Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL

United in Christ Parish Council

August 17, 2023

President Kip Fontaine called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members present were Kip, Jeff Gullickson, Pr. Dan Morton, Verna Norland, Belinda Fjeld, John Gullickson and Kristy Langved. Pr. Phil Blom was present via phone and Mark Benson was a guest.

Kip led devotions, reading from Lamentations 3:21-27.

Kristy gave the secretary's report from July 13, 2023. Belinda made a motion to accept, seconded by John and carried. As an update, the parish was credited \$85.25 from the Fertile Journal as the correction was a news story, not an advertisement. Kristy then read the minutes from the July 23, 2023 meeting. There was a correction; the word *position* will be replaced by the word *positive*. Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes with that correction, seconded by Verna and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Kip in the absence of the treasurer, Lyle Fuchs. Belinda made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by John and carried. The board will ask that the report be emailed out prior to each meeting to review, in the future.

Pr. Dan gave the pastor's report. Wedding season is upon us. He is working on scheduling confirmation classes and 1st communion instruction. Kelsey Braun will be assisting with confirmation classes again this year. Old Business: The benefit breakfast/dinner for Phil and Darcey Larsen is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, 2023. Firemen will be helping to make pancakes and it will take place at the Fertile fire hall. Renee Rongen, Patti Mosher, & Kari Morvig are chairing the Silent Auction and donated items are welcome. People with items to donate are encouraged to call one of them. Kristy Langved will chair the food part and will welcome all volunteers. Belinda Fjeld will chair the advertising. Volunteers are needed for set-up on September 16. Trinity worship will return to weekly worship and also will return to the full monthly contribution.

Pulpit supply: There was discussion about how to continue this into the future. Pr Blom will be here the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. There was discussion about using lay ministers, having some Wednesday worship services. Prs. Phil and Dan and the office staff will address this.

Youth ministry: Kip and Dan have been approached by one person possibly interested in the position. There was much discussion about Luther Crest worship packages for Sunday School, youth groups and confirmation classes.

Water to Thrive. There is \$11,583.00 in this account at this time, not counting what has been donated online and what came in today.

New Business: Transition/Interim Ministry contract: Verna made a motion to enter into the agreement for interim ministry with Pr. Phil Blom according to the contract which we each have before us. Seconded by Jeff and carried.

Call process: There will be a meeting at Concordia on September 13, 2023, with a meal at 6:00 pm, and the meeting starting at 6:30 pm to kick off Phil Blom's interim ministry and the call process. Genelle Netland, from the synod office, will be there. All church leaders: parish council members, church council members, Sunday School superintendents and teachers, youth leaders, and any other leaders within the five churches are encouraged to be there.

Concordia's 100th anniversary celebration: Saturday, September 30, 2023. Everyone is invited to a dinner at the school and a program at Concordia. Genelle Netland will be there.

Hymn selection: Carol Petersen and Elaine Erdahl have been in charge of hymn selection for the past several months. Pr. Blom would like them to continue.

Pr. Dan suggested that we make name tags available during meetings and worship services, for Pr. Blom, in the following weeks ahead.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2023 at 12:00 noon at Concordia.

Belinda made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff and carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Langved, Secretary

PARISH NEWS



There will be a Pancake Breakfast benefit for Pastor Phil Larsen from 8am-1pm on Sunday, September 17th at the Fertile Firehall. A silent auction will be held in conjunction with breakfast. For silent auction items or donations to purchase silent auction items, please call Renee Rongen (218-289-0236), Patty Mosher (218-280-7264), or Kari Morvig (218-280-0237)

The BSF/Bible Study Fellowship will again be starting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, from 2:00-3:30p.m. at the Concordia church fellowship hall. This year we will be studying the Book of John, and will meet until May 2024. Anyone who is interested or wants to attend, may call Sandy Rasmussen (218) 289-3908 or Jane Opdahl (218) 289-6536. You can either order your own book on mybsf.org or order with Jane.

The secret to John's Faith: Hope in adversity Freedom through humility Peace in perseverance How can we build a faith like John? When we examine his life, we uncover the source of his hope, freedom, and perseverance.



On Wednesday, September 6th, 2023, at 7:00 pm, there will be a Confirmation meeting at Concordia Fellowship hall for Parish students and parents in grades 7-9.

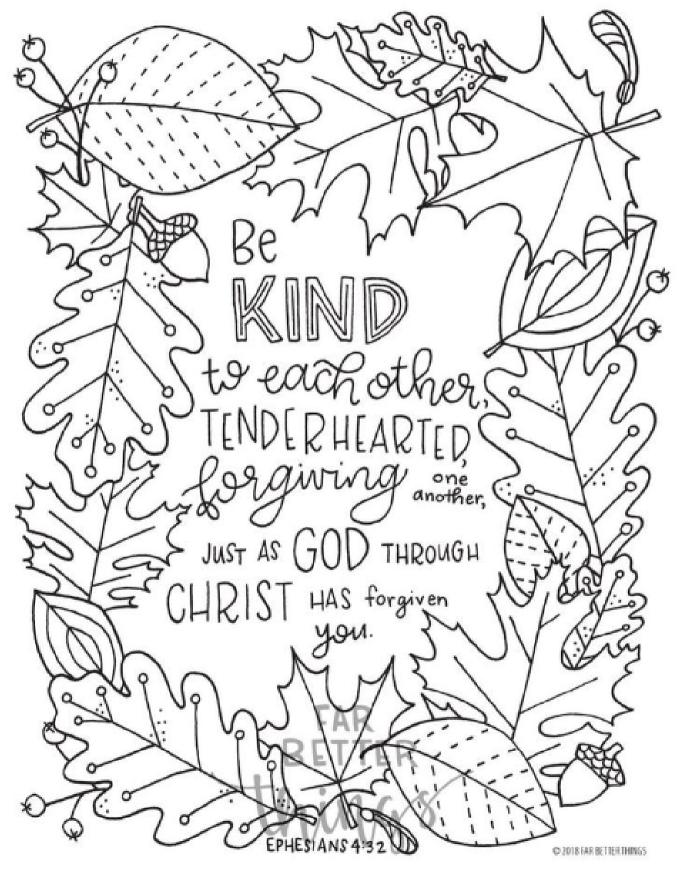


Water to Thrive update! As of August 17th, we have raised \$12,616.18 for the well project – we are halfway to the third well! We PRAISE God together!!



The Parish Board approved a transition Ministry agreement with Pastor Philip Blom effective September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. Pastor Blom will be providing half-time ministry to the Parish.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORDIA, LITTLE NORWAY, MAPLE LAKE, TRINITY, AND FAABERG CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA

Daniel Morton: Associate Pastor 320-260-6955 email: pastordan_uclp@gvtel.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NOTE: subject t	• •		Worship S SEPTEMBE Dur pulpit fill may be s			
		September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24	
	T 8:15am	Pr. Darrell Morton	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Darrell Morton	Pr. Dan Morton	
	C 9:30am	Pr. Darrell Morton	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Phil Blom	Pr. Dan Morton	
	F 11am	Pr. Darrell Morton	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Phil Blom	Pr. Dan Morton	
	LN 9am	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Phil Blom	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Terry Brandt	
	ML 11am	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Phil Blom	Pr. Dan Morton	Pr. Terry Brandt	

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***NOTE: WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**