

THANKS TO OUR TRANSITION TEAM

Thanks to the following people who have planned today's celebration as well as a couple more special events honoring this historic time in the life of First Lutheran. This group has also updated and organized our archives and created today's display of photos from congregational memories and events. The team includes: Lori Schmidt, Joyce Hansen, Bonnie Miller, Jana Lindoo, Chara Anderson, Pat Johnson, Mary Norlien, Alice Anderson, Ruth Amundson, Randy Morken, Greg Tvrdek and Pastor Greg Billberg.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING

Thanks to the following for their creativity and talent and for making this time together possible: Randy Morken, Greg Donahue, Sam Kalina, David Bengtson, Coty Lund, Paula Odland, Kids Choir. Thanks also to the following participants who made the Remembrance Video possible: Karl Bloomquist, Marge Van Gorp, Betty Hiebel, George and LaVerne Dyrstad, Rose Stoeck, Kim Kallstrom, Don Leland, Editing: Aaron Billberg.

ORGAN AND HYMN FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 11 | 5:00pm | Sanctuary

You are welcome to join us for a congregational potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall following this celebration. This is a historic year at First Lutheran as we transition from this church home to our new church home. The transition team is planning a number of events to mark this special time. This special service will highlight our organ and the gift of music at FLC.

BUILDING AND TRANSITION UPDATE

Wednesday, March 13 | 7:15pm | Sanctuary

Please join us for this opportunity to learn the latest details on our construction progress and ask questions regarding the transition to the new church building.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church, where faith and life meet!

OUR MISSION

First Lutheran is a vibrant Christian community committed to connecting faith and life for people of all ages through worship, learning, and serving in Jesus' name.

MORE INFORMATION

Volunteers and staff are available before and after worship services to assist you. Children's bulletins and Worship Bags are available for use at the back of the Sanctuary. Our Lil' Kingdom Kids/Nursery is open and staffed during the 8:30am, 9:45am and 6:15pm worship. It is open for use but unstaffed at the 11:00am worship service. It is located on the preschool level of the building in the Rainbow Room.

LEARN MORE AT

FIRSTLUTHERANALEXANDRIA.COM/EVENTS

or stop by the Welcome Center for our Weekly or Monthly Calendar.

PRAYER REQUESTS | HOSPITAL VISITS

If you have a prayer request or if you or a loved one are hospitalized and would like a visit, please call or email the church office at 320-762-2196 or admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

*Please note that hospital visitor restrictions are currently in place due to the spike in Influenza cases.

GIVING

Offering envelopes are located in each pew. You can also give by texting 320.500.6014 or by visiting us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com/your-gift.

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Greg Billberg, Lead Pastor
Kari van Wakeren, Associate Pastor
Ben Jacobson, Associate Pastor
Randy Morken, Director of Music and Liturgy



822 Douglas Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320.762.2196

Emergency After Hours Phone Number: 320.219.5492

For more information, visit us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com.



linking our past with our future

Sunday, February 24 | 2:00pm



WELCOME AND GREETINGS

HYMN
Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place (2x)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

A LETTER FROM OUR FIRST PASTOR
Rev. Lauritz Annoueus Kraft Carlsen, (L.A.K.) first pastor of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church

SPECIAL MUSIC
Sunshine Medley.....Kids Choir

CHILDREN’S TIME

TWO NORWEGIAN FOLK TUNES/HYMNS
I Himmelen, I Himmelen (In Heaven Above, In Heaven Above)
Den Store Hvitte Flokk (Behold the Host Arrayed in White)
Violinist, Greg Donahue

CHURCH BASEMENT DRAMA
He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

Vs 1: He’s got the whole world in His hands
Vs 2: He’s got you and me brother/sister in His hands
Vs 3: He’s got all of First Lutheran in His hands

HYMN
Beautiful Savior (vs 1, 3, 4).....#838

POEM
What Will We Bring? by David Bengtson
Sigrid’s Sang (Violinist, Greg Donahue)

We have come from —
the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation,
the First Norwegian Lutheran Congregation,
the First English Lutheran Congregation,
First Lutheran Church.

From the home of Lars and Katherine Aaker,
where 17 members met in 1872;
to the Episcopal Church; to the school house;
to a small, white, wood-framed church built in 1876
on the corner of D Street and 9th Avenue
at a cost of \$3797.00, minus pews;

from 1898 when Kristian Kolstad made and donated
a new baptismal font, when he was also elected
“leader of song” for an annual salary of \$15.

In February 1906, when money was still owed on a new parsonage,
Pastor Benson invited members to a social at the house
and asked them to bring one penny for each year of their age.
That evening, the debt was settled.

From a larger building dedicated in 1909,
from men and women sitting on opposite sides of the church,
from 1914 when church organist Alice Urness
was paid an annual salary of \$30,
from the end of 1937 with only \$4.19 left in the treasury —

to the “Miracle of Douglas Street” on April 20, 1948,
when the small congregation struggling to grow and stay alive
met to talk about a new building.
One member stood, pledged \$700,
and Tony Osterberg, who was at the meeting,
said later, “I pret’ near fell out of my pew ...
I knew this guy didn’t have that kind of money.”

Then another pledge of \$500, another of \$600,
then \$800, then \$1,000. By the end of the evening
everyone had pledged —
\$79,000 of the \$100,000 proposed building cost.
“It was something, I’ll tell ya,” Tony said.

From organizers Aaker, Sundblad, Week,
Johnson, Miller, Dahl, Wulsberg;
from pastors Carlsen, Stadstad, Sattre, Benson,
Rundhaug, Tjornholm, Hansen —

From controversies over predestination, to Norwegian versus
English (One man was heard to say, “We should keep on with
Norwegian and use the language that our Lord spoke.”), to equal
rights for women.

And in 1949, when the congregation moved
to a new house of worship, what did they bring?
The altar candelabra, the altar cross, a lectern,
that baptismal font, and the old church bell —

the light of the risen Christ
proclaimed in water and word
resounding beyond the walls.

Now, 147 years after the meeting at the Aaker home —
we have left our footprints here.

Surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
we remember with love and gratitude
all who have led the way.

What will we bring to our new house, where our names
are already written within the walls?

Led by the Cross of Christ,
traced in baptism on our foreheads,
together we travel to what once was Johnson’s Farm,
some wearing fancy socks or ties,
some humming a polka tune,
some carried in their parents’ arms.

With us, we bring a history
of sacrifice and commitment;
of vision and grace;
a spirit of gratitude and hospitality,
thanksgiving and praise;
filled with excitement for what is ahead.

We bring love for each other and for our church —
a place of peace and justice,
a place of music and prayer,
where all are welcome,
where in every face
we see the image of God.

Historical information from Lift High the Cross:
First Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary *Sigrid’s Sang* was
written in 1849 by Ole Bull (1810-1880), a concert violinist
and the first internationally famous musician from Norway.
In July 1856, before Minnesota was a state, Ole Bull
performed in the territorial capitol building in St. Paul.

REMEMBRANCES

TURN AND TALK
Share a cherished moment you have experienced at First Lutheran.

SENDING
Pastor Ben Jacobson

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN
All Are Welcome (vs 1-3, 5).....#641

**Please join us following the service for a reception in the Fellowship Hall.*