



# *The Fisherman*

## *The Newsletter of the Florence Parish*

October-November 2023

Volume 18 Issue 5



*The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 47 \* Florence, WI 54121 \* [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net) \* (715) 528-4851  
First Website: [www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org)  
Bethlehem Website: [www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org)  
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor*



Pastor's Letter

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
 With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.  
 By him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;  
 Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, The deserts bloom and spring,  
 The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.  
 God fills them with his fullness, All things with large increase;  
 He crowns the year with goodness, With plenty and with peace.  
 ("Sing to the Lord of Harvest," Lutheran Book of Worship, pg. 412 )

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As the weather gets colder, and we move closer to the end of October, I have been thinking about the upcoming Harvest Dinner. I have not been able to attend a dinner, since our parish and St. Mary's Catholic Church have not had a Harvest Dinner since COVID. It was Dorothy from St. Mary's, and others from our churches, who proposed that we resume having this special meal. We thank God for providing this opportunity for us.

For those of you who have attended the Harvest Dinner in year's past, gathering together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, will be a welcome event! For those who have not attended previously, please come! We will gather on Sunday, October 29th, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Together, we will give thanks to God for many things--family, friends, old and new acquaintances, and the wonderful bounty of food that God has provided!

Last Sunday, the scripture reading from Isaiah 25:1-9 and my sermon, spoke about the eschatological feast where all people are welcome. The Harvest Dinner, is an earthly banquet, in which we proclaim-- "All are welcome!" But my sermon also spoke about countries in the world, where not all are welcome; countries that are not at peace. The war

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## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net). Leanne Wilcox our new administrative assistant will be in the office the following hours:

**Monday 8-12**

**Tuesday 8-12**

**Wednesday 8-12pm, 1-3pm**

**Thursday 8-12pm, 1-3pm**

**Friday-Closed**

## CONTACTING PASTOR CATHY

Pastor Cathy is normally in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you need her at other times, please text her or knock on the door at the pastor's residence.

The best way to contact her is by texting her cell phone at 608-865-1074 or emailing her at [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu).



Called to *Serve*

## Volunteer Tasks

- Being a reader (can do seated if necessary)
- Making sure readers are scheduled for Sunday and have the readings
- Being a greeter
- Fold and assemble bulletins for First
- Mail bulletins to a few shut-ins (weekly)
- Fold and assemble bulletins for Bethlehem
- Copy large-print bulletins
- Enlarging intercessory prayers from "Sundays and Seasons" (could be done once per year, once we have the "Sundays and Seasons" book)
- Folding, sealing and mailing newsletter
- Serving as "on call" assistant for various tasks
- Copying, assembling and stapling First's annual report (once per year)
- Copying, assembling and stapling Bethlehem's annual report (once per year)
- Update and maintain websites (ongoing)
- Lawn mowing and snow shoveling
- Other ideas we haven't thought of



**October 23, 30 and November 6, 13,  
3:00pm**

**GriefShare Continues  
First**

**October 17th, 6:00pm  
Church Council  
Bethlehem**

**October 18, 3:00pm  
Session Meeting  
First**

**October 20, 10:00am  
Pastor Cathy Leads Worship  
Florence Health Service**

**October 25, 6:00pm  
Parish Board Meeting  
First**

**October 29th-2-4pm  
Trunk or Treat  
Florence Elementary**

**October 29th-5:00pm  
Harvest Dinner  
St. Mary's Catholic Church**

**November 8th-4:40pm  
(meet to carpool)  
Ladies Night Out  
Solberg's Greenleaf**

**November 8th-6:30pm  
Church Council  
Bethlehem**

**November 15th-3pm  
Session Meeting  
First**

## Events:

**Come to Supper** - Continues on Monday, October 23rd and November 27th.

Please Come!

Our Deacon's continue to assist with the "Come to Supper" meals. Thank you to all who are serving in this important ministry!



### **Harvest Dinner at St. Mary's Catholic Church-**

We are looking forward to joining together again for a Harvest Dinner at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sunday, October 29th starting at 5pm. Please bring a salad or a dessert to pass. Sign up sheets are on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up if you are able to attend and indicate what kind of dish you are going to bring.

**Trunk or Treat-**The Florence Parish is participating in "Trunk or Treat" this year at the Florence Elementary School on Oct. 29th from 2-4pm. If you wish to make a financial donation please put it in an envelope and mark it "Trunk or Treat" and put it in the offering plate. We are also looking for volunteers to hand out candy.

**Annual Ladies' Night Out-** On November 8th we will be going to Solberg's Greenleaf in Iron Mountain. We will meet at First at 4:30 pm to carpool. Ladies from both Bethlehem and First are welcome to attend. Please contact Debbie DeMuri or Denise Foltz if you would like to go.

**Amy Shreve, Harpist Christmas Concert-** On Sunday, December 3rd, Amy Shreve will be performing a free concert at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:00pm. Guests are welcome to attend! Love offerings will be accepted.

## Happy Retirement Barb Marden!

We want to wish Barb Marden a very happy retirement from the Florence Parish as the Administrative Assistant for the last four years. Recently both the Bethlehem Lutheran and First Presbyterian churches had a pot luck get together to wish Barb well. Pastor Cathy opened by saying a prayer for Barb and also for Leanne Wilcox as the new Administrative Assistant.

Barb opened a few very nice gifts followed by a nice lunch provided by church members.



(Photos courtesy of Ben Lehto and Deb Fleming)

**PASTOR'S LETTER** (continued from page 2)

between Israel and Hamas, the war in Ukraine, and other conflicts require our "liberating witness" (in the words of Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton.)

What is God encouraging us to do? We can pray for all affected by violence and evil. We can pray for justice, as in the Biblical definition of "being in right relationship one with another." We can pray for people who are separated from loved ones, or who have lost loved ones. We can humbly ask God to put an end to hatred and disregard for human life, and to help all peoples and nations to live in peace.

But we can do even more. Our contributions to St. Vincent DePaul, "Adopt-a-Family," "Come to Supper," and area food pantries help to ensure that people in Florence and surrounding areas have access to food and other necessities. Our providing quilts, personal care kits, baby layettes, and money to "ELCA World Hunger," the PC(USA)'s "One Great Hour of Sharing," "ELCA Good Gifts," Presbyterian Disaster Relief, and other Presbyterian and Lutheran offerings and projects, helps to ensure that people here and throughout the world have access to healthy food and humanitarian assistance. Let us give generously, as God has given to us! Thanks be to God!

Peace,

*Pastor Cathy*

**SENIOR DAY**

Monday, November 13: Thanksgiving Together we'll prepare, cook, and feast on a homemade spread for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Come prepared to peel, chop, and enjoy the tastes of the season, all in great company!

Monday, January 15: Program TBD

Monday, March 11: Program TBD

Monday, May 13: Program TBD

Each Senior Day begins at 10 am CT and wraps up by 2pm CT. The program varies but generally includes the following:

10:00 am – Arrival and check-in, coffee and fellowship time

10:15 am – Devotion & announcements

10:30 am – Presentation morning session

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – Presentation afternoon session

\$10 donation per participant is requested

RSVP by the Friday before to (906) 214-2267 or [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org)



**FORTUNE LAKE**  
*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*



## Presbytery Point

We are excited to announce a new fall fundraising drive to support Presbytery Point Camp! Presbytery Point Camp brings people together to learn and grow in the beauty of God's creation by reaching out and welcoming all to join together in faith, fellowship, and recreation. We are calling on all alumni and friends of the Point to come together in support of our mission for a new and exciting challenge. If you make a new gift to Presbytery Point or increase your support during the month of October, your gift will make an even bigger impact!

- 20 new donors or increased gifts helps us unlock an incredible \$1000 in support for camp!
- 10 additional new donors or increased gifts will unlock an additional \$500 in funding  
Make a secure gift online by going to [presbyterypoint.org](http://presbyterypoint.org).
- If you'd prefer to give by mail, checks can be sent to: Presbytery Point Camp ATTN: Presbytery Point Treasurer 819 1st Ave S Escanaba, MI 49829 If you have any questions, please email [prespt.office@gmail.com](mailto:prespt.office@gmail.com).

## BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES

The September 20th meeting was called to order at 6:09pm. Present: Bob Friberg, Bill Fleming, Deb Fleming, Diane Theis, Connie Walther, Mary Voelker, and Pastor Cathy. Pastor Cathy offered the opening prayer. Minutes and Treasurer's report were reviewed and accepted.

- August 18 and September 15 – led Worship at Florence Health Services.
- An evaluation form for “A Summer Day at Camp” was given to families who participated.
- Rev. Larry Warren offered a presentation on August 16th – approximately 20 people participated.
- GriefShare Program is meeting at 3:00pm on Mondays at First. Kim Richmond is the facilitator
- Pastor on vacation October 6th to 13th
- QPR Suicide Prevention Training on September 9th. Had a good discussion.
- “Senior Day at Camp” – September 11th
- “Service of Hope and Healing” – September 13th
- “NGLS Fall Theological Conference” – Fortune Lake – September 17th – 19th, topic was stewardship
- Tuesday morning text study led by Pastor Cathy on September 12th
- Florence County Human Services Department – requesting assistance for a family. Discussion ensued, more information is needed before a decision can be reached.
- Retirement celebration for Barb Marden and welcome to Leanne Wilcox went well. New hours for Leanne – full day Monday & Tuesday, half day morning Wednesday & Thursday.
- Volunteer duties to be put into newsletter
- “Children and Youth Coordinator” position – advertised in the “Mining News” and “Daily News”
- PTO “Trunk or Treat,” Sunday October 29th @ Elementary School. Will request donations from Congregation. Need to increase the number of bags prepared.
- ADRC – resuming lunches in October.

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## FIRST'S SESSION NOTES

Rev. Cathleen Morris called the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Session to order in the Conference Room at 4:05 p.m. and opened with prayer. Four ruling elders were present; Jan Roberts and Janell White were excused.



The minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting of the Session, which had been e-mailed prior to the meeting, were approved.

In her Minister's Report, Pastor Cathy shared:

- We celebrated the Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- She led worship at Florence Health Services on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- An evaluation form is in process for “A Summer Day at Camp”.
- The Presbytery North Westerly Regional Meeting group will reconvene in the fall.
- Rev. Larry Warren's August 16<sup>th</sup> presentation, “Death and Hints of the Hereafter” was well attended and

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**SESSION MEETING NOTES** (continued from page 8)

is recorded for additional viewing.

- The “GriefShare” group is meeting on Mondays, 3:00 p.m. at First.
- The “QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)” morning was a helpful small group discussion.
- She attended the Senior Day at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The focus was on “The Gift of Water”, celebrating the lands and waters of our area.
- The September 13<sup>th</sup> “Service of Hope and Healing” had fewer in attendance this year, but was appreciated by those who did participate.
- She commuted to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Theological Conference on September 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> held at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. A comment shared from the Conference was that online donations have become popular in churches and studies show that has resulted in increased giving. Consensus of Session was that we check into options, such as electronic giving through our local bank.
- She will be on vacation October 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. Pulpit supply is to be determined for Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Tuesday morning Text Study group held here at First has resumed. She led the study on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- A letter from the Florence County Human Services Department regarding financial assistance for a family was shared. Discussion resulted with no action taken.
- Our new Administrative Assistant, Leanne Wilcox, has been training with Barb Marden. Session agreed to adjust her schedule to full days on Monday and Tuesday and half days in the morning on Wednesday and Thursday. Office closed on Friday. The new schedule will be posted.
- The Parish thanked Barb for her years of service at a potluck luncheon at Bethlehem on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate that she will continue to assist with the Parish budget forecasting and planning.
- Our list of volunteer duties will be posted. Thus far, we’ve had a volunteer who has been folding Sunday bulletins.
- The Florence Elementary School is planning a Halloween, “Trunk or Treat” activity. Session agreed to participate as we did last year. Pr. Cathy will add it to the agenda for Bethlehem’s Council meeting, since Parish Board will not meet until late October.

Our treasurer’s report as of August 31, 2023 was reviewed, noting all balances. A CD coming due this month is to be renewed at the best rate and interval.

Our Deacons have not met since our last meeting. They continue to assist with the “Come to Supper” meals. It was noted with regret that Pat Christian has resigned as our lead person and cook for the meals. She will be missed. The next meal will be September 25<sup>th</sup>.

In Presbytery and Synod news:

Pastor Cathy and Karen reported on their attendance at the Presbytery meeting held at the First Presbyterian Church in Escanaba, MI on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Property Committee update included:

The foundation of the church, backsplash area in the conference room and kitchen have been painted by Joe Kuder. A semi-gloss paint will result in easier upkeep of those areas.

The replacement window for the loft had the wrong color and kind of trim and has been reordered by St. George Glass.

Consensus was to have an annual inspection of the church furnaces. The manse furnace is new and was installed on March 1, 2023.

After discussion it was decided to leave the bulletin board in its current place as there is little available

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**SESSION MEETING NOTES** (continued from page 9)

wall space in the entrance to the church. A reminder will be in the Sunday bulletin to sign up for volunteer duties.

Jim will set automated times for the sanctuary thermostat. Others can be changed manually when needed.

The next meetings of the Session were set for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m.

Parish Board will meet on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at First.

The meeting was then adjourned at 5:25 p.m. and we closed with our Lord's Prayer in unison.

Karen Wertanen,  
Clerk of Session

(Please note that if you have any questions or wish to read the complete minutes of previous meetings of the Session, contact Karen at 715-528-4744 or 906-282-7302.)

**DEACONS MINUTES**

The Deacons met in the church conference room at 6 PM, Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Coffee hour for the next few months was scheduled -- Joan and Janell in October, Debbie and Lois in November, and Wendy with another deacon in December.

Come to Supper was discussed. The checking account for meal supplies will need to have a new signature card at the bank. Joan and Janell have offered to be placed on the account. The Session will have to formally approve this at their October meeting and the minutes of the meeting will be presented at the bank so the signature card can be changed. There will be a meeting after services on Sunday, October 8, with others involved to discuss the menu for October 23.

Ladies Night Out was planned for Wednesday, November 8, to include women from First and Bethlehem. Those interested in attending can meet at 4:30 at First for carpooling to Greenleaf's. This has been a popular event in the past and the Deacons hope that many will participate.

There was preliminary discussion related to Adopt a Family and a photo for the Christmas card. A family has been identified to be assisted for Adopt a Family with additional families generally referred by St Vincents. A mailout to the congregation has been very successful in the past few years and after funds are received the Deacons can determine how much assistance is available. The letter to the congregation will be sent in November with a request for funds to be returned about 2 weeks before Christmas.

Decorating for Christmas was also discussed. There was some confusion last year related to the Presbyterian philosophy of decorating and Karen Wertanen, present at the meeting along with the pastor, showed some photos from surrounding Presbyterian churches to show how some decorating was done as well as some information from the Book of Order. A date has not yet been set for decorating.

**BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES** (continued from page 8)**Synod and ELCA news:**

- One Sunday a month after Bethlehem service there will be a study “Dwelling in the Word”. Facilitators will be Ben and Jackie Letho, Deb and Bill Fleming, John Willard and possibly Barb Marden. First study to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Men’s Retreat” at Fortune Lake – October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
- “Darkness to Light” in Crystal Falls – October 21<sup>st</sup> – 9:30 to Noon. – (sexual abuse prevention)

**The Building Items update included:**

- Gutters to be done after soffits are completed
- Soffits are waiting on lights.

“God’s Work Our Hands” – in process

Social Ministry – no new information

Video Taping Services - pending

Prayer Ties - pending

Land Sale Update – will sign over ownership – pending title company and approval of minutes.

Use of Bethlehem building for Head Start program – pending – waiting for a meeting to be scheduled.

Potential Congregational Office Duties – will put a sign up sheet for congregation.

Dates for next two Meetings – October 17, 2023 @ 6:00pm & November 8, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Next Parish meeting – October 25, 2023 @ 6:00pm at First

Adjournment and Closing Prayer – Meeting was adjourned @ 7:18pm. All joined in reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

**Amy Shreve, Harpist Christmas Concert-**

On Sunday, December 9, Amy Shreve will be performing a free concert at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:00pm. Guests are welcome to attend! Love offerings will be accepted.





## October, November, December Birthdays & Anniversaries



### AT FIRST

10/3 - Karen Wertanen  
 10/6 - James Brolin  
 10/8 - Christy Boettcher  
 10/8 Sandy Wolfgram  
 10/10 - Sue Gustafson  
 10/10 - Rev. Cathy Morris  
 10/15 - Mat Gummin  
 10/15 - Jeff DeMuri  
 10/28 - Jan Roberts  
 10/31 - Betty Karle  
 11/4 - Heinz Teichert  
 11/5 - Karson Schomer  
 11/5 - James Gehlhoff  
 11/7 - Paula Churchill  
 11/10 - Joan Swanson  
 11/13 - LeRoy Nelson  
 12/2 - Keith Davis  
 12/5 - Joan Churchill  
 12/10 - Peter Wilson  
 12/12 - Kim Richmond  
 12/17 - Kameron Johnson  
 12/25 - We celebrate the birth of Jesus  
 12/29 - Howard Smith

### Anniversaries

9/7 - Jim & Wendy Gehlhoff  
 9/30 - Jim & Paula Churchill  
 10/26 - Dale & Sue Gustafson  
 12/28 - Russell & Barb Soderberg  
 12/31 - Keith & Connie Davis

### AT BETHLEHEM

10/8 Sandy Wolfgram  
 10/10 - Rev. Cathy Morris  
 10/17 - Diane Theis  
 10/17 - Michael Theis  
 11/1 - Braden Friberg  
 11/7 - Don Lison  
 11/15 - John Willard  
 11/16 - Joan Spears  
 11/17 - Daymond Saak  
 11/21 - Desiree Ashe  
 11/21 - Lunden Friberg  
 12/3 - Tina Rittenhouse  
 12/18 - Alex Rittenhouse  
 12/25 - We celebrate the birth of Jesus

### Anniversaries

10/19 - Eric & Tina DeCremer  
 11/12 - Dan & Kay Campbell  
 11/23 - Ralph & Gail Valine  
 11/27 Jerry and Sandy Wolfgram

## MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COUNCIL, SESSION, & DEACONS

### BETHLEHEM COUNCIL

Bill Fleming  
 Deb Fleming  
 Bob Friberg  
 Diane Theis  
 Mary Voelker  
 Connie Walther

### FIRST'S SESSION

Frank DeCleene  
 Debbie DeMuri  
 Jim Gehlhoff  
 Jan Roberts  
 Karen Wertanen  
 Janell White

### FIRST'S DEACONS

Joan Churchill  
 Wendy Gehlhoff  
 Kelly Johnson  
 Lois Ann Johnson  
 Lisa Novak  
 Janell White

**The Florence Parish**

**PO. Box 47**

**Florence, WI 54121**

*A Partnership in Christian Ministry of:*

*First Presbyterian Church & Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

*Rev. Cathleen Morris, Pastor*

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**Address Service Requested**

**PUMPKIN DESSERT**

**Ingredients:**

1 yellow cake mix  
1 egg  
1/2 c. melted oleo  
1 small can (1 C.) pumpkin  
1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 C. brown sugar  
2 eggs  
2/3 C. milk  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 C. sugar  
1/4 C. oleo



Reserve 1 cup cake mix. Mix remaining cake mix, one egg and melted oleo, press into a greased 9x13” cake pan. Mix pumpkin, spice, brown sugar, eggs and milk. Pour over crust. Mix together 1 cup cake mix that was reserved, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 cup sugar and 1/4 cup oleo. Sprinkle over top of other mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. (Recipe provided by JoAnne Friberg from the cookbook “Florence Parish Family Favorites.” Picture from “Taste of Home.”)

**2023**