



Mabel First Lutheran Church Scheie Lutheran Church



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ENGAGING IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

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CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Phone:

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office@mabelfirst.org

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mabelfirst.org

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Mabel First Lutheran
Scheie Lutheran Church

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE-JANUARY

- 8AM Worship at Mabel First—Coffee and fellowship following
 9AM Sunday School (Mabel First/Scheie at Mabel First)
 9:30AM Worship at Scheie—Coffee & fellowship following-1st Sun. only
 (Worship will be in basement in January)
 11AM Worship at Henrytown

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE-FEBRUARY

- 8AM Worship at Henrytown
 9AM Sunday School (Mabel First/Scheie at Mabel First)
 9:30AM Worship at Mabel First Lutheran—Coffee/fellowship following
 11AM Worship at Scheie—Coffee & Fellowship prior—1st Sunday only

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated during worship at Henrytown, Mabel First and Scheie on January 7 & 14 and February 4 & 11.

January Ushers (MFL): Arlie Halverson, chairman; Merlin Halverson, Janet Sanden
 February Ushers (MFL): Mike Kowalsky, chairman; Linda Kowalsky

LENTEN SERVICES

- Feb. 14 6:30PM Ash Wednesday Worship at Mabel UMC at 6:30PM
 Feb. 21 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Holden Evening Prayer at Henrytown
 Feb. 28 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Holden Evening Prayer at Mabel First
 Mar. 6 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Holden Evening Prayer at Scheie
 Mar. 13 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Holden Evening Prayer at Henrytown
 Mar. 20 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Holden Evening Prayer at Mabel First
 Mar. 28 5PM Lenten Supper; 6:30PM Maundy Thursday Service at Scheie
 Mar. 29 3PM Good Friday Service at Mabel UMC
 6:30PM Good Friday Service at Henrytown
 Mar. 31 EASTER SUNDAY

**Mabel First
Lutheran
Annual Meeting
Sun., February 4
following worship**

**Scheie Lutheran
Annual Meeting
Sun., February 4
following worship**

ALL ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN THE OFFICE ON OR BEFORE JAN. 14. MFL reports can be left in the office or forwarded to office@mabelfirst.org. Scheie reports can be forwarded to Deb Marsden at debbiescorner102@gmail.com (reports can be cc'd to office@mabelfirst.org).

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR CARLA at #507-493-5293 or pastor@mabelfirst.org for PASTORAL CARE

PASTORAL ACTS


NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Baptisms: None
Funerals: Phyllis Norby (Scheie)
 Odell Soberg (MFL)
 Ronald Nelson (MFL)

PRAYER CONCERNS

BEREAVEMENT

Family & friends of
 Phyllis Norby, Jim Blagsvedt,
 Michael Haugerud, Odell
 Solberg, Ronald Nelson, Jerry Bakke



IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS

Rick Bjertness, LeeAnn Howard, Adam Olson, Lynn Sollien, Callie Tweten

LONG-TERM HEALTH CONCERNS/CARE

Gary Adams, Gwen Allen, Leona Amdahl, Jackie Erlandson, Dean Garness, Carol Geving, Keith Halvorson, Shelly Henry, Ella Mae Johnson, Lois Johnson, Rosemary Ketchum, Helen Larson, Ryan Lee, Les Myhre, Violet Pederson, Penniann Ramirez, Dacia Sorum, Janice Spande, Bob Stoskopf, Lyle Tripp

SERVICE MEMBERS

Anna Erickson, Brady Erickson, Gregery Johnson, Luke Johnson, Adam L Johnson, Benjamin Lee, Jeannie Vick

ONGOING PRAYERS

Mabel First Lutheran, Scheie Lutheran, Henrytown Lutheran, MFL Prayer Box, Mabel Area Food Shelf, Ukraine

MFL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Jean Blagsvedt	493-5033
Steve Darrington	563-735-5816
Brian Johnson	493-5658
Tyler Mikesh (VP)	563-380-8592
Janet Sanden	493-5078
Deanna Larson	493-5206
Lori Schutte (Pres)	493-5670
Lynn Sollien	493-5631
Rodney Tollefsrud	493-5570

SCHEIE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Dick Engrav (Pres)	493-5021
DeeAnn Erickson	493-5233
Nancy Engrav	493-5021
Trudy Horihan	493-5749
Deb Marsden	493-5651
Gerald Peter (VP)	493-5026
Chuck Olson	493-5014
Lance Rasmussen	507-450-1880
Paul Vitse	493-5313

Pastor's Sabbath: Monday
 Pastor's Office Hours: (*barring emergency*)
Tuesday 10AM-12PM (*except 2nd Tuesday*)
Wednesday 10AM-12PM (*1st & 2nd at Henrytown*)
 (*3rd, 4th, 5th at Mabel*)
Wednesday 2-4PM (*1st & 2nd at Mabel*)
 (*3rd, 4th, 5th at Henrytown*)
Friday 10AM-12PM (*except 4th Friday*)



JOINT INFORMATION

In December 2022, the congregation councils of Henrytown, Mabel First and Scheie voted to participate in a six month "Holy Experiment" during which time Pastor Carla would provide pastoral services to the three congregations. The agreement was later extended for six months. During this time, the churches have been working together in many ways and the Executive Committees have been developing a plan to become a three-point parish. For the most part, the activities and events will continue much as they have during the Holy Experiment with all three congregations making decisions for changes as needed. The Executive Committees have developed **an agreement to establish a three-point parish. At the upcoming Annual Meetings, each congregation will be voting to make this a formal agreement.**

If you have questions or concerns about this agreement, please contact your council officers to discuss it more fully as you plan for your Annual Meeting. Please **make plans to attend the Annual Meeting** of your congregation. A quorum must be present to conduct all business including this vote.

WORSHIP

Sundays	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024	Mar. 2024
8AM	Mabel First	Henrytown	Scheie
9:30AM	Scheie	Mabel First	Henrytown
11AM	Henrytown	Scheie	Mabel First

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to JoAnne Aasum and Sheila Sand as well as the teachers, helpers, students and parents for preparing and presenting the story of Christmas on December 17.

Sunday School classes will **resume on January 7** at 9AM at Mabel First.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes continue twice a month, alternating between Mabel First and Henrytown. The Jan/Feb schedule is **January 17 at Henrytown** and **February 7 at Mabel First**. Formal classes will be suspended during Lent while students will be attending and participating in midweek Lenten services. Classes will resume on April 3.

Several students and parents recently visited the Escape Room in LaCrosse followed by pizza.

Lent
5PM supper (as indicated below)
6:30PM worship (and 3PM on Good Friday)
 'Midweek' services - Holden Evening Prayer

	3PM	Supper 5-6PM	6:30
Ash Wednesday (2/14/24)		no meal	Mabel UMC
1 (2/21)		Henrytown	Henrytown
2 (2/28)		MFL	MFL
3 (3/6)		Scheie	Scheie
4 (3/13)		Henrytown	Henrytown
5 (3/20)		MFL	MFL
Maundy Thursday (3/28)		Scheie	Scheie
Good Friday (3/29)	Mabel UMC	no meal	Henrytown

Pastor Pam will be leading a Bible Study for all interested during Lent at the Mabel UMC Church. Details will be included in weekly bulletins.

Persons interested in "giving" rather than "giving up" for Lent (**Reverse Lent**) are encouraged to create a box and donate an item a day or week to the Mabel Area Food Shelf to be taken to the church at the end of the season. A weekly list of needed items will be made available before Lent begins.

Information from Southeastern Minnesota Synod and Root River Conference

- The synod office is moving to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Northfield in early January. The current Rochester mailing address is to be used until further notice.
- The **Root River Conference Assembly** will be held on Sunday **February 18, 2024** at a currently undetermined location. Each congregation is entitled to six delegates.
- The **SEMN Synod Assembly** will be held on Saturday **May 11, 2024** at Mayo Clinic Event Center in Mankato. Each congregation is entitled to two delegates.

MABEL FIRST LUTHERAN INFORMATION

CONGREGATION LIFE

A decision regarding the **Steam Engine Days Food Stand** will be made at the Annual Meeting. The church council has determined that to be fair to Hesper Lutheran and the previous chairpersons, **new chairs need to be identified by the Annual Meeting if we are to continue.** Profits of \$7,000-8,000 have been crucial in meeting our budget for several years. Please contact a council member or the church office if you are willing to consider serving our church in this way. Previous chairpersons are willing to help as needed but are not willing or able to continue chairing the event.

Additional **ushers and communion servers** are needed for worship services. Please contact Rodney Tollefsrud or the church office if you or your family are willing to serve our church in this way during one month of the year.

Readers of lessons during worship are also needed. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the doors to the sanctuary or contact the church office as you are able.

WELCA

MFL has **Meals on Wheels** Jan. 15-19 (Phoebe Circle) and Feb. 12-16 (Ruth Circle).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the December Cookie Walk. Proceeds enable WELCA to support our church and important local and global missions.

Next **WELCA meeting** will be **Feb. 8** at 9 AM with Lydia Circle hosting. Phoebe Circle is responsible for coffee, cookies and altar flowers in January and Rachel Circle in February.

Persons willing to help make quilts or participate in other Do-Day activities are needed. Please contact Deanna Larson if you are able and willing to help.



SCHEIE LUTHERAN INFORMATION

Scheie has **Meals on Wheels** January 22-26 and February 19-23.

Readers of Lessons during worship are needed. Please contact Carolyn White if you are able to do this.

SCHEIE COUNCIL

Scheie Council Meeting Highlights

- Happy New Year to all. The end of the year was busy for all with the holidays and family gatherings. The Sunday School program was great. Thanks to the children and the teachers Joanne Aasum and Shelia Sand and their assistants. The Christmas Eve and New Years Eve service was filled with readings and wonderful Christmas songs.
- Scheie's annual meeting will be February 4th. We encourage our members to try to attend. In preparation for the meeting, we need annual reports as soon as possible so the secretary can get them printed. We also encourage if you are asked to be on the council to consider doing so.
- Our sympathy is extended to Jim Blagsvedt's family Cindy and family...Chris, Jenny, and David.
- Happy 101 birthday to Irma Johnson. Irma's birthday was in December.

To all who submit annual reports for the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL REPORTS MUST BE TO Debbie Marsden by JANUARY 7th. Please email them to debbiescorner102@gmail.com. thank you in advanced.



MABEL FIRST LUTHERAN COUNCIL

November 1, 2023 Meeting Highlights

- Executive Committees from the three congregations will meet on Nov. 5 to consider the parish agreement. They have approved the worship schedule for Christmas Eve (10 AM at Scheie, 4 PM at Mabel First, 5:30 PM at Henrytown) with no services planned on Christmas Day.
- Property and Management is still waiting for completion of several projects at the church. A dead tree will be removed from the parsonage property.
- Approximately 24 students have been attending Sunday School. The Christmas program will be presented at an 11 AM joint service on Dec. 10 at Mabel First followed by a potluck meal for all.
- M/S/P to recommend \$7,653.55 of the Steam Engine Days food stand proceeds be placed in the general fund, \$500 be given to SEMCAC for the local senior dining program and \$500 to the Fillmore County Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. The congregation will vote on this recommendation at the special meeting on Nov. 19.
- M/S/P to elect Lori Schulte, Tyler Mikesh, and Brian Johnson to the Nominating Committee. Three council positions will be open for election this year.
- M/S/P to schedule the Annual meeting for February 4 following worship.
- M/S/P to approve the Food Shelf Committee request to place a mini-split cooling system in their area at their expense.

November 19, 2023 Special Congregation Meeting Notes

A printed financial report from the Steam Engine Food Stand was presented showing a profit of \$8,760.55. The chairmen and the congregation were thanked for their parts in making this a success. M/S/P to approve the council recommendation for distribution of the profits as cited in the November meeting highlights. This will leave \$125 in the Steam Engine Days account for start-up costs next year.

December 6, 2023 Meeting Highlights

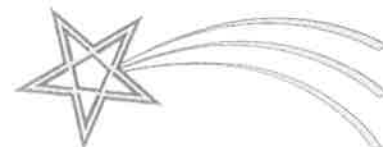
- The Executive Committees will meet again on December 10. Worship on December 31 will be "Lessons & Carols" with all three congregations meeting jointly at Mabel First.
- The leak in the Education Wing and painting of some outside windows has been completed. There is an issue with the furnace in the parsonage so more repairs may be needed.
- The Sunday School program and potluck has been changed to Dec. 17 at the request of the staff.
- Confirmation students recently visited the Escape Room and had pizza in LaCrosse.
- Review of the guidelines for calling a pastor have begun.
- Discussion was held regarding reducing the number of congregation council members. That would require a change in the Constitution.
- There will be a vote at the Annual Meeting regarding whether or not to have the food stand during Steam Engine Days in 2024. If chairmen are not identified by that meeting, there will be no food stand.
- We have been contacted by two printer companies requesting an opportunity to provide printer services to our church. Estimates have been requested from them and our current provider with a review of our options to be completed at the January meeting.



"He fasted for forty days
and forty nights..."

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR:

1 ^{3b}What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. (John 1:3b-8)



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior. Amen.

The season of Epiphany plays with the imagery of light to illuminate our awareness of Christ. At times the imagery of light is more literal. The magi follow a star in search of the anointed one. The heavens are ripped apart at the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus is transfigured into a glowing figure in front of the disciples on the mountain top. Other instances, the image is more figurative. Jesus calls the disciples and illuminates them with a peek at His mission. Jesus teaches with an authority that had not been previously heard – shining a new reality into Scripture.

The image of light denotes revelation – knowing Jesus Christ. The imagery of light also illuminates our lives with the revelation of God in Christ Jesus. God's light shines into our own darkness as well as the darkness of the world around us. We get to see God.

John had a clear-cut trajectory to his life. He was to go out into the wilderness, dress like a prophet (camel's hair), eat like a prophet (locusts and wild honey), baptize, preach, and be martyred. That is what worked in his context. People flocked to him in part because he reminded them of stories they had heard about the prophets of old. Most of us would not be able to pull off that look. I personally can handle the baptizing and preaching, but would prefer to take a pass on the rest. It also highly doubtful that anyone would listen to someone who went around dressed and acting like John did back then. Connotations have changed.

Just because we live in a different context, does not mean we are off the hook. We are still called to testify to the light. Jesus tells us, "¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." We are called to testify to the light by using the gifts each of us has and in the context we live. Our voices join with other believers. We raise our voices and our acts of love; together we testify to the light of the world. We illuminate the darkness with the light of Christ.

The grace and peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Carla

January 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	HAPPY NEW YEAR	Pastor's Sabbath	10A-12P Office Hours at H 2-4P Office Hours at M 4P Confirmation Class at M 7P Cong Council (M)	5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A-12P Office Hours at M	10A-12P Office Hours at M	EPHIPANY OF OUR LORD
		8	9	10	11	12	13
8A	Worship (M) fellowship following	Pastor's Sabbath 9A Stitch & Chat Quilters (S)	9:30A Root River Conf. Pastors' Mtg	10A-12P Office Hours at H 2-4P Office Hours at M	9A Rebecca Circle Quilting (S) 5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A-12P Office Hours at M	9A Quilters Therapy at H
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)						
9:30A	Worship (S) fellowship following						
11A	Worship (H)						
12P	Exec Committees (H/M/S at H)						
1P	Cong Council (H)						
		15	16	17	18	19	20
8A	Worship (M) fellowship following	Pastor's Sabbath 11:15A MOW (M-Phoebe Circle)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (M-Phoebe Circle)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (M-Phoebe Circle) 2-4P Office Hours at H 4P Confirmation Class at H	9A WELCA Bible Study (S) 11:15A MOW (M-Phoebe Circle) 1P Food Shelf Delivery	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (M-Phoebe Circle)	10A-12P Food Shelf
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)						
9:30A	Worship (S)						
10:30A	Cong Council (S)						
11A	Worship (H)						
		22	23	24	25	26	27
8A	Worship (M) fellowship following	Pastor's Sabbath 11:15A MOW (S)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (S)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15 MOW (S) 2-4P Office Hours at H	10A Interim Pastors' Mtg 11:15A MOW (S) 5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A Worship at Green Lea Senior Living 11:15A MOW (S)	
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)						
9:30A	Worship (S)						
11A	Worship (H)						
12P	Annual Meeting (H)						
		28	29	30	31		
8A	Worship (M) fellowship following	Pastor's Sabbath	10A-12P Office Hours at M	10A-12P Office Hours at M 2-4P Office Hours at H			
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)						
9:30A	Worship (S)						
11A	Worship (H)						

February 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8A	Worship (H)				5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A-12P Office Hours at M	9A Quilters Therapy at H
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)	Pastor's Sabbath 10A-12P Office Hours at M	10A-12P Office Hours at M 2-4P Office Hours at M 4P Confirmation Class at M 7P Cong Council (M)	10A-12P Office Hours at H 2-4P Office Hours at M 4P Confirmation Class at M 7P Cong Council (M)	9A Rebecca Circle Quilting (S) 5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A-12P Office Hours at M	
9:30A	Worship (M) Annual Meeting & fellowship following						
11A	Worship (S) Annual Meeting & fellowship following						
8A	Worship (H)						
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)	Pastor's Sabbath 9:30A Root River Conf 9A Stitch & Chat Quilters (S) 11:15A MOW (M—Ruth Circle)	11:15A MOW (M—Ruth Circle)	10A-12P Office Hours at H 11:15A MOW (M—Ruth Circle) 2-4P Office Hours at M 6:30P Ash Wednesday Service (H/M/S at Mabel UMC)	9A WELCA Bible Study (S) 11:15A MOW (M—Ruth Circle) 1P Food Shelf Delivery 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A-12P Office Hours at M	9A Quilters Therapy at H 10A-12P Food Shelf Open
9:30A	Worship (M) fellowship following						
11A	Worship (S)						
8A	Worship (H)						
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)	Pastor's Sabbath 11:15A MOW (S)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (S)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 11:15A MOW (S) 2-4P Office Hours at H 5P Lenten Supper at (H/M/S at H)	10A Interim Pastors' Mtg 11:15A MOW (S) 5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)	10A Worship at Green Lea Sr. Living 11:15A MOW (S)	
9:30A	Worship (M) fellowship following						
11A	Worship (S)						
2P	Root River Conf. Assembly						
8A	Worship (H)						
9A	Sunday School (M/S at M)	Pastor's Sabbath 10A-12P Office Hours at M	10A-12P Office Hours at M 2-4P Office Hours at H 5P Lenten Supper at (H/M/S at M)	10A-12P Office Hours at M 2-4P Office Hours at H 5P Lenten Supper at (H/M/S at M)	5-7P Food Shelf 7P AA (<i>Clsd Mtg</i>)		
9:30A	Worship (M) fellowship following						
11A	Worship (S)						