



# Mabel First Lutheran Church Scheie Lutheran Church



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### CHURCH INFORMATION

#### Office Phone:

507-493-5293

#### Email:

office@mabelfirst.org

#### Website:

mabelfirst.org

#### Facebook Page:

Mabel First Lutheran  
Scheie Lutheran Church

## JULY/AUGUST 2024 NEWS

### SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE-JULY

**July 7** 8AM Mabel First (fellowship hall) All are welcome!  
(more details under Search Committee Update)  
*No services held at Henrytown or Scheie.*

**July 14 & 28** 8AM Worship at Mabel First—Coffee & fellowship after  
9:30AM Worship at Scheie  
11AM Worship at Henrytown

**July 20** 5PM Outdoor Worship & Potluck at Henrytown

**July 21** 8AM Worship at Mabel First—Coffee & fellowship following  
9:30AM Worship at Scheie  
*No worship at Henrytown*

July Ushers (MFL): Chuck Dahl (chairman), Donald & Louise Kleiboer

### SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE-AUGUST

**August 4, 11 & 25**

8AM Worship at Henrytown  
9:30AM Worship at Mabel First—Coffee & fellowship following  
11AM Worship at Scheie—fellowship preceding Aug. 4 only

**August 18** 9AM Canton Day Off Ecumenical Worship (Fest Tent  
in Canton) music by Greg Wennes

*The Lord's Supper/Holy Communion will be celebrated during worship at  
Henrytown, Mabel First and Scheie on July 14 and August 4 & 11.*

August Ushers (MFL): Jolyn Mikesh (chairman), Tyler Mikesh & Brian Johnson

### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Parish Search Committee has been formed! Thank you Dorothy Coons, Steven Darrington, Dick Engrav, Rochelle Middendorf (chair), Gerald Peter, and Joey Reico for sharing your time & talents to lead the Pastoral Search process. *(at-large youth position is still available).* Please pray for these individuals, the Parish Board, & our Parish as we journey through this process together.

The Search Committee is working with our Parish Board to submit our Ministry Site Profiles (MSP) by August. MSPs are a tool used to help match pastoral candidates & congregations.

MFL & Henrytown will be hosting discussions during their respective worship times on June 30<sup>th</sup>. MFL will host again on July 7th during worship (8AM). *(Both gatherings @ MFL will be in the fellowship hall w/ refreshments.)* All are welcome to participate. The more voices we hear, the more complete our profile will be (hopefully translating into a smoother search process). It is the hope of both the Search Committee & the Parish Board to share as full a picture of our identity, hopes, needs, & goals as we can to perspective pastors. Input can also be shared with any Search Committee or Parish Board member. Thank you in advance for your help!

Below is a summary of the questions we will be prayerfully considering & discussing:

- How would you describe our church setting to someone who does not know us?
- What are the most critical tasks required of a pastor in our parish?
- What gifts would be helpful to have in order for a pastor to thrive in our parish?

# CONGREGATION INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR CARLA at #507-493-5293 or [pastor@mabelfirst.org](mailto:pastor@mabelfirst.org)  
for PASTORAL CARE

## PASTORAL ACTS

### MAY & JUNE

**Baptisms:** None

**Committal:** Dode Stoskopf on May 12

**Baccalaureate** on May 19

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### BEREAVEMENT

Family & friends of

Virgil Reicks, Ron Kolman, Al Spande

### IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS

Rick Bjertness, Dorothy Gjerdrum, Joyce Graves, Lynell Nemitz, Adam Olson, Marilyn Dahl Torgerud, Laura Vatland, John Westby, Marlene Wisland

### LONG-TERM HEALTH CONCERNS/CARE

Gary Adams, Gwen Allen, Leona Amdahl, Dean Garness, Keith Halverson, Shelly Henry, LeeAnn Howard, Ellen Mae Johnson, Lois Johnson, Rosemary Ketchum, Helen Larson, Ryan Lee, Les Myhre, Violet Pederson, Penniann Ramirez, Lynn Sollien, Dacia Sorum, Janice Spande, Bob Stoskopf

### SERVICE MEMBERS

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

### ONGOING PRAYERS

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

## MFL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

\*Steve Darrington, treas. 563-735-5816  
Brian Johnson 507-493-5658  
Michael Kowalsky 507-493-5192  
\*Deanna Larson, v.p. 507-493-5206  
Jolyn Mikesh 507-208-8816  
\*Janet Sanden, sec. 507-493-5078  
\*Lori Schutte, pres. 507-493-5670  
Rodney Tollefsrud 507-493-5570  
*Position Open*

## SCHEIE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Laurie Bigalk 507-459-3165  
\*Dick Engrav, v.p. 507-493-5021  
Nancy Engrav 507-493-5021  
\*DeeAnn Erickson, treas. 507-493-5233  
Trudy Horihan 507-493-5749  
\*Deb Marsden, sec. 507-493-5651  
\*Gerald Peter, pres. 507-493-5026  
Adam Olson 507-450-6066  
Carolyn White 507-493-5111

## PARISH BOARD

\*denotes MFL and Scheie members of the Parish Board. Henrytown members are Brock Bergey, Jen Dowling, Rochelle Middendorf, and Fay Garness.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

Henrytown: Rochelle Middendorf & Joey Recio  
Mabel First: Dorothy Coons & Steve Darrington  
Henrytown: Dick Engrav & Gerald Peter  
There is an opening for 1 Youth Member

### Pastor's Sabbath: Monday

**Pastor's Office Hours:** (*barring emergency*)

**Tuesday** 10AM-12PM at Mabel First (*except 2nd Tuesday*)

**Wednesday** 10AM-12PM (*at Henrytown on 1st & 2nd*) (*at Mabel First on 3rd, 4th, 5th*)  
2-4PM (*at Mabel First on 1st & 2nd*) (*at Henrytown on 3rd, 4th, 5th*)

**Friday** 10AM-12PM at Mabel First (*except 4th Friday*)

**No office hours June 29 through July 8 while Pastor Carla is on vacation.**

Pastor Pam Seebach (507-272-1788) will be available for emergencies that week.

PARISH BOARD

The Parish Board and Search Committee met at Scheie on May 5 to delineate which questions in the Ministry Site profile should be answered as a parish and which as individual congregations. Meeting was scheduled for June 23 to work on the parish sections. However, that was postponed to July 28<sup>th</sup>. Congregations will be working on the individual questions during Pastor Carla's vacation June 29 to July 8.

MABEL FIRST LUTHERAN INFORMATION

CHALLENGE

WELCA

Following the council decision to proceed with landscaping at the parsonage by The Plant Lady, \$1,000 in donations for the project were received with a challenge to the congregation to donate additional funds. Any funds received in excess of the cost would be targeted for landscaping of the church property when that project is started. To donate to this project, write a check to Mabel First Lutheran with "landscaping" in the memo line or place cash in an offering envelop and write "landscaping" in the space under Improvement Fund.

Remember the **Salad Luncheon** on July 11. Ruth Circle is responsible for **flowers, coffee and cookies** in July and Lydia in August. MFL has **Meals on Wheels** July 1-5 (Rachel), July 29-Aug. 2 (Lydia), and Aug. 26-30 (Ruth). Next **WELCA meeting** will be **August 1** at 9 AM with Ruth Circle as hostess.

STEAM ENGINE DAYS

SCHEIE INFOMATION

This would normally be the edition of the newsletter with all the Steam Engine Days food stand assignments. At the annual meeting, it was voted to discontinue the food stand because no one was willing to chair the event. Our budget did not decrease accordingly, so please consider a special donation to the church in appreciation for one less thing on your plate for Steam Engine Days.

Scheie has **Meals on Wheels** July 8-12 and August 5-9. **Readers** of Lessons during worship are needed. Please contact Carolyn White if you are able to do this. Persons willing to serve as **ushers** or **communion assistants** are needed. Please contact a council member if you are willing to serve in this way.

SCHEIE LUTHERAN COUNCIL

Greetings from the council. We pray that we all have a wonderful summer.

- The council has been involved with the beginning of the call process. If any member would like to share with us what is important or what they expect of our Parish minister, please feel free to contact any of the council members by the 2nd Sunday in July. Dick Engrav and Gerald Peter are Scheie's representatives on the call committee.
- We will be having a raffle once again. Thanks to all who have donated money or other items for the raffle. Tickets are not available yet but hopefully soon.
- Neil Halverson attended our last council meeting discussing the possibility of Scheie having a columbarrium. If you are interested, please contact Neil.
- We are still working on Scheie's membership list. If there has been a change in your membership and uncertain if a transfer in or out has been done, please contact Pastor Carla or myself.
- There will be no church outside in July. If we do have church outside in August, it will probably be once in August.
- Keep us in your prayers for our call process

Respectfully, Debbie Marsden secretary

## MABEL FIRST LUTHERAN COUNCIL

**May 1, 2024 Meeting Highlights**

- **M/S/P** to authorize the treasurer to use money from the Improvement Fund as needed to pay for the new furnace at the parsonage.
- Property and Management
  - ◊ Some major landscape work is needed at the parsonage. Current plans are for the property and management committee to enlist a couple men to help with the work.
  - ◊ Due to the cost of insurance, another company has been contacted to provide a bid and it appears the cost will be significantly less than the bill recently received. **M/S/P** to hold a special meeting on May 8 or 9 with an agent from that company to obtain sufficient information to make a decision.
- Youth & Education
  - ◊ Youth will do ditch clean-up followed by a pizza party on May 8.
  - ◊ Fifth and sixth grade students have been invited to attend First Communion classes after school on May 2 with First Communion being offered at the May 5 worship service
- The Parish Board decided to participate in the Canton Day Off Ecumenical Worship Service sponsored by the Area Council of Churches in lieu of worship in the individual churches on August 18.
- Baccalaureate will be held here on May 19 at 4:30 PM with Mabel First as the lead host.

**May 8, 2024 Special Meeting**

Decision was made to transfer insurance coverage from Church Mutual to North Star Mutual Insurance Company at a cost of \$5705 for six months.

**June 5, 2024 Meeting Highlights**

- Money has now been used from designated funds to pay bills. This will need to be repaid by the end of the year.
- Youth and Education
  - ◊ Four students received First Communion on May 5.
  - ◊ Senior Recognition Sunday was held on May 19 with three seniors present.
- Property and Management
  - ◊ The hydraulic cylinders in the elevator need to be repacked. **M/S/P** to authorize that repair as a safety concern.
  - ◊ There is new water damage on the south wall of the fellowship hall. Efforts are underway to determine the cause and possible fix.
  - ◊ There was flooding in the parsonage basement during a recent heavy rain. The gutters have been cleaned and an estimate for installing leaf guards has been requested.
  - ◊ Jessi and Joe of The Plant Lady recently provided suggestions for landscape options at the church and parsonage. An estimate of \$2100 was received to complete landscaping and lawn replacement on the north and west side of the parsonage. M/S/P to approve the plan and schedule the work.
- Discussion was held regarding some of the information requested for the ministry site profile to be prepared as part of the call process. Some information will be congregation specific and some will be parish wide. Consensus was to include some of the questions in the July/August newsletter and to use the worship time during Pastor Carla's vacation to reflect on this and build our profile.



## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR:

*I will lead the blind by a road they do not know;  
by paths they have not known I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I will do,  
and I will not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

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

The world is changing and has been changing. The church is in the same boat. In an ironic way, we are fortunate to be officially recognized as being in transition. As much as change causes anxiety, at least we can be up front about it. We are very aware that change is part of our existence.

It takes a ton of energy to hide the fact (or hide from the fact) that things are changing. Many congregations are exhausted by trying to return to a time that is never returning (and was probably not nearly as idyllic as the memories are). There are no magic bullets or programs that will turn back time. For that matter, as much as we honor our histories and learn from them, we are called to be the church now – in this time and place.

In June, I attended a mini-retreat introducing 'Faith+Lead', a ministry of Luther Seminary. The following are Six Commitments of the church as identified by Faith+Lead team. These 'commitments' are timely reminders of 'non-negotiables' for congregations in a changing religious climate. I noticed that these same commitments also highlight truths often taken for granted.

**The Triune God** *is actively creating, reconciling, healing, and restoring the world.*

**God is with us in Jesus** *and invites us to join in what God is doing.*

**The gospel of Jesus Christ** *is a matter of life and death for the whole world.*

**The Holy Spirit** *gathers and sustains the local church—and will continue to do so.*

**God is the primary leader** *of the local church.*

**All Christians are called** *to follow Jesus by joining God's work in daily life.*

Anyone notice a common denominator in those commitments? (*Hint: GOD*) God is active. God is in charge. God is gathering. God is inviting. God is guiding. God is sustaining. God is empowering. God is inspiring. The non-negotiable for the Church (on earth and in heaven) is very simple - God is at the center. As simple as it is, it may be historically the most frequently forgotten characteristic of the church on earth.

I remember a family whose children (& later grandchildren) learned early on to make sure they were all in the car before mom left the church parking lot. Sometimes Christians try to drive off without God. It can be difficult to remember that not only should God be in the car, but also driving and navigating.

We are called to follow where God leads. Yes, the world changes. Yes, change impacts the church. Yes, we trust that God, who has promised to lead us, will actually do so. As the Hebrew congregations were reminded centuries ago, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)

The grace and peace that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,  
Pastor Carla

**Mabel First Lutheran WELCA**

# *Salad* LUNCHEON




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**JULY**  
**11<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Thursday*

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
*Mabel First Lutheran  
Fellowship Hall*  
202 NORTH OAK • MABEL, MN

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**\$10.00**  
12 & Under  
**\$5.00**

ASSORTED SALADS,  
BREADS, CRACKERS,  
BARS & BEVERAGE

*Everyone  
Welcome!*

**OTHER—COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- July 7 Waterloo Ridge Ice Cream Social from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- July 12 Fillmore County Relay for Life in Spring Valley  
Survivor Tea 3-4 pm; Meal from 5-7 pm; Opening Ceremony 6 pm; Other Activities until 11 pm Closing
- July 19 Free Concert featuring Incognito at Good Earth Village-Gates open at 5 pm, Music at 6 pm, Food Trucks available
- July 20 Simple Living Farmers' Market at Joe's Pizza Palace & Pub parking lot in Mabel 8:30 to 11:30 am
- July 28 Charlie Warner & Friends Music on the Lawn at Mabel UMC at 5 pm
- Aug. 17 Simple Living Farmers' Market at Joe's Pizza Palace & Pub parking lot in Mabel 8:30 to 11:30 am
- Aug. 18 Assumption Catholic Church Dinner & Salad Bar from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm