

THE FIRST MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2

FLC Office closed | Labor Day

September 4

Confirmation Orientation
Jubilate Choir begins
Alleluia Ringers begin

September 8

Regular Worship times resume
Rally Sunday!

September 11

Wednesday Worship resumes
Rally Wednesday!

September 17

Tai Ji Quan Begins
Theology on Tap begins

September 19

High School FREE Pizza Lunch

September 22

Adult Faith Formation/Fix-it-
Forward Ministry

Happy September!

As the summer warmth begins to give way to the crispness of fall, I am looking forward to all the education, worship, and fellowship activities that come with this transition in our church year.

This season will bring many opportunities to learn, serve, and grow your faith. Your involvement, whether through prayer, participation, or contribution, is what makes our church effective in spreading the love of Christ.

You can prepare and be engaged in FLC this fall by:

- Praying for wisdom to guide our church staff and leaders to make decisions that benefit our church and share the love of Christ.
- Regularly and actively participating in worship, programs, and events to grow your faith, connect with others, and build a vibrant and supportive community.
- Volunteering on a committee, for a program, or during worship to share your time and talents. Volunteers are vital to the functioning and flourishing of our church.
- Donating financially to support the essential functioning and growth of FLC.

Thank you for your dedication to being an integral part of our church family. I look forward to seeing what great things we can accomplish together this year!

Blessings,
Carla Solem, Vision Council President

From Pastor Joe...

Happy September, FLC!

There is so much to consider as we find ourselves at the beginning of the month of September: the start of a new school year, the cultural change of seasons post-Labor Day, the ramp up to the FLC programmatic year with Sunday School, Wednesday School, Confirmation, High School ministries, music ministries, Theology on Tap, and so much more.

That all said, I am going to take this opportunity to promote a new ministry endeavor starting soon: Wednesday Night Adult Devotional. For a more detailed invitation on this new opportunity, turn to page 12.

As a lead up to that page, here is a devotion for September 1st, from Henri Nouwen's *You are the Beloved*:

Your Inner Community

Those you have deeply loved become part of you. The longer you live, there will always be more people to be loved by you and to become part of your inner community. The wider your inner community becomes, the more easily you will recognize your own brothers and sisters in the strangers around you...The wider the community of your heart, the wider the community around you.

I think part of Jesus' vision for all of us is that we recognize we are meant for community. Jesus wanted us to identify as a part of one another. Jesus understood that *belonging* and identifying with community gives us life: purpose, compassion, comfort, and strength.

Jesus believed this so much that he often identified his personal identity with our collective identity, that our togetherness is his divine dwelling place (Cf. "*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them*" [Mt 18:20]; *We are Christ's me* [Acts 9:4]; "*For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it*" [1 Cor. 12:13a, 27]).

According to our Savior there is deep sacredness and divinity to be experienced when we live into connection with one another. Perhaps this Wednesday Night Adult Devotional time can be such a connection for you.

In any case, I so look forward to the sacredness of community to be experienced in all kinds of places this upcoming programmatic year.

Peace,

Pr. Joe

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *You Are the Beloved: Daily Mediations for Spiritual Living* (New York: Convergent, 2017), 269.

From Pastor Matthew...

Thought Tidbit: "Breathe in, breathe out, my two feet on the ground." That's a line from one of my favorite songs by Judah and the Lion, "Is What It Is". And I think that's a line we can hold in our minds over the next month or so, at least. Summer is winding down, and it may have been chaotic. Lots of events, traveling, trips, and packed schedules. And now the school year is fast approaching and with it comes Fall and a changing of the seasons. Schedules will continue to be packed with events and trips and sports. It's important for us to breathe. Remember that production does not and will never define who you are. You are loved by God by just being. So when the seasons turn over, when the schedules stay full, when you're grieving the loss of summer and what was or could have been, "Breathe in, breathe out. Your two feet are on the ground." You are enough, by just being.

What I've been doing: I offer here the books, films, and other art forms I'm engaging in for the month. These are in no way a recommendation for anything listed, just an offering of what I've explored in the last month. I believe art and the imagination to be a Truth telling device as we live out the Gospel together. Engaging in and consuming art together is a way to be the Kingdom of God, here and now, together. So here is what I've been reading, viewing, and listening to this month:

- Some Kind of Peace (Music album by Ólafur Arnalds)
- Specters of God: An Anatomy of the Apophatic Imagination (Book by John Caputo)
- Abbott Elementary (T.V. show on Hulu)
- Project Hail Mary (Book by Andy Weir)

As always, my door is always open, stop in for a chat and a warm or cold beverage.

Best, Pastor Matthew Engum



Lutheran World Relief School Kit Drive

A total of 62 School Kits were recently packed, boxed, and ready to ship off.

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies!



Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance



Are you someone who would benefit from improving your strength and balance? Exercise not only improves strength and balance but also improves bone health by preventing bone loss, leading to fewer fractures and better balance. I will be offering another Tai Ji Quan class starting September 17th. This 12 week class will meet two times a week for one hour. Each session includes warm-up exercises, a mix of Tai Ji Quan forms and brief cool-down exercises. You'll learn eight Tai Ji Quan forms plus therapeutic variations. This is a fun class that will help to improve your strength and balance! All are welcome. Contact me with any questions or sign up at the volunteer table across from the elevator in the commons area. Hope to see you there!

FLC Visitation Team Meeting: September 15th @ 9:30am in the library

The Visitation Team is a ministry team currently consisting of six congregation members who volunteer some time each month to visit a member of FLC who can no longer attend worship and other activities of FLC. Most of the individuals who are visited continue to live in their own homes, are unable to drive, and really appreciate having someone from First Lutheran visit them on a regular basis. **We need more members on this team!** We are looking for people who love to visit, can listen, and can devote time to visit each month. The team member is matched up with a FLC member. The team member is then asked to call or visit the FLC member at least once per month if possible. You get to set the day and time of the visits with the FLC member. There have been strong friendships formed from these visits, benefiting both the team member and the FLC member who receives the visits! There is a team meeting scheduled for **Sunday, September 15th at 9:30 AM in the library.** If you are interested in joining or would like more information regarding this team, please grab a cup of coffee and attend this meeting. You will hear stories from current members on what this ministry means to them and get information regarding the ministry. This ministry is led by Denise, Parish Nurse and meets 2 to 4 times per year. Please prayerfully consider joining this team! ***Matthew 25:36** I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

SEPT - MAY

5-6pm OASIS MEAL
6-6:30pm WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30pm WEDNESDAY SCHOOL &
CONFIRMATION

BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 11



The church office will
be closed on

LABOR DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2



September News

September 4th @ 6pm - Confirmation (7th and 8th) Student and Parent/Guardian Orientation

September 8th - First Day of Sunday School

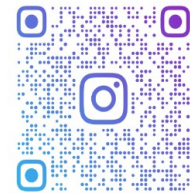
September 11th - First Day of Oasis, Worship, and Wednesday School

Upcoming Children's Ministry Service Projects

- Prek - Sept. 25th - Helping the Hungry
- Kindergarten - Oct. 9th - Helping Those in Crisis

Held on Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 in the chapel; Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend with their child

Follow First Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry on Instagram!



FLC_YFM

Looking Ahead

Fall Break: No Classes on Wed Oct. 16th and Sun Oct. 20th

High School: Watch for upcoming hangouts and events.



Rally Sun/Wed
Sept. 8th & 11th

Bring your backpack to worship for a special blessing for the 24-25 school year



High School Lunches



Join Pr. Joe and Pr. Matthew for **FREE** lunch at Pizza Ranch every 3rd Thursday of the month



FLC Youth Room
is looking for
4-5 couches

Contact
Olivia YFM Dir. and/or Pr. Matthew



PUPPET MINISTRY

FYM is looking for volunteers to help out with our puppet ministry. If interested, please reach out to Olivia.

Theology On Tap

7:00 PM

the first Tuesday & third Tuesday of the month



Questions about Life?
 Questions about God?
 Questions about Both?
 Come ponder over a cold, local brew with a curious community.

Area churches leading study:
 First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes
 St. Peter's Lutheran, Audubon
 First Lutheran, Audubon



Located at the New
 Bucks Mill Brewing
 824 Washington Ave
 Detroit Lakes



Best Rootbeer

MEMORIAL GIFTS

FLC acknowledges with grateful appreciation these memorials which have been received this past month.

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Jack Waryan

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

In Memory of: Jim Elletson

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

In Memory of: Pete & Liz Mathison

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of: Sydney & Adam's Marriage

Given by: Scott & Susan Busker

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Jack Waryan

Given by: Kris Tovson

GENERAL

In Memory of: Jack Waryan

Given by: Duane & Claudia Arne

In Memory of: Ron Fasteen

Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

AGAPE

In Memory of: Jim Elletson

Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson

In Memory of: Jim Elletson

Given by: Bob Jernberg

KITCHEN

In Memory of: Marilyn Weiler

Given by: Ardys Horner

In Memory of: Marilyn Weiler

Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson

MUSIC

In Memory of: Marilyn Weiler

Given by: Max & Judy Maxwell

Reminder: when giving memorials to the FLC Foundation or FLC Quilters, please make separate checks.

July 2024 Financial Snapshot



Actual Revenue*	\$42,507.43
Budget Revenue	<u>\$56,481.00</u>
Favorable/(Unfavorable)	\$(13,973.57)

*unaudited

NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The total from the July Noisy Offering, going to
Lutheran Disaster Response is \$520.15

Check back next month for noisy offering total for August going to **Cornerstone Community and Youth Center.**

In the month of September, the Noisy Offering will go towards:

VBS & Future Missions Trips –FLC Youth & Family Ministry

The Alleluia Ringers want you!

Please join us for an "Introduction to Bells" on **Wednesday September 4 at 6:15 PM** in the music room. Our rehearsals are every Wednesday from 6:15 to 7:15 and we provide the musical message at the 8:30 service every other week.

Playing bells requires you to be able to count - and read the notes your bells will play. We look forward to "Ringing to God" in praise! For questions - contact Carla Hansen, director, at 701-200-8984 or Hansencarla62@gmail.com



JUBILATE CHOIR 2024 - 2025

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...come into his presence with singing!"

What an incredible joy it will be to return to making music this fall at FLC as members of our Jubilate Church Choir! For those of you who have faithfully served as Jubilate Choir members, you know the fulfillment it brings to be involved in worship ministry and you also know what a joy it is to sing praises in worship to God, our Heavenly Father, and His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you have ever been an FLC Jubilate Choir member involved in worship ministry, you know what a joy it is to sing to our Lord in worship. You also know what a privilege it is to lead members of your congregation in worship to our God we all love and serve. If you have ever thought about joining us, now is the time to do so! We invite you with open arms and hearts to join with us to share in leading the congregation in worship on Sunday mornings where we typically sing at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Please consider joining us - there are only a few requirements. Actually, I can think of only one requirement really - just a desire to sing with a bunch of really great authentic people who happen to be members of the Jubilate Choir!

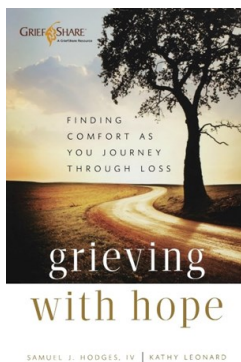
I am very excited to once again return and start our Fall Season together as the Director of the FLC Jubilate Choir. Please join us in rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 4, from 7:15pm - 8:15pm** in preparation for our worship services on Rally Sunday, September 8th. All you need to bring to rehearsal is your voice, and a willingness to praise God! We welcome all adults and high school students who want to explore the joy of singing and harmonizing! No experience is necessary, only a desire to participate and celebrate!

The time for voices singing in praise has come!

The FLC Jubilate Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room and the choir will sing 2 to 3 Sundays a month.

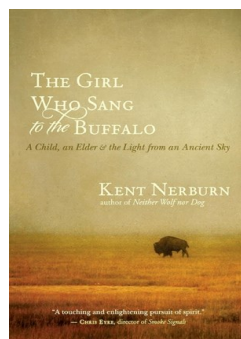
We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 4th!
- Kathryn Larson, Director





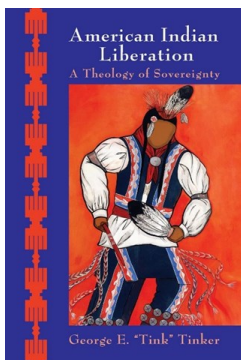
Grieving with Hope
by Samuel Hodges

This book is packed with short, biblically based, gospel-centered, topical chapters addressing the issues grieving people face but are often hesitant to mention to others. It helps readers accurately interpret the message their emotions are sending them and gently guides them to determine whether they're grieving in a way that leads to hope and ultimate healing. *Grieving with Hope* helps the bereaved discover how hope and peace are available amidst their heartache and pain.



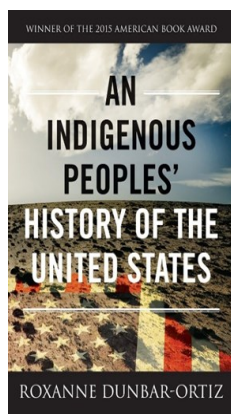
The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo
by Kent Nerburn

Part history, part mystery, part spiritual journey and teaching story, *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* is filled with the profound insight into humanity and Native American culture we have come to expect from Nerburn's journeys. As the American Indian College Fund has stated, once you have encountered Nerburn's stirring evocations of America's high plains and incisive insights into the human heart, you can never look at the world, or at people, the same way again."



American Indian Liberation
by George Tinker

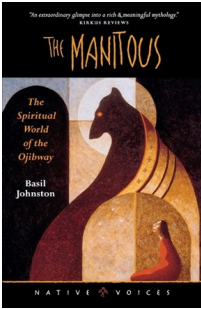
In this book, "Tink" Tinker focuses in particular on differing understandings of Jesus Christ and of the land, and the centrality of both to the "theology of sovereignty" and the challenges communities of faith face, particularly indigenous communities, in a postcolonial world.



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States
by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States is an essential resource providing historical threads that are crucial for understanding the present. In *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. And as Dunbar-Ortiz reveals, this policy was praised in popular culture, through writers like James Fenimore Cooper and Walt Whitman, and in the highest offices of government and the military. Shockingly, as the genocidal policy reached its zenith under President Andrew Jackson, its ruthlessness was best articulated by US Army general Thomas S. Jesup, who, in 1836, wrote of the Seminoles: "The country can be rid of them only by exterminating them."

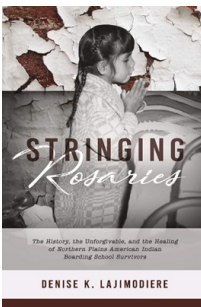
Check out these new reads!



***The Manitous*
by Basil Johnston**

Manitous lived in human form among the Ojibway in the early days, after Kitchi-Manitou (the Great Mystery) created all things and Muzzu-Kummik-Quae (Mother Earth) revealed the natural order of the world. With depth and humor, Johnston tells how lasting tradition was brought to the Ojibway by four half-human brothers, including Nana'b'oozoo, the beloved archetypal being who means well but often blunders. He also relates how people are helped and hindered by other entities, such as the manitous of the forests and meadows, personal manitous and totems, mermen and merwomen, Pauguk (the cursed Flying Skeleton), and the Weendigoes, famed and terrifying giant cannibals.

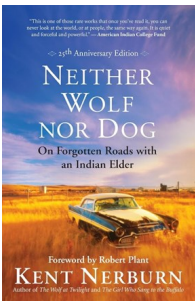
***Stringing Rosaries*
by Denise Lajimodiere**



Denise Lajimodiere's interest in American Indian boarding school survivors stories evolved from recording her father and other family members speaking of their experiences. Her research helped her to gain insight, a deeper understanding of her parents, and how and why she and her siblings were parented in the way they were. That insight led her to an emotional ceremony of forgiveness, described in the last chapter of *Stringing Rosaries*. The journey to record survivors stories led her through the Dakotas and Minnesota and into the personal and private space of boarding school survivors. While there, she heard stories that they had never shared before. She came to an understanding of new terms: historical and inter-generational trauma, soul wound.

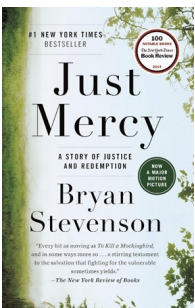
Stringing Rosaries presents a brief history of the boarding school programs for Indigenous Americans, followed by sixteen interviews with boarding school survivors, and ending with the author's own healing journey with her father.

***Neither Wolf Nor Dog*
by Kent Nerburn**



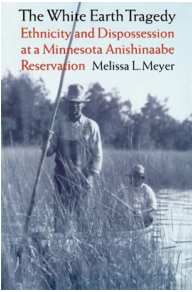
Against an unflinching backdrop of 1990s reservation life and the majestic spaces of the western Dakotas, *Neither Wolf nor Dog* tells the story of two men, one white and one Indian, locked in their own understandings yet struggling to find a common voice. In this award-winning book, acclaimed author Kent Nerburn draws us deep into the world of a Native American elder named Dan, who leads Kent through Indian towns and down forgotten roads that swirl with the memories of the Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull. Along the way we meet a vivid cast of characters — ranging from Jumbo, a 400-pound mechanic, to Annie, an eighty-year-old Lakota woman living in a log cabin with no running water. An unlikely cross between *On the Road* and *Black Elk Speaks*, *Neither Wolf nor Dog* takes us past the myths and stereotypes of the Native American experience, revealing an America few ever see.

***Just Mercy*
by Bryan Stevenson**



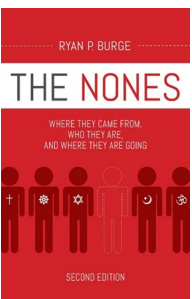
Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Check out these new reads!



White Earth Tragedy – Ethnicity and Dispossession at a Minnesota Anishinaabe Reservation
by Melissa Meyer

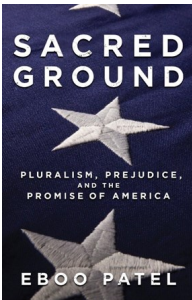
This compelling interdisciplinary history of an Anishinaabe community at the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota offers a subtle and sophisticated look at changing social, economic, and political relations among the Anishinaabeg and reveals how cultural forces outside of the reservation profoundly affected their lives.



The Nones
by Ryan Burge

The growth of the nones in American society has been dramatic. In 1972, just 5 percent of Americans claimed "no religion" on the General Social Survey. In 2018, that number rose to 23.7 percent, making the nones as numerous as both evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics. Every indication is that the nones will be the largest religious group in the United States in the next decade. *The Nones* gives readers a nuanced, accurate, and meaningful picture of the growing number of Americans who say that they have no religious affiliation. Burge explains how this rise happened, who the nones are, and what they mean for the future of American religion.

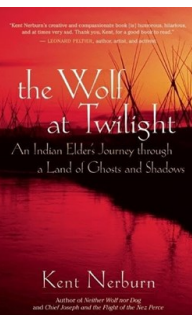
Sacred Ground
by Eboo Patel



There is no better time to stand up for your values than when they are under attack. Alarmist, hateful rhetoric once relegated to the fringes of political discourse has now become frighteningly mainstream, with pundits and politicians routinely invoking the specter of Islam as a menacing, deeply anti-American force.

In *Sacred Ground*, author and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel says this prejudice is not just a problem for Muslims but a challenge to the very idea of America. Patel shows us that Americans from George Washington to Martin Luther King Jr. have been "interfaith leaders," illustrating how the forces of pluralism in America have time and again defeated the forces of prejudice. Patel offers a primer in the art and science of interfaith work, bringing to life the growing body of research on how faith can be a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division and sharing stories from the frontlines of interfaith activism.

Patel asks us to share in his vision of a better America—a robustly pluralistic country in which our commonalities are more important than our differences, and in which difference enriches, rather than threatens, our religious traditions. Pluralism, Patel boldly argues, is at the heart of the American project, and this visionary book will inspire Americans of all faiths to make this country a place where diverse traditions can thrive side by side.



The Wolf at Twilight – An Elders Journey through a Land of Ghosts and Shadows
by Kent Nerburn

A note is left on a car windshield, an old dog dies, and Kent Nerburn finds himself back on the Lakota reservation where he traveled more than a decade before with a tribal elder named Dan. The touching, funny, and haunting journey that ensues goes deep into reservation boarding-school mysteries, the dark confines of sweat lodges, and isolated Native homesteads far back in the Dakota hills in search of ghosts that have haunted Dan since childhood.

In this fictionalized account of actual events, Nerburn brings the land of the northern High Plains alive and reveals the Native American way of teaching and learning with a depth that few outsiders have ever captured.

Check out these new reads!

Angels

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you. Isaiah 42:6

See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:10

She fell asleep on the 2-mile trek home from movie night at Papa Jordan's, the culmination of a day bursting with family events. Oaklyn roused enough to get out of the car and into the house under her own power. Her pajamas were donned more by touch than by what little sight penetrated her eyes, which were now narrow slits.

"Prayers, Grandma," the words muffled as they escaped from her exhausted cheeks. She snuggled under the blanket. We said her prayer first, although it was carried mostly by my voice.

Here I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. When in the morning light I wake, show me the path of love to take. Amen

Then came the Lord's Prayer, which Oaklyn usually refers to as "Grandma's" prayer. With her eyes closed, her voice joined in, surprisingly gaining power. Then, in her daze of sleepiness, "Grandma, can we do the short one?" She meant her prayer, her dreamy head not conscious enough to remember the first time around, so she joined me as we prayed it a second time, its words enfolding her in the comfort of God's love.

Children's prayers can offer the protections of angels, or the promise of God's presence with or love for them during the dark night. As we grow in our relationship with God, our prayers also grow to include gratitude, entreaties for others, and requests for God to increase our understanding of His word and His path for our lives. Sometimes adults (including me) can be carried off to sleep trusting in God's comfort, love, and peace in children's prayers.

By Patti Cummins



Adult Faith Formation



Sunday, September 22 | 9:30 – 10:30am @ the FLC Church Library

Steve Ystebo has a story to tell and you will have the opportunity to hear it September 22 right here at First Lutheran!

Fix It Forward Ministry is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity. It is in partnership with Fix It Forward Auto Care and its four Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo locations. The goal of Fix It Forward Ministry is to remove the transportation barrier for the most in-need members of the community, thus helping enable them to be independent and self-sufficient. This is accomplished in two ways:

- *by providing free car repairs to needy individuals to help keep their vehicles on the road and safe*
- *by repairing donated vehicles and giving them to needy members in the community who do not have a vehicle or whose vehicle is beyond repair*

Fix It Forward Auto Care provides the shop space, equipment, and resources for Fix It Forward Ministry volunteer teams to work after business hours and on weekends. Volunteer labor is utilized along with discounted parts and charitable donations to cover the cost of repairs. It's interesting to note that every Fix It Forward Auto Care team member in all four locations is involved in the Ministry.

Nearly 500 vehicles have been gifted since 2018! Well over 1000 vehicles have been repaired.

This Ministry is truly Driven to Serve both the in-need and our Lord.

Come, sip a hot beverage, and hear Steve's story!

(Sponsored by FLC Adult Faith Formation Team)

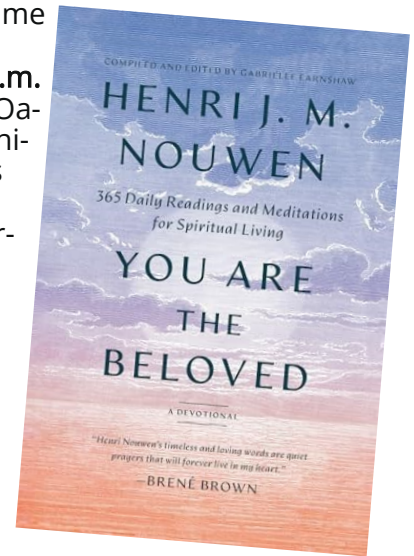
WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT DEVOTIONAL

It seems today, we are a hard-pressed people who are rushing from one task to another! Are we ever solitary, still, free or are we always busy with something that just can't wait? Is it difficult to find a space where God can allow "something new" to really take place?

Maybe that "something new" could be a Wednesday evening devotional time that Pastor

Joe and Pastor Matthew will "kick off" on Wednesday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church library. This time slot will follow the regular Oasis family meal (5 to 6 p.m.) and the 6 p.m. worship service. This opportunity will continue every Wednesday evening following the same schedule as the Wednesday school and confirmation classes. The session leader will consist of Pastor Joe or Pastor Matthew or lay leader from the First Lutheran faith community.

Following the recommendation of our pastors, this Henri Nouwen book, *You Are the Beloved*, will be used during the sessions and by the participant during the week. The book consists of 365 daily devotions that typically include less than a page of content that will stimulate self-thinking and processing. Participants will be encouraged to acquire the book . . . there will be a dozen books available at the Wednesday, October 2, session on a first come – first served basis with no cost to the participant.



There are approximately seven million Nouwen books in print, and they all offer deep spiritual insight into human experiences, intimacy, brokenness, and compassion. *New York Times* bestselling author Brené Brown says that "Henri Nouwen's timeless and loving words are quiet prayers that will forever live in my heart."

It has been shared that the daily devotions in this book "empower readers to claim their central identity as the "beloved" of God and live out that truth in their daily lives". Let's give it a try and join us on Wednesday evenings with "kick off" on Wednesday, October 2.

Several comments within this article were taken from the January 18 devotion of *You Are the Beloved*.

The Adult Faith Formation Team here at FLC is sponsoring this opportunity and encourages you to consider attending. If you have questions, please visit with either Pastor Joe or Pastor Matthew or a member of the Adult Faith Formation Team.

Deep Roots Festival

How does the Local Food System support our community and your health? This question is being addressed by First Lutheran Church's Creation Care Team.

To find out more about local food systems, join us for the fourth annual Deep Roots Festival on Saturday, September 14 at Maple Hills Orchard (29355 130th Street, Frazee, MN) from 3:00

-7:00 p.m. The festival includes educational workshops, family-friendly activities, local vendors, organic products, food trucks, and live music by local talents. Pre-festival tours to businesses and farms producing great food in our own area run from 11:00-2:45 for ticket holders. Experience the best of Minnesota's countryside and community spirit!

For more info and tickets, visit: sfa-mn.org/deep-roots-festival.

Article submitted by: Gary Goreham, on behalf of the Creation Care Team



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE

Where children pick out and wrap gifts to give family members at Christmas



A Little History: Back in 2008, the Children's Ministry of First Lutheran had the great idea to host a Children's Christmas Store; and after two years of hosting, they realized that, with everything else December had going on, it was more than they were able to take on! However, the response from those two years was overwhelming, so in 2011, I reopened the Store as an independent ministry.

On a Thursday evening (which was expanded to include Friday) the classrooms were full of gifts, the rec room full of wrapping notions and the dining room was FULL of families, children and Christmas Joy! As children arrived, they got a number and as a Shopper Helper was available, the next number in the que was called, and so the evening went... a hundred excited, hungry children after school, eating Christmas Cookies... imagine! The switch to Saturday gave families much better management of meal time and bedtime. :)

Then, 2020 changed everything. Perhaps it wasn't such a great idea to fill the dining room with families and children for hours at a time in the winter...? This is how scheduling time slots for children to shop can be. Now, each half hour, 10 children begin their hour of shopping. Although scheduling shopping times added a challenge to the process, it was balanced with the ease of set-up, having gifts in the rec room, wrapping in the dining room and no need for use of the kitchen.

As I look to pass the torch, (see last month's newsletter) a little of why we do what we do helps give perspective!

**Nurturing
the joy of
giving!**

With enthusiasm for this year and the future of the Children's Christmas Store,
Tanzy Haisley



Piecemakers

Submitted by: Deb Ormseth

Many hands and many different processes go into making a quilt. To begin, fabric squares are cut into specific sizes. Currently, there are two ways in which the squares are cut. Method 1 uses plexiglass templates. The quilter chooses fabric, draws around the template and then cuts on the line with scissors. A second method is to use a ruler, rotary cutter (a rolling razor blade) and a self-healing cutting mat on which to cut the fabric. Anyone is welcome to join us Tuesday mornings, 8:30 to noon (or whatever time you can spare) in the Recreation room.





MAKING CONNECTIONS

Meet Tom and Phyllis Neuenfeldt

Hello FLC!

We are Tom and Phyllis. When we retired about six years ago, we moved to Detroit Lakes to be closer to our daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. We have moved seven times during our years together as Tom's job carried us to new locations. We hope our move to DL will be our last adventure in selling, buying, packing, moving, and unpacking. Tom spends much of his time working on his hunting land near Frazee, while Phyllis does volunteer respite care through Lutheran Social Services. Tom is a retired soil scientist and worked for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 30 years. He grew up a "city kid" in Richfield, MN. After a three-year hitch in the Army, he enrolled in the U of MN-College of Agriculture where he earned his BS degree in soil and water resource management. His first job was working on a soil survey of Lake of the Woods County stationed in Baudette, MN. As each of the county-based projects he worked on was completed, we moved to a new location. In addition to Baudette, we have lived in several other exotic Minnesota locations: Gaylord, Park Rapids, Cloquet, St. Paul, and Fergus Falls. While working his job, Tom has seen many wonderfully beautiful landscapes and met some amazing people.



Phyllis is a retired math instructor. Born and reared in a tiny farm community in eastern North Carolina, she earned her BS in math education from NC State University and her MA. Ed with a concentration in mathematics from East Carolina University. She met Tom on a blind date when he was visiting an Army buddy from NC. Eight months later they were married, and Phyllis joined him in Baudette. (No, she did *not* have any idea where that was or how cold it could be in February, the month she arrived!) As Tom's job moved the family around the state, she worked as a substitute teacher, a trainer for the MN Department of Human Services, a financial worker in two social services agencies, and finally, teaching mathematics for 20 years in the MN community college system. Her last position was at MState – Fergus Falls.

Tom was raised Lutheran, and Phyllis became Lutheran when they married. As we have moved around the state, we have had enriching faith experiences in a variety of ELCA congregations. In each community, we sought a congregation that felt like family. We get that feeling at FLC. We have always chosen to sit in the front of the sanctuary for worship because we find it easier to worship with fewer distractions between us and the worship leaders. As a member of FLC, Tom serves as facilitator for the Creation Care Team, chair of the Stewardship Team, President-Elect of the Vision Council, and leader of the Men's Daybreak Bible Study. Phyllis serves on the Adult Faith Formation Team, as secretary for Ruth Circle, and as leader of a Women's Bible/Book Study group. In addition, she serves on the NW MN Synod Candidacy Committee. During Oasis meals, you can usually find Tom and Phyllis in the kitchen washing dishes.

The Making Connections section is made possible by the hard work of the Adult Faith Formation committee. They encourage you to read these "get-acquainted" stories of our First Lutheran Church (FLC) members. Because we are such a large congregation that attends separate weekly worship services "Making Connections" is an opportunity to get better acquainted with the FLC family members that you don't get to see often and then, when you do see them, you will be able to greet them by name! (and maybe even find something in common).

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Meet the Udby Family!

Hello! We are the Udby Family - Chris, DeAnne, Bryson, Annistyn, and Maverik.

Chris and I found our church home at First Lutheran Church when we moved to Detroit Lakes in 2007. All three of our children have been baptized and continue to learn and grow in their faith here. When asked what the Udby kids like most about our church, they said "Outside church", "Treats on Wednesdays {at Oasis}", and "Having fun learning about God with my friends".

Chris owns Elite Aire, Inc., a heating and air conditioning business. When he isn't working (which isn't often), he enjoys snowmobiling in the mountains in the winter and riding Harley in the summer. He was also a 1st year Boat Captain for the DL Fishing Team.

Bryson is 12 years old and will be in 7th grade this year at Detroit Lakes Middle School. He is actively involved in football and baseball, but his true passion is for outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling. He enjoys fishing off the dock, was on the DL Fishing Team, and mastered slalom skiing this summer. He looks forward to hunting season where he can get lost in nature at the family farm in ND and sit (once on a cactus!) in the Badlands in ND searching for mule deer. He has become quite the snowmobiler and looks forward to the time when he can join Chris in the mountains of Montana, Utah, and Colorado. His favorite trip this past year was to Jackson Hole for the snowmobile hillclimb.

Annistyn is 9 years old and will be in 4th grade at Roosevelt Elementary School. She is excited to have her basketball coach as her school teacher this year! She has been a figure skater since she was 2 years old. She has also been involved in gymnastics for several years and will be starting dance and continuing basketball this fall. She spent her summer at basketball camps, swimming, skiing, snuggling her kitty Pearl, and spending time with her 'Lake Bestie'. Her favorite event this past year was attending her first concert, Kane Brown. She is now hooked on concerts and can't wait for her next one. (Little does she know, her and I are going to Zach Williams in October!)

Maverik is 5 years old and is SO excited for Kindergarten. However, this momma is having a VERY hard time sending her baby to school {insert lots of tears}. You may have seen Maverik around town or in church, usually in his cop uniform decorated with adornments given to him by some of our church members. He also carries a first aid kit everywhere he goes and can make a very realistic ambulance siren sound (so good his momma frequently thinks there is an ambulance on the road and she needs to pull the car over. Ha!) He is excited to start his 2nd year of Wednesday School, take swimming lessons, and skate again this winter. His favorite part of this past year was when two police officers came to his birthday party.

I have been a pharmacist with the Indian Health Service on the White Earth Reservation for the past 17 years. I have served First Lutheran Church in several ways over the years, most notably through the Children's Ministry Team and by being a Vision Council member and Wednesday School Teacher. When not working, volunteering, or coordinating the kids'schedules, I spend my time organizing, teaching ice skating, planning themed parties, and traveling.

We are so grateful to have found our First Lutheran Church family and are excited to continue to grow in faith with all of you.



Opportunities to Serve

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12

At baptism, all the children of God are given the privilege and responsibility to participate in Worship rather than just be spectators. There are many ways in which we can participate during Worship as well as outside of Worship times.

Worship Assistants – Each week we are in need of worship assistants (Communion Assistants, Ushers, Greeter and Reader) to serve during and prior to church services. These individuals are essential in the functions of worship and welcoming members and guests into the church.

Audio & Video Ministry - worship sound and slides – We are in need of assistance with running the sound, doing livestreaming and doing the slides during service.

Audio Ministry: Operating the sound board allows people in worship to hear the spoken & sung Word.
Video Ministry: Live streaming worship so that others can see, hear, and participate online. This has opened up the door for outreach, as well as serving God's people who can't physically come to church.

Slide Operation: Running the slides on the screens during worship.

Sunday Fellowship Hour - Thank you to those who have kept this important together time going! We are in search of volunteers to cover the month of September as well as ongoing months. We would welcome ministry groups to participate together or other individuals as well. If you have an interest in signing up, please do so on the sign-up sheet on the volunteer table. Volunteer positions include: set-up, break down (clean and put away), donate baked or store-bought treats and donate cheese and crackers. Come join this special time down in the Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:30 AM for coffee, tea, water, treats, cheese and crackers!

Funeral servers – Thank you to those that have volunteered for our most recent funerals! We are always in need of individuals interested in volunteering for funerals.

Serving the family in the library – come early prior to the funeral and visitation and prepare coffee, water, and bars for the family to have

Greeter – welcome guests as they enter the church for the visitation or funeral and guide them to the sanctuary (usually arrive a little prior to the visitation or funeral)

Server – set-up plate ware, silverware, napkins and beverages. Assist the caterer if there is one or prepare food and/or bars and serve to guests in the dining room following the funeral



If you are interested in being involved in serving in any of these ministries please reach out to Sarah Nelson, Ministry and Social Assistance Coordinator at 218-847-5656, via email at: sarah@firstlutheranchurch.com . Or please sign-up on the volunteer sign-up table on the main level.

Thank you!

Sarah Nelson, Ministry and Social Assistance Coordinator

SEPTEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 10:30a Contemporary Worship Service	2 Labor Day Office Closed 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	3 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 2p Rachel Circle	4 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy 5p Worship Tm Reh. 5:30p Build & Gr Mtg. 6p Confirmation Orient. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 7:15p Jubilate Ch Reh.	5 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 6pm Tae Kwon Do	6 12p AA Meeting	7
8 <i>Communion</i> Rally Sunday! 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Ice Cream!!!! 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service	9 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	10 8:30a Quilters 8:30a Rebekah Circle 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 2p Adult Faith Form. 4p Sons of Norway	11 Rally Wednesday! 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5p Worship Tm Reh. 5p Oasis Meal 6p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 6:30p Wed Sch & Conf 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	12 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 1:30p Ruth Circle 6pm Tae Kwon Do	13 12p AA Meeting	14 4p Wedding-Voges/Zaun
15 <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Visitation Mtg 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service	16 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	17 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 7:30p Theology on Tap	18 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Co Council 5p Worship Tm Reh. 5p Oasis Meal 6p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 6:30p Wed Sch & Conf 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	19 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 11:30a HS FREE Pizza 6pm Tae Kwon Do	20 12p AA Meeting	21 9:30a NWMN Synod Stewardship Day
22 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult F F 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service & Baptism of E & T Overland	23 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do 6:30p Creation Care Team Meeting	24 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 2p Rachel Circle 5:30p Vision Council	25 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5p Worship Tm Reh. 5p Oasis Meal 6p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 6:30p Wed Sch & Conf 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	26 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 4p Food Pantry Volunteer Gathering 6pm Tae Kwon Do	27 12p AA Meeting	28
29 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service	30 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	1 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 2p Rachel Circle 7:30p Theology on Tap	2 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5p Worship Tm Reh. 5p Oasis Meal 5:30p Build & Gr Mtg 6p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 6:30p Wed Sch & Conf 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	3 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 6pm Tae Kwon Do	4 12p AA Meeting	5

Please note: this Newsletter Calendar showcases and prioritizes the basic ministry schedule at First Lutheran and does not contain every congregational activity or the multiple ways our building is being used throughout the month.

Calendar is correct at time of printing.
UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR AVILABLE at:
firstlutheranchurch.com/calendar

RALLY DAYS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
&
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

@8:30am & 10:45am

&

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

@6:00pm

ICE CREAM SUNDAYS!
BLESSING OF BACKPACKS!

CONGREGATIONAL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Pastor Joe Skogmo pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com

Associate Pastor

Pastor Matthew Engum pastormatthew@firstlutheranchurch.com

Director of Operations

Paul Haarstick paul@firstlutheranchurch.com

Ministry & Social Assistance Coordinator

Sarah Nelson sarah@firstlutheranchurch.com

Communications Director:

Sara Peterson sara@firstlutheranchurch.com

Youth & Family Ministry Director:

Olivia Sauer olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com

Parish Nurse:

Denise Gaard denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

Worship Music Coordinator:

Karen Bimberg karen@firstlutheranchurch.com

Adult Choir Director:

Kathy Larson kathrynmyrom@gmail.com

Bell Choir Director:

Carla Hansen hansencarla62@gmail.com

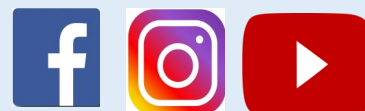
First Lutheran Church

912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Office phone: 218-847-5656
flc@firstlutheranchurch.com
firstlutheranchurch.com

OFFICE HOURS

(Monday-Friday)
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM



Opening Doors to Life in Christ!



The First Messenger is published monthly and mailed to the members and friends of First Lutheran Church. The purpose of this publication is to inform the congregation of church activities and upcoming events.

Articles for publication are to be submitted to the church office by the 20th of each month.

Vision Council

President: Carla Solem
President-Elect: Tom Neuenfeldt
Secretary: Paula Schulz
Treasurer: Kevin Shipley

Erin Erickson, Mike Pladson,
DeAnne Udby, Jon Freeman,
Catharine Weisenburger &
Matt Ask

Foundation Board

President: Ryan Manke
President-Elect: Les Perry
Secretary: Patti Cummins
Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Alex Hagedorn,
Don Busker, Ted Heisserer &
Pam Orth

**Worship is broadcast on
KDLM-1340 AM and
on 93.1 FM Radio
each Sunday Morning at
10:00 AM.**

**Worship is also webcasted on
the church website
www.firstlutheranchurch.com**

**Worship is also broadcast on
T.V. on Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**