

THE FIRST MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3

All Saints Sunday

November 5

Election Day - NO Quilters or Theology on Tap

November 17

Theology on Tap

November 20

Turkey Bingo & Dinner

November 21

High School FREE Lunch

November 24

High School Hangout

November 27 & December 1

Thanksgiving Break -no Sunday School & Wednesday School/Oasis/Confirmation

November 28 & 29

Church office closed

Kindergarten Service Project

In October, our Kindergarten class helped make stuffed animals to donate to our local EMS. These stuffed animals are then given out by EMS to individuals and families who need support during difficult times. EMS staff talked with students about their jobs, safety, and what to do in an emergency, and provided a tour of the ambulance.

They even got to try out the sirens!

Thank you to all the parents who helped out on this project.



From Pastor Joe

Some of you are already aware of the following announcement from worship on October 13th or October 23rd, or you received the announcement via email. As a point of emphasis, because not all members worshiped on those respective dates, and since many members do not receive our email updates, the following announcement bears repeating in our monthly newsletter. Thank you.—Pr. Joe

Announcement of Pastor Matthew's Temporary Leave

I have an unfortunate and uneasy announcement to make, so I'm going to cut to the chase: our Associate Pastor, Pastor Matthew, is experiencing a family crisis, the divorcing of a spouse.

Therefore, with the support of the NWMN Synod, I have proposed that Pastor Matthew receive a temporary leave from call to navigate this extremely painful and exhausting moment in his life, and to do so as healthily as possible. The Personnel Team of First Lutheran Church has formally approved this temporary leave of call with a unanimous vote on September 26th.

It is important to note that there was no misconduct by Pastor Matthew regarding this family crisis and divorce. Circumstances beyond his control have led to this moment.

Here is a summary of the approved terms of his Personal Leave:

Due to the church's commitment to God's command for sabbath, due to the public nature and demands of pastoral ministry, and given the emotional, spiritual, and logistical energy required for navigating such a family crisis, Pastor Matthew will receive a temporary leave from call.

It is again important to note that there has been no misconduct by Pastor Matthew in relation to this family crisis.

This leave is separate and distinct from Pastor Matthew's vacation, which shall be granted as in any other year.

Pastor Matthew shall not be contacted regarding his pastoral duties for the duration of his leave by the congregation with one exception: his Mutual Ministry Team here at FLC may be encouraged to periodically check in on Pastor Matthew with no expectation of duties or response, but as a show of relational support and a ministry of presence. His Mutual Ministry Team has been aware of the situation and has offered and continues to offer their support to Pastor Matthew.

The congregation of First Lutheran Church will support the FLC staff by coordinating worship and programmatic assistance while Pastor Matthew is on leave.

THE DURATION OF LEAVE is **Sunday, October 13th – Sunday, November 17th, 2024**

Those are some of the Xs & Os of the leave, and now here are some pastoral touchpoints. There are a lot of benefits to being a public figure like a pastor. You get to know a lot of people, interact with a lot of people, and often be supported by a lot of people. And one of the unique challenges of being a public figure like a pastor is that the hard things you go through are also very public. I just want to name that, especially as it might help emphasize our roles as a congregation as we meet the weeks ahead.

What are our roles from here on out?

1) **Love.** We all know people or we ourselves have been directly affected by divorce and we know how difficult, excruciating, and complicated it can get. So, our first and overarching role is to love: love Matthew and Lexi with grace, patience, and prayer. On this we remember our Savior's Greatest Commandment: to love one another as ourselves.

2) **Be voices of grace.** Be voices of grace and empathy that interrupt any voices of false witness, any unsubstantiated rumor or gossip, and any defamation or judgment. On this note we remember and hold sacred God's 8th Commandment to not bear false witness.

3) **Be patient.** Be patient with this process and with congregational life amid this period. This period will come with added stress to our church staff and we'll rely deeply on your support, flexibility, and tolerance. I've said this a lot to our staff in times of upheaval and convulsion and it is this: "We cannot recreate normal in non-normal times. So, don't kill yourself trying." Friends, this is not a normal time, so expectations of normality from staff and others might not be fair or helpful. On this we remember the Letter to the Ephesians (4:29): "Do...only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..."

4) **Be non-anxious presences.** Be non-anxious to yourselves and one another. As your Lead Pastor, I am not anxious about this moment – I am sad, deeply saddened, but I am not anxious, because we're a healthy congregation. In fact, we are exhibiting signs of health and love right now. Healthy communities talk about tough things. We are a healthy community; we don't have to be anxious. Furthermore, we don't have to be anxious because we remember God's encouragement in the 46th Psalm to 'be still and know' that God is with us, and we remember our Savior's words in the Sermon on the Mount: "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?..." *your heavenly Father knows what you need* (Matthew 6:27, 32).

So, friends...**Be love. Be gracious. Be patient. Be non-anxious.**

We trust in God's presence, God's ability to sustain and create new life even in the trenches, and trust in ourselves as the Body of Christ. We're going to be okay, therefore, our role in this time of deep sadness, pain, and uncertainty for Pastor Matthew is to love like Jesus loves: with grace, patience, and peace.

I also acknowledge the serendipitous timing of the lectionary text preached upon on October 6th. If you haven't already, I encourage you to go and watch my sermon from that Sunday on YouTube or Facebook regarding Jesus on divorce.

Pastor Matthew will be back on November 18th, and when you see him that date or beyond, I encourage you simply to say, "Glad you're back."

Thank you all. Let's pray together:

God Almighty, we your children look to you for comfort in this time. Hold us close and keep watch over Pr. Matthew and Lexi as they traverse the days and weeks ahead. Drive out darkness with the light of your love. Give courage to face each new day.

And by your Spirit help each of us be agents of your light: to show love unconditionally, to be gracious, patient, and at peace. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the World. Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Joe



Welcome New Members

Connor & Kristin Camrud, and their children Anders & Owen

Sam & Tori Ohman, and their child Emerson

Jeff & Stacy Osland, and their children

Eli & Sawyer Gene & Abigail Voz

Jackie Walker

Joe & Kacey Wood, and their children Jonathan, Emery, Ruby & Calvin

October Highlights

PreK Service Project

In September, some of our littlest friends at FLC had the opportunity to participate in a service project that focused on helping the hungry. With the help of the Becker County Food Pantry, we made birthday boxes.



TURKEY BINGO

Youth Fundraiser



Wednesday Nov. 20th



Dinner 5pm-6pm -- Bingo 5:30pm-7pm

Dinner will be turkey sandwiches and sides w/ pumpkin pie.

Bingo cards will be sold at the door.

\$5 per person

10 cards for \$10

(kids under 5 are free)

(one card per round)



All money raised from this evening will go to Youth and Family Ministries to help fund future youth trips and activities.

Turkey Bingo Youth Fundraiser

Join us for our annual Turkey Bingo Youth Fundraiser on Wednesday Nov. 20th in the fellowship hall from 5-7pm. We will have a warm turkey meal with sides and dessert. (GF options available) Then we will dive right into the action. BINGO BINGO BINGO! Everything you need will be sold at the door.

Want to help with this event? Find us outside the office between services on Sunday and during Oasis on Wednesday to sponsor a portion of the night by financially donating. Your donation will then be used to purchase items that we need for the meal and bingo. Can't help financially? Talk to a First Lutheran Youth Team member or Olivia YFM Dir. to find other opportunities to volunteer. All money raised from this event will go to Youth and Family Ministries to help fund future youth trips and activities. (Psst, summer 2025 we are going to Rapid City SD)

High School

We had our 2nd High School Hangout this past month and we went bowling!! It's been a joy getting to know all these new and old faces.
See you in November!

November News

Rapid City 2025

For any current 9th-12th graders interested in going to Rapid City next summer, we will be having a trip interest meeting on November 3 at Noon.

Service Projects

3rd Grade: November 6

Helping the Homeless.

Held on Wednesdays 6:30-

7:30 in the chapel; Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend with their child

High School

Nov. 21st - Lunch w/Pastors @Pizza Ranch

Nov. 24th 4:30-6:00 pm - High School Hangout

Follow First Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry on Instagram!



FLC_YFM

Looking Ahead

FLC Winter Programing Break

Last Wednesday - Dec. 18th

Resumes Jan. 8th

Last Sunday - Dec. 15th

Resumes Jan. 12th

Children's Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! Our Children's

Christmas program is moving to Wednesday. This year with the continued trend of many families and individuals switching to Wednesday night worship and programming, we will be having our Children's Christmas Program on Wednesday Dec. 18th. We will have our typical Oasis meal followed by worship that will feature our PreK-5th grade kids. This worship/program will be live streamed and recorded.

Middle School Retreat

Who: 6th-8th Graders

Where: Luther Crest Camp, Alexandria MN

When: February 7th-9th (watch for announcements on how to sign up)

Cost: \$205 *subject to change - FLC will provide transportation to and from retreat

Join us for friends, fun, and a faith-filled weekend at Luther Crest! Come on Friday evening and stay at camp until Sunday morning at camp, playing games, learning, hanging out, and spending the nights in the cabins with your friends and our awesome Luther Crest Staff! Together we'll spend time getting to know one another, enjoying the Minnesota winter, and diving into our theme: "Love in Action!" Through scripture, worship, crafts, and games, we will discover ways that God's love for us empowers us to love others and the world around us!

*This retreat is available for kids K-12 through Luther Crest Camp. FLC will be attending as a middle school only group.



Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday December 18th

Oasis Meal
5pm-6pm

Worship/
Christmas Program
6pm



Sunday/Wednesday School Break for Turkey Bingo & Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 20, 27 & Sunday, December 1

Women of the ELCA

THANKOFFERINGS

Thankofferings are a [long-standing custom](#) and spiritual practice among all Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings

What do our FLC Thankofferings support? The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our founders would be amazed to see what that covers these days.

Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels, our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs. *During the months of October & November we will be collecting Thankofferings at First Lutheran Church. Please make out your check to: Women of the ELCA and write Thankoffering on the memo line. Just drop it in the Sunday morning offering.*

It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good for us – spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action. And Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action. **Thank you.**

GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

SWEET SALE

It's Coming! This year's Sweet Sale is Sunday, December 15th, from 9:30 - 12:00.

If you're making Christmas treats, please consider sharing a few plates, or purchasing some special treats for your family and friends. It's so much fun to see all the different candies and baked goods! Every year I bring some things, and then buy something I love but don't make myself. It's a free-will offering.

This is First Lutheran Women's main fundraiser for the year and it helps support organizations here, in our community, and the world.

Sweet Sale

Sunday, December 15
9:30am - 12pm

Cost is a freewill offering, supporting the FLC Women



**GIVE TO THE MAX DAY
is November 21.**

**This year all proceeds
will benefit the
Agape Fund!**

Protect Yourself This Respiratory Virus Season

Flu season is upon us! The weather is colder, we spend more time indoors at school, work, and events. The flu and Covid-19 vaccines are recommended and now available. The vaccines give us protection from these respiratory illnesses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends yearly seasonal influenza (flu) vaccinations for everyone age 6 months or older who doesn't have a medical reason to avoid the vaccine. Getting a yearly flu vaccine lowers the chances of having serious complications or dying of the flu.

The updated Covid-19 vaccine is also recommended and available for everyone 6 months and older. The Flu and the Covid-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time.

It is best to get these vaccines in the fall before the flu season really starts. September and October are the ideal months for receiving the vaccines.

RSV vaccine is also available. Talk with your care provider to determine if you are eligible to receive the vaccine for RSV.

The best way to protect yourself and those you love from these respiratory illnesses is to receive the vaccines.

Take care this flu season!

Submitted by, Denise Gaard, Parish Nurse

3 John 1:2-4 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.



A poster with a festive green and red geometric pattern. At the top, it says "CHRISTMAS 2024". Below that, in large red letters, is "BELL RINGERS NEEDED!". Underneath, it says "SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ CENTRAL MARKET". To the right is a red shield logo for "THE SALVATION ARMY" with a bell icon. A small logo is in the bottom left corner.

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

First Lutheran is looking for volunteers to ring the bell for the Salvation Army!

We have 1 hour slots from 8 AM to 10 PM on Saturday, November 30 at Central Market. The sign up form is on the volunteer table at the church, or you can also sign up by calling the church office.

WINTER CLOTHING NEEDED

As the weather gets colder, the church has received an increase of requests for warm clothing & blankets. We are in need of the following cold weather items for our Blessing Closet: sweatshirts, pants, socks, hats, gloves/mittens, coats, boots, blankets, sleeping bags, tote bags and snow pants. Please place items in the bin outside of the office.

September Financial Snapshot

Actual Revenue*	\$143,899.23
Budget Revenue	<u>\$159,460.00</u>
Favorable/(Unfavorable)	(\$15,560.77)

*unaudited



MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

AGAPE

In Honor of:

Shan & Rick Manke

Given by:

Lynn & Beverly Hummel

KITCHEN

In Memory of:

Elyda Handegard

Given by: Arlene Olson

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

NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The total from the September Noisy Offering, going to **VBS & Future Missions Trips/ FLC YFM** was **\$855.92**

Check back next month for noisy offering total for October going to: **Churches United for the Homeless— Moorhead.**

In the month of November, the Noisy Offering will go towards: **Fuller Center for Housing—DL**

Stewardship Team

Noisy Offering Beneficiary for November: Fuller Center for Housing – Detroit Lakes

The Detroit Lakes Area Fuller Center assists members of the Detroit Lakes Area build and repair homes at lower overall costs than conventional loans/programs. The Fuller Center organization believes that the most appropriate and effective solutions come when communities create locally-led and locally-driven projects.

Millard Fuller (founder and former President of Habitat for Humanity International) and his wife, Linda, created The Fuller Center after the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity International decided in 2005 that it was time to part ways with its founder and his wife due to major differences, primarily about Habitat's vision and operating philosophy. Millard, along with Linda, created The Fuller Center to continue their grass-roots and Christ-centered mission of eliminating poverty housing around the world.

The United Nations estimates that more than one billion people around the world live in substandard housing — including millions in the United States. The Fuller Center for Housing promotes collaborative and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide.

An independent audit showed that 91.7% of funds go directly to program work in the field with just 5.7% spent on administration and 2.5% on fundraising.

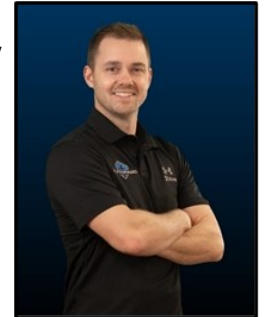
Your contributions through the noisy offering in November will help provide affordable housing in the Detroit Lakes area.

Adult Faith Formation



It was a delight to introduce Steve Ystebo, his wife, and three children to the group that gathered in the library during Education Hour Sunday, September 22!

Steve showed a video and explained to those gathered that Fix It Forward Ministry helps to provide transportation for those without reliable transportation by repairing, and also by providing vehicles. Their volunteer team has repaired over 1000 vehicles and donated over 500 donated, repaired vehicles, enabling people to feel self-sufficient and safe on the road. Every team member of the four Fix It Forward Auto Repair facilities in the Fargo Moorhead area is involved in the Ministry, volunteering time one evening per week and one Saturday per month to repair vehicles. They utilize discounted auto parts and charitable donations to cover the costs of repairs. As the Auto Care shops grow and become more successful, more opportunity will be given to the Ministry to help solve the transportation issues of the most needy in the area. If you are interested in learning more about this Ministry, go to www.fixitforwardministry.com



The summer/fall garden season is over for another year. A huge THANK YOU to our FLC outdoor plant/flower watering team, including team leaders Shan Manke and Belinda Freeman! Thanks for your dedication and hard work making the FLC gardens look AMAZING!

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.

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

BUCKS MILL BREWING

Best Zoother

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



Are you receiving the FLC Friday email?

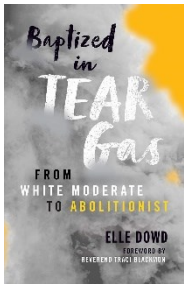
If not, contact the office — and *stay connected!*

NEW AT THE LIBRARY | Submitted by Patti Cummins



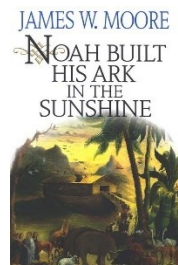
Anishinabe – Songs for a New Millenium by Marcie Rendon.

Through dream-songs and poem-songs responding to works of theater, choral music, and opera, Rendon brings memory to life, the senses to attention—to see the moonbeams blossoming on the windowsill, to feel the hold of the earth, to hear the echo of grandmother’s breath, to lie on the bones of ancestors and feel the rhythms of silence running deep. Her singing, breaking the boundaries that time would impose, carries the Anishinaabe way of life and way of seeing forward in the world.



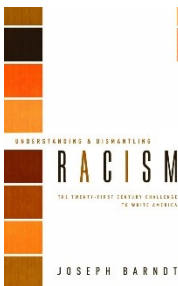
Baptized in Tear Gas by Elle Dowd.

Minister and activist Elle Dowd tells the gripping story of her transformation into an Assata Shakur-reading, courthouse-occupying abolitionist with an arrest record, hungry for the revolution. Thanks to deep relationships with people in Ferguson and St. Louis, and to experiencing a fraction of the system for herself—including the fear of rubber bullets, the shock of sound canons, and running from tear gas--Dowd fully committed to the work of anti-racism and abolition. Now she wants to help other white allies do the same.



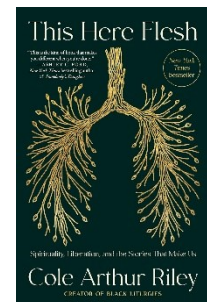
Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine by James W. Moore.

Noah built his ark in the sunshine; in other words, he prepared in advance for the storm that was to come. He didn't wait until the last minute. He used those bright days in the sunshine to get himself ready, to build up the resources he would need when the dark floodwaters came. The great people of faith have always been like that. But the question is, how do we get there? How do we reach that level of spiritual maturity? How do we get to the place where we can praise God whatever comes, and thank God in everything?



Understanding and Dismantling Racism by Joseph Barndt.

With great clarity Barndt traces the history of racism, especially in white America, revealing its various personal, institutional, and cultural forms. Without demonizing anyone or any race, he offers specific, positive ways in which people in all walks, including churches, can work to bring racism to an end. He includes the newest data on continuing conditions of People of Color, including their progress relative to the minimal standards of equality in housing, income and wealth, education, and health.

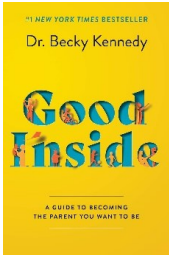


This Here Flesh by Cole Riley.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In her stunning debut, the creator of Black Liturgies weaves stories from three generations of her family alongside contemplative reflections to discover the “necessary rituals” that connect us with our belonging, dignity, and liberation.

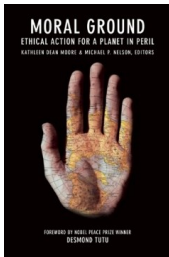


Check out these new reads!



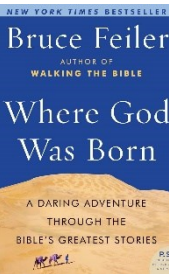
Good Inside by Dr. Becky Kennedy.

Dr. Becky’s empowering and effective approach, a model that prioritizes connecting with our kids over correcting them. Offering perspective-shifting parenting principles and troubleshooting for specific scenarios—including sibling rivalry, separation anxiety, tantrums, and more—*Good Inside* is a comprehensive resource for a generation of parents looking for a new way to raise their kids while still setting them up for a lifetime of self-regulation, confidence, and resilience.



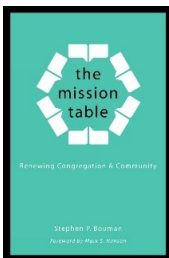
Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.

Moral Ground brings together the testimony of over eighty visionaries—theologians and religious leaders, scientists, elected officials, business leaders, naturalists, activists, and writers—to present a diverse and compelling call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet.



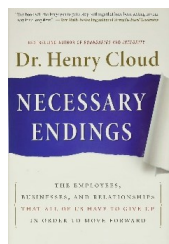
Where God Was Born by Bruce Feiler.

Where God Was Born combines the adventure of a wartime chronicle, the excitement of an archaeological detective story, and the insight of personal spiritual exploration. Taking readers to biblical sites not seen by Westerners for decades, Feiler’s journey uncovers little-known details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, affirms the importance of the Bible in today’s world, and offers a rare, universal vision of God that can inspire different faiths into a united allegiance of hope.



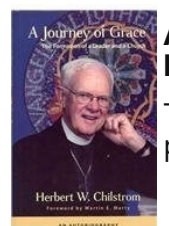
The Mission Table – Renewing Congregation and Community by Stephen Bouman.

In a time of declining mainline Protestant church attendance, Bouman reminds us that the Holy Spirit is still very much at work in our communities and in the world. God continues to make all things new, and calls us to join this mission of reconciliation, restoration, and renewal. Each chapter of this book contains Bible references and questions for individual and group reflection, study, and action.



Necessary Endings by Dr. Henry Cloud.

Mindset-altering method for proactively correcting the bad and the broken in our businesses and our lives. Cloud challenges readers to achieve the personal and professional growth they both desire and deserve—and gives crucial insight on how to make those tough decisions that are standing in the way of a more successful business and, ultimately, a better life.



A Journey of Grace: The Formation of a Leader and a Church by Rev. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom

The memoir of the Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



CHURCHES UNITED

Submitted by Patti Cummins

Micah 6:8 *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God*

We are a member church for Churches United. As well as supporting them, our Agape mission also refers people to CU. I asked Pastor Devlyn Brooks about the organization's current financial crisis and these are the things to note:



Safe Shelter, Stable Housing, Nutritious Food, and a Path Toward Healing

2020 – COVID hit and the number of homeless spiked. At the same time, COVID regulations did not allow volunteers in the building, so CU had to hire many people to do the work previously done by those volunteers. Staffing costs increased 30%. As with most service organizations, staffing comprises a large part of the budget.

2021-2022 – Personal giving dropped 30%. In January of 2022 COVID government funding ceased.

2023 – Personal giving dropped again by 17%. Between decreased personal giving and the end of COVID funding, revenue was down 60%.

A few weeks ago, CU had to lay off 25% of their full-time staff. They are currently trying to re-build the volunteer base that provided such valuable service pre-COVID.

This summer, CU was \$2 million in debt, and they are scrambling to get out of debt. Banks were approached unsuccessfully since CU doesn't generate revenue like commercial businesses do.

Currently Churches United provides housing and supportive services for:

Micah's Mission – 120 people experiencing homelessness, including one floor with units specifically for families. They also provide food for the homeless in the community who still don't have a bed.

Bright Sky Apartments – 43 permanent apartments for individuals and families.

Silver Linings Apartments – 43 units soon available for those over 55, the fastest growing population segment experiencing homelessness.

Dorothy Day House and Food Pantry – (Currently on hold) Units for veterans and a Food Pantry serving homed families.

Go to churches-united.org to see where you can help – either by volunteering or donating supplies. Financial donations are greatly needed and appreciated.



**FLC
Merch
Is Here!**

Orders due November 20.

SWEATSHIRTS! HOODIES! TSHIRTS!

First Lutheran Church Merch is here!

Order forms can be picked up at the church.

Orders are due November 20, delivery will be early December.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE

Saturday, December 7th Volunteers Needed



The sign up sheets are out and ready, so here's an overview of ways you can participate!

The **Thursday evening set up crew** spends about 2 hours setting up rooms. The Youth Room, Dining Room and Rec Room are all used for the event and this crew sets up tables and moves boxes, wrapping supplies and gift bins to their appropriate locations.

The primary job of the **Friday daytime set up crew** is to set all the gifts out on the tables in the rec room. This is a detail job; ensuring everything is clean, has no price tags on them, is noted if it's part of a set, etc. The gifts are gone through before they are put in the bins before storage, but there are always things that get missed. We want each item to be ready to be a wonderful gift a child can give to a loved one. Other tasks are done by this group as well, preparing all things for when the children arrive the next day. This job typically takes a few hours.

On **Saturday**, there are two shifts: **Morning - 9:00 to 12:30** and **Afternoon - 12:30 to 3:30** so these positions are needed for each shift: (with the number of people for this position)

- **Welcome Table** (2) - greet the children and help them get ready to do their shopping.
- **Cashier** (1) - share the children's excitement for the gifts they have chosen and receive \$1 for each gift.
- **Wrapping** (12)* - help the child and their shopper helper get all the gifts wrapped in boxes or gift bags.
- **Helping children shop** (20)** - one child each hour (a 3 hour shift) needs someone to help them navigate the gift shopping, buying and wrapping. Each child is different and needs different amounts of assistance.
- **Clean up** - this group helps pack up, clean up and put everything back in order, ready for Sunday worship.

* **Wrapping** - the children only have one hour to do their shopping and wrap their gifts so extra hands in the wrapping room are a HUGE help for the children to get done in time. There is no limit to how many people can sign up and help in this capacity.

** **Helping children shop** - each volunteer helps one child each hour of their 3 hour shift. Every half hour, a new group of 10 children begins their hour-long shopping adventure. An assistant is needed for each of the 10 children who begin 'on the hour' of 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 and also for the 10 children who begin 'on the half hour' of 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30. The afternoon shift assists children 'on the hour' at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 or 'on the half hour' at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30.

Nurturing the joy of giving!

No experience necessary!

If you are not familiar with the process of the Christmas Store or what is required of a job you're interested in volunteering for, include your phone number on the sign-up sheet (or let anyone on staff know) and you will get a call to go over what will happen, instructions for the position and answer any questions you may have.

This is a super FUN and REWARDING ministry that provides a perfect way to show love to children from our church & community AND to interact and get to know one another better!

The FLC Children's Christmas Store is calling for new leadership! This is the last year for Tany and Gary and they are looking for successors to co-lead with this year as training for future years. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact them or the church office.





MAKING CONNECTIONS

Meet the Schulz family!

Hello, we are the Schulz family; Schulz, without a "t" in our name. Even though there is no "t" in our name, we unfortunately are not related to Charles Schulz of Peanuts fame. The Schulz surname is most commonly found in Germany, according to the World Names Public Profiler, especially within the regions of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Berlin, Sachsen-Anhalt, and Schleswig-Holstein. When spelled with a "t" (Schultz), the last name is more common in Denmark and the United States than Germany. Jim's paternal great grandparents emigrated from the German Empire in the late 1800's, not Denmark, and maintained the spelling without a "t".



Jim made a great journey from the small hamlet of Wrenshall, MN, where he grew up, to the relative metropolis of Detroit Lakes. The journey took him to college in New York where he earned a degree in civil engineering in 1990 and promptly put that degree to use destroying things engineers built as an Army lieutenant in an armor battalion. At some point on one of Jim's Army funded adventure travels, he had a discussion with a career officer in the middle of a Kuwaiti haboob where the officer declared this operation was the best mission he had in his 20- year career. Jim looked around, took it all in, and asked himself if this was the best he could look forward to in the next 20 years. He decided, at that moment, it was not. (Thank you Maj. Lachner) He left the Army in 1994 and found a job as a civil engineer in Detroit Lakes. With a few twists and turns, he followed that career path to where he is currently happily employed as an engineer with the City of Moorhead.

Paula grew up in eastern Wisconsin, and found herself in Duluth, MN for college. She was working in Duluth when she met Jim, a frequent visitor to Duluth due to its proximity to the hamlet of Wrenshall. After a whirlwind courtship of 3 years, Paula married Jim in 2009 on the shores of Gitchee Gume. Paula, with an impressive understanding of technology, has leveraged her career in medical administration both on the health care provider side and the insurance industry side, to a job currently working for M Health Fairview ensuring continuity and integration of its complex medical software, programs and equipment. She, by default, is also the guru of all tech systems in the Schulz (remember, without a "t") household. This includes helping her clueless husband in finding streaming channels on TV and reconnecting everything to WiFi when it inevitably fails.

Our family became complete with the addition of Kylee and Sophie our beautiful daughters. We are incredibly proud of our intelligent and caring teen and tween who excel in school both academically and with gracious and kind personal character. Many hours are spent supporting them in their endeavors, some of which include interests in dance, cross-country, track, ice- skating, horses, skiing, and, reluctantly (ya right), gaming.

The Schulz family chose to join the First Lutheran congregation because of its philosophy of tolerance, openness, and message of joy. It's what Jesus would do.

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).



Meet Carl & Carol Oberholtzer!

Very happy Lakers!

Carl spent his formative years in a small coal mining town in south-western Pennsylvania before moving to Fargo when he was 11. Carol grew up in Hankinson, North Dakota where her family owned a small grocery store.

We first met each other through mutual college friends. When I asked her out on our first date she said she couldn't because she was helping her dad take everything out of the lake for winter. Having no experience with a lake

property I volunteered to come to Detroit Lake where her family possessed an old cabin. When I showed up at the cottage, Carol's 60 year old father, Erling, immediately liked me. He now had a 22 year old helping him drag the lift and dock out of the water. Well the rest is history. We married on July 3rd, 1976. A real bicentennial wedding.

We both had earned degrees in Education from N.D.S.U. Carl was teaching at Wahpeton H.S. and Carol was a para for the Wahpeton School District when we married. We stayed in Wahpeton for 15 years. During that time we were blessed to have a son, Nicholas, and a daughter Erin.

In 1990 we moved to Fargo. Carl accepted a job with the Fargo Public School District and Carol worked as a para for the Moorhead Public School District. After a couple of years Carol began teaching for the Fargo School District. Carol taught elementary PE and Carl taught high school students social studies courses. Carl also coached volleyball and track.

After Nick graduated from Fargo North H.S. in 1997, he enrolled at N.D.S.U. where he earned his Bachelor's Degree. Erin graduated from Fargo North in 2000 and attended U. of Wisconsin River Falls where she played volleyball and earned her Bachelor's Degree.

As our children grew up we made Detroit Lakes our summer weekend home. Carol's family, Haukness, had owned the little cabin on Little Detroit since 1943. After Erin graduated from high school we tore down the original cabin, with many tears from Carol's side of the family, and proceeded to build a permanent house on the south side of Little Detroit. We moved from Fargo to Detroit Lakes in the summer of 2002.

Living on the shores of Detroit Lake is surreal. We absolutely realize how fortunate we are to live where we do. We love the community, DLCCC, the Trolls, The Mountain, Becker County Museum and all of other amenities the town has to offer.

We are now blessed with seven grandchildren, Jo and Henry (both 14), Ellie, Kara, Macy (all 11) and Cora (7) and Blake (6). The grandchildren love coming to the lake which makes us very happy.

Carol is an avid pickleballer, bikes, volunteers at Tamarac Wildlife Refuge, and is a member of the Detroit Lakes Library Board. Carl is a member of the D.L. Breakfast Rotary Club, captain for Let's Go Fishing, enjoys hunting, fishing and spoiling the grandchildren. We both enjoy travelling and camping during the fall and spring months.



Watermelon Seeds

Submitted by Patti Cummins

For as the rain and the snow come down from Heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth. Isaiah 55:10

Papa Jordan had taken her to the farm that October day to harvest pumpkins, squash, and watermelon left until the optimal day – that day when the light frosts had sugar-kissed the already large fruit and vegetables, and the first hard frost was upon us. Oaklyn helped plant the seeds last spring. Her eyes and smile glistened as Papa Jordan loaded one watermelon – Oaklyn’s absolute favorite food - into my car for us to share that evening.

After dinner, the green rind cracked open the minute I inserted the knife, allowing the juice to start flowing out while the scent tantalized us. This garden-grown watermelon had much darker, brighter red flesh than the watermelon we usually got at the store. We could not wait to get it on our plates.

Oaklyn asked if she could eat the hard, dark brown seeds and I told her no, just pick them out. I explained to her that these seeds had time to “grow up” to the purpose for which they were created. The early watermelon that came from the store were a special kind that had few seeds, and like the large orbs that held them, they had not grown into their purpose yet. If we planted the white edible seeds, they would not produce new plants like the hard brown ones would.

She was slightly discouraged. “I like the new ones (store-bought) better.” It was a lot of work to clean all those seeds out to get a bite of luscious fruit.

“How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth.” (Psalm 119:103) It takes a little effort for us to take in God’s words. Sometimes we might feel like we have heard it all before, but God’s words often touch our hearts and minds in a new way. We may be in a different place in life, or our life experiences have prepared us to receive the words from a different perspective.

“Therefore, having the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.” (Hebrews 6:1) We start as toddlers becoming familiar with liturgy, then Sunday School lessons, and confirmation. But we never “graduate” from studying God’s Word. He wants to engage us with His words throughout our lives, growing and ripening our faith and understanding along life’s paths.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING!!

Yes, it is already here! The First Lutheran Decorating Team invites you to help us get ready for the advent season. We especially need help and manpower in getting up the big tree. We plan to start decorating at 12:00 on Sunday November 24. We will have a light lunch for you in the dining room before we start. We appreciate all who can come.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Shan Manke (218-234-0312) or Belinda Freeman (218- 841-2962).



FOOD PANTRY MONTH

November is FLC's month to serve at the food pantry. We are seeking volunteers from 11:30am – 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in November.

The sign-up is on the volunteer table outside the office.



Christmas Poinsettias

The Advent and Christmas season is made more beautiful when the church is filled with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to share flowers please complete this form and return it to the church office by **December 15. Cost is \$13 per plant.**

New this year — Poinsettias may be purchased on line!

Watch for the link in the weekly FLC email!

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Attached is \$_____ for the total order above.

Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Flower Fund.



TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SANCTUARY
12:05-12:35 PM

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 4**

PEGGY HAMMERLING - FLUTE SOLOIST
ACCOMPANIST - KAREN BIMBERG

KATHY LARSON - VOCAL SOLOIST
ACCOMPANIST - KAREN BIMBERG

ALLELUIA RINGERS

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11**

RICH JOHNSON - SAXOPHONE
ACCOMPANIST - KAREN BIMBERG

EMMA DUNCAN - SOLOIST
ACCOMPANIST - KAREN BIMBERG

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 18**

TIM EGGEBRAATEN
SOLOIST & INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER



CONCERTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH WITH FREEWILL OFFERING
IS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING EACH CONCERT.

NOVEMBER

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1 12p AA Meeting	2
3 Communion All Saints- Sunday 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service 12pm Rapid City MTG	4 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	5 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 1pm Tai Ji Quan	6 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 6:30p Adult Devotions 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	7 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 1p Tai Ji Quan 6pm Tae Kwon Do	8 12p AA Meeting	9
10 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service	11 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	12 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 9a Rebekah Circle 10a LSS Morning Out 1p Tai Ji Quan 2p Adult Faith Form.	13 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 6:30p Adult Devotions 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	14 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 1p Tai Ji Quan 6pm Tae Kwon Do	15 12p AA Meeting	16
17 Communion 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service	18 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	19 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 1p Tai Ji Quan 7p Creation Care Team Mtg 7p Theology on Tap	20 Turkey Dinner & Bingo 5 - 7pm 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	21 8a Woman's Bible Stdy 11:30a HS Pizza Lunch 1p Tai Ji Quan 6pm Tae Kwon Do	22 12p AA Meeting	23
24 8:30a Traditional Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship Service / Baptism of Wood twins 12pm Xmas Decorating 4:30p HS Hangout	25 5p Al Anon 5:30p Tae Kwon Do	26 8:30a Quilters 9a Office Staff Mtg 10a LSS Morning Out 5:30p Vision Council	27 Fall Break -No Wed School /Conf/meal/ worship service 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh	28 Church office closed 	29 Church office closed 12p AA Meeting	30 

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 AVAILABLE at:
firstlutheranchurch.com/calendar

2025 Giving Envelopes

will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 17. There will be a table outside of the church office.



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

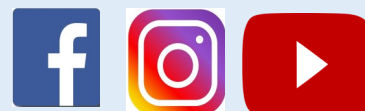
First Lutheran Church

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.**