

# The First Messenger



## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup .....	October	8 <sup>th</sup>
Electric Car Event .....	October	15 <sup>th</sup>
Youth Breakfast .....	October	16 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday Ministry Fair .....	October	26 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday Ministry Fair .....	October	30 <sup>th</sup>

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Issue 10



### NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

Noisy offering donated in September to Lutheran Social Services is \$516.29.

In the month of October Noisy offering collected will be going towards Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR was founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of WWII, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, LWR tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. Their goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after their projects end.

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**NO YOUTH OR CHILDREN'S EVENING ACTIVITIES**

Wednesday, October 19

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday, October 23



REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE



## USE LESS PAPER

Would you prefer to get the newsletter via email to save on paper and postage? If so, please email Melissa at [melissa@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:melissa@firstlutheranchurch.com) and let her know!

# PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Happy Fall everybody!

On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, I presented a Temple Talk on the first parts of our Strategic Planning process (which your pastors and Vision Council members are leading). Particularly, I presented on the Cottage Meeting feedback from a lot of you that was given late last Spring and early Summer.

During those Cottage Meetings we invited all of you into some intentional questions with which to wrestle: what are the gaps/weakness at FLC? The strengths? What is your greatest hope for this place? Etc.

My Temple Talk was about presenting your feedback back to all of you, lifting up certain patterns that we are identifying in your feedback, and introducing the preliminary processes of goal making and action steps based on said patterns. Through all these conversations and analyses, we are trying to *discern* who God is calling FLC in Detroit Lakes to be in God's mission for the world.

Each and every one of you are vital to this process, so please check out my latest Temple Talk as we carry on into this new, hopeful, and exciting moment together:

Here is a link to that Temple Talk: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpj\\_6FMEzVs&t=812s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpj_6FMEzVs&t=812s)

Otherwise, the slides from the presentation are below for your reflection:

**DISCERNMENT FOR...** 

 ...God's mission!

**"God's church doesn't have a mission, God's mission has a church."**

– Dr. Rolf Jacobson *Luther Seminary*

**DISCERNMENT FOR MISSION** 

So, our strategic planning is about discerning our calling in God's mission (hence today's biblical call stories!):

**Who is God calling First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes to be in God's mission for the world?**

**WHY NOW?** 

- Recently called full-time pastors
- Renewal out of COVID and times of congregational turmoil
- A changing religious landscape



**DISCERNMENT, THEREFORE...** 

...requires **ALL OF US!**

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member [or just the pastors, or just the staff, or just the Vision Council,] but **MANY**. –1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:14*

**you me** Hence, the Cottage Meetings! **you me**

(Continued on next page)

## THE COTTAGE MEETINGS

**107** of you participated between April and July of 2022!

Here's what you had to say about yourselves...



## MOST PERCEIVED GAPS:

- #1 – Wider/more sustainable volunteer base [28] (28%)
- #2 – Low in-person attendance post COVID [14] (13%)
- #3 – More youth worship involvement [12] (11%)
- #4 – Family/youth involvement afterbapt/conf.[12] (11%)
- #5 – More fellowship opportunities [9] (8%)

## MOST PERCEIVED GAPS:

- #6 – Be a friendlier/more inviting place [8] (7%)
- #7 – Welcome/integrate new members [8] (7%)
- #8 – More intergenerational opportunities [8] (7%)
- #9 – More Adult Ed. opportunities [8] (7%)
- #10 – Evangelize/Promote FLC's Story [6] (6%)

## NOTICING A THEME?

...one theme becomes very apparent in the Top 10 perceived "Gaps."

8 of the top 10 perceived gaps fall under an umbrella of yearning for greater **FELLOWSHIP.**

## MOST PERCEIVED STRENGTHS:

- #1 – Pastoral Leadership [56] (52%)
- #2 – Youth & Family Ministries [42] (39%)
- #3 – Music Ministries [40] (37%)
- #4 – Office Staff [32] (30%)
- #5 – Worship (Variety, Options, Quality) [24] (22%)

## MOST PERCEIVED STRENGTHS:

- #6 – Friendly/Welcoming Place [21] (20%)
- #7 – Service/Outreach Ministries [17] (16%)
- #8 – Facility & Location [16] (15%)
- #9 – Preaching/Sermons [10] (9%)
- #10 – Lay Leadership (Council & Teams) [8] (7%)

## GREATEST HOPES FOR FLC:

- #1 – Grow #s (attendance, members, involvement) [46] (43%)
- #2 – Grow as loving/healthy/welcoming congregation [41](38%)
- #3 – Grow in love & service for local community [32] (30%)
- #4 – Grow in faith & love for God/discipleship [22] (21%)
- #5 – Grow in love & service beyond DL [12] (11%)

## OTHER NOTABLE HOPESFOR FLC:

- General Stability [9], continual investment in children/youth [8], To be a place where all ages have a place [4], Upgrade church kitchen [3], Generate/Maintain Excitement [3].

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- GOAL MAKING
- ACTION PLANS



## FOCUSING THE DATA

After multiple meetings and hours of reflection and analysis on all your responses, the Vision Council and Pastors have been able to funnel your feedback into

## **FOUR CORE GOALS:**

## FOUR CORE GOALS:

- **#1** – Continue to create accessible, relevant, and faithful **worship** to promote congregational & community engagement
- **#2** – Healthy support of **pastoral leadership & staff** to join them in the work of the church.
- **#3** – Grow in authentic **relationships & discipleship** through education, small group ministries, and fellowship opportunities.
- **#4** – Provide a safe, healthy, and inviting **facility** to support the thriving of FLC's ministries.



## BIBLICAL PILLARS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

WORSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

LEARNING

### Emerging Goals

#1 Accessible, Relevant, & Faithful Worship

#2 Support Pastoral Leadership & Staff

#3 Relationships & Discipleship

#4 Facility that empowers and benefits all the above

My constant pastoral goals are to cultivate three core biblical pillars of Christian community.

There is alignment between the emerging congregational goals and these pillars.

GOAL MAKING & ACTION STEPS CONTINUE!

Keep FLC in your prayers & stay tuned for Strategic Planning Part II!

thank you!



thank you!

# LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor



Every year our NWMN Synod invites all pastors to a Fall Theological Retreat – a time for worshipping, reconnecting and learning. Our focus this year was “Repairing the Breach” with our Indigenous neighbors, and our retreat was held in Mahnomon. Our opening Worship was led by Amanda Vivier, Anishinabe Spiritual leader, and her family, using the “Indigenous People’s Liturgical Celebration”. And our guest speakers, Elaine Enns and Ched Myers, presented their scriptural and historical research from their book, Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonialization. They taught that repairing the

breach involves awareness of injustice and recognizing that while we are not at fault for the history of colonialism and broken treaties, we are responsible now to actively participate in healing the injustice and oppression that still continues. As we studied the Bible together, we all saw how scripture “does the heavy lifting” of truth and reconciliation for and with us.

We visited the White Earth Tribal Headquarters and learned about the work of their governing departments, health and spiritual care for their communities, and collections of artifacts. We also visited St. Columba Episcopal Church and learned about St. Enmegahbowh - the first Native American to be ordained into the North American Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion, and we sang from the *Ojibwa Hymnal* compiled by Edward Kah-O-Sed in 1910.

Bishop Tesch introduced new pastors, SAMS (Synodically Authorized Ministers), and ministries in our Synod, updated us on Resolutions from the National ELCA Assembly, and encouraged us to participate in Leadership training programs our Synod will be sponsoring for congregations, like Faces of Leadership.

We are blessed with compassionate, involved, inspiring Synod leaders. Ask us about our event if you’d like to know more!

I was moved by one of the songs we sang together:

*Deep down inside of me I’ve got a fire going on.  
Part of me wants to sing about the Light;  
And part of me wants to cry, cry, cry.*

Miigwech,  
Pastor Lauryl



Thank you so much to you, our friends at First Lutheran, for the lovely flowers that were sent in honor of Trinity's 125th anniversary. We were very touched at your thoughtfulness. It is a true joy to do ministry alongside you here in Detroit Lakes. God bless you and keep you as we journey together in faith.

Pastor Ruth Hetland and all of us at Trinity Lutheran Church

# PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Nathan Olson

Recently I wondered why Jesus needed disciples, despite all his greatness. So, I did what I usually do when trying to answer a biblical question. I used biblegateway.com to help find some answers. Specifically, I looked for interactions between Jesus and his disciples, and I found these examples that helped answer my question:

Matthew 9:9-13 reads: <sup>9</sup>...he (Jesus) saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."



Matthew 17:14-20: <sup>14</sup>When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. <sup>15</sup>"Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. <sup>16</sup>I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." <sup>17</sup>"You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." <sup>18</sup>Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment. <sup>19</sup>Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" <sup>20</sup>He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 19:13-14: <sup>13</sup>Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

After reading these passages (and there are many more), I realized Jesus needed disciples to teach us some of his most important lessons, to help further his message, and to relate to us. Simply put, the disciples played an important role in God's plan.

I had the opportunity to attend Rally Day services on Sunday and Wednesday in the middle of September. It was great to see our church humming with that familiar buzz of fellowship, connection, worship, and education. All of this cannot happen without our wonderful church staff and, more importantly, our volunteers. Similar to the way Jesus needed disciples to fulfill God's plan, our church needs volunteers to fulfill Jesus' request from Matthew 28:18-20: <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

I thank all of those who volunteer their time to make our church the great place it is. Whether you are ushering, serving communion, working the sound booth, teaching our youth, or volunteering in another capacity, please know our church would not be the special place it is without you. And if you are feeling called to find a place to volunteer your time, please plan to attend our Ministry Fair on Wednesday October 26 or Sunday October 30. By volunteering your time, not only will you be helping our church, but you'll also be helping fulfill God's mission.



Please join us for "Adopt A Highway" Clean up on Saturday, October 8 at 11:00 AM. We'll plan to park at Bleachers Bar and Grill, then each take a section of the road to clean, and return to Bleacher's after clean up. Those interested are welcome to join us after clean up for lunch at Bleachers. We'll have safety vests and garbage bags for everyone. All workers must wear gloves, and good shoes. If the weather is inclement, we'll reschedule. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lauryl, and pray for a nice day!

# Pillars

*Ministries that support our pastors and one another in faith and growth through worship and fellowship.*



By, Mackenzie Hamm

Hello! I want to give some history into our Sheltering Ministry and an update on our finances. This is not a complete detailed budget so if anyone would like a closer look, please reach out to me.

## **Overnight Emergency Shelter Program Description:**

First Lutheran Church, in coordination with other churches in Becker County Minnesota, formed the Becker Homeless Solutions Task Group. The faith partners have collaborated to provide low-barrier overnight emergency shelter during the cold nights of winter and in other emergency situations.

The Detroit Lakes Overnight Emergency Shelter (OES) project provides motel vouchers and church sheltering at First Lutheran Church. Overnight shelter at FLC is only provided when other emergency shelter options are not available, assuring everyone in our county has a safe, warm place to sleep during our potentially life-threatening Minnesota winters and when other crisis arise. *On a need's basis, the OES will also provide the option to sleep during the day when the office is open Monday-Friday if the individual has been up all night from not sleeping.*



In addition to the temporary overnight shelter when no other shelter is available, OES will encourage and support individuals and families in engaging with other housing and homeless services and resources. The OES will serve anyone, as space allows, regardless of their circumstances or background, provided they are not a threat to the safety of other guests or volunteers and follow shelter rules. Guests will be helped as long as possible until they are able to be served by other shelters or find permanent housing. The OES will provide community resources, food, basic needs & referrals during the intake process. Participants will always have the option to receive meals as long as other staff are present during FLC church operating hours as well. The location of OES is First Lutheran Church, 912 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN. Individuals or families seeking shelter can call **(218) 847-5656** from 12pm to 3pm Monday through Friday to be screened for eligibility and availability. **Hours of Operation:** If funding is available and there is no room at other shelters in Fargo/Moorhead and surrounding areas then we can help with Motel Vouchers: 3pm to 11am. Church Sheltering: When appropriate staffing is available, operating hours are from 8 pm to 8 am during winter months. The Shelter is NOT open during daytime hours with the possible exception of major holidays or weather or health emergencies when there are stay home directives. Church Shelter guests MUST arrive by 8 pm each night to guarantee a spot and must leave at 8:00 A.M. *On needs basis, the individuals may sleep in the church after doing intake during the day. This must be approved by the Shelter Coordinator.*

**OES Program and financial experience history:** In November of 2020, the staff at First Lutheran Church (FLC) noticed an increase in the number of individuals who were homeless and seeking shelter in the Detroit Lakes area. The shelters in Detroit Lakes, Fargo/Moorhead & White Earth were full so we decided we needed to try to help. The FLC Social Justice Team met and decided to enlist community members to discuss providing safe emergency shelter in Detroit Lakes area until the individuals could get into a homeless shelter or be able to afford their own housing. The "Becker County Homeless Task Force" was formed and included people from various churches and organizations in the Becker County area. Homelessness was not new to the area churches, for years individuals would come to them seeking safe shelter, so when we reached out many of them were eager to help. When the task force first met, we discussed locations for overnight emergency sheltering. It was mentioned that the Fargo/Moorhead area used churches as host sites for overflow sheltering during the winter for individuals to sleep on cots overnight. It was decided that FLC would be the host site with volunteers coming from all the community churches. FLC is a central location and the staff's available to do intake during the day. The church also had the space to shelter and it was approved by the Vision Council.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

In December 2020 and January 2021, a grant was received from MN Covid-19 Fund distributed by Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, on behalf of the Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity. The first grant awarded on December 8, 2020 was for a total of \$25,577. This grant was approved for spending from April 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020. We received a second grant totaling \$38,244 on March 2, 2021 and this funding was to be spent by June 30, 2021. We received our 3<sup>rd</sup> and final grant on July 1, 2021 for \$10,100 to be spent by August 31, 2021. The total of all three grants are \$73,921.00. The entire grant was spent and we submitted a report of all Covid-19 Emergency Response Funding to the Office of Economic Opportunity at the Department of Human Services on September 10, 2021.

The grant was divided into 5 categories. Shelter-\$49,601.88, Supplies-\$2,233.87, Food-\$7,846.26, Staffing-\$7,618.70, & Rehab Upgrades for shelter facility-\$6,600. Shelter expenses included hotel stays, first month's rent, damage deposits, shelter cots & bedding. Supply expenses included hygiene items, Covid-19 disinfectants and spray, protective gear, and other supplies for sheltering individuals. Food expenses included meal vouchers & gift cards, groceries, food to prepare meals, food pantry grocery bags, a fridge & microwaves for the shelter. Staffing expenses included hiring a few site leads for the shelter and staffing to help with managing the grant process and budget. Rehab of the shelter facility included expenses to bring both the library, conference room and surrounding areas up to code with the approved exit signage, fire alarms, carbon monoxide system, door security system and security cameras. We have a completely detailed budget spreadsheet with every receipt for all expenses. If anyone would like to see a complete breakdown of each expense category, the binder is in the FLC office.

We helped 67 households with shelter and food and 6 of these households had children. There was a total of 750 nights paid for stays at a hotel or Airbnb with the total cost of hotel/Airbnb being \$44,014.56. There were 4 households helped with damage deposits or first month's rent, with the total spending amount being \$2,300. There is a detailed spreadsheet of the number of nights each individual stayed. Some stayed 1 night while some were helped for a couple months until they secured housing. All the individuals we helped shelter were referred to Mahube-Otwa housing intake. Many of these individuals received help from them with their first month's rent/damage deposit depending on their income guidelines at the time. If they did not qualify with Mahube-Otwa, then we helped them with our grant funding. There were 4 households served in the shelter at FLC for a total of 6 days. Over 250 pre-cooked meals were cooked by volunteers, frozen, and handed out to individuals. There were also 215— \$10 meal cards purchased from the grant. Over 100 pre-packaged grocery bags of food were handed out to individuals.

In November of 2021 we applied for a few local grants. We received a few grants from agencies in Detroit Lakes, MN. First Lutheran Church Foundation awarded \$5,000, Essentia Health Community Grant Donated \$10,000 and Walmart Community Grant awarded \$2,000. In July 2022 we received a Community Poverty Ministries Grant awarded \$800 from Northwestern MN Synod. These funds were spent from Sept 2021 through August 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. These funds provided 219 nights stay to 59 individuals, 1 family & 2 youth. A couple guests slept in the church during the day hours while staff were in the office. These grants totaled \$17,800.00. With hotel/shelter cost alone totaled about \$21,900.00. We used other church funds and provided about 660 meals, 30 (\$10) meal cards, 42 (\$10) gas cards, about 400 bus tokens, many bus tickets to shelters and provided lots of clothing and hygiene products. Total spent from Sept 2021 through Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 on the sheltering ministry was \$24,974.91.

**Currently:** From Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, (15 business days) we have had 38 households seek help during a crisis. Our office has been of assistance 55 times. Our Shelter Supply room has provided items like clothing & hygiene items 29 times. We have provided 20 nights of motel shelter for 9 households. We have provided 32 warm meals, 1 meal card, 3 gas cards, 15 bus tokens, and 1 bus ticket. We have helped 4 households with miscellaneous items such as phone cards, utilities, and photo IDs. 19 households who have sought assistance here at First Lutheran Church are homeless. 6 households live in vehicles, 11 households couch hop or stay outside, 1 lives in a storage unit, and 1 in a treatment center. We have used Ministerial vouchers 9 times (6 gas, 2 DLCCC & 1 B&G Thrift Store Vouchers) We are currently operating on the generosity of individuals like you who donate to our First Lutheran Church Agape Fund. The balance as of Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 is \$20,025.67. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this Ministry. How would you like to help your neighbors? <https://www.firstlutheranchurch.com/donations-needed>



# Youth & Family Ministry

By Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director



October 12<sup>th</sup> is our Kindergarten Service Project. If you have a Kindergartener this year, please join us in helping those in crisis with a service project during Wednesday School, at 6:30 in the Chapel on October 12th.



October 16<sup>th</sup> we will be having our first Youth Breakfast of the year! Join us for a delicious and fun way to support our youth!



Our next high school event will be on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 4 PM to 6 PM. We will be doing fall activities, location TBD.



## MEA BREAK

**NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

## Theology On Tap

October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

At Bucks Mill Brewing

(Located at 824 Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes.)

Area churches leading study:

First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes—St. Peter's Lutheran, Audubon—Eskjo Lutheran, Lake park—First Lutheran, Audubon



# Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

## Strengthen your bone health to prevent injury.

**1 out of 5 falls lead to a serious injury such as a broken bone.** How are falls and bone health linked?

Well, 20% of falls lead to a serious injury like a broken bone. Most broken hips are the result of a fall. The stronger your bones are, the greater the chances are that you will avoid a broken bone, even if you take a spill. Here are a few key factors to keep in mind:

1. **Vitamin D and calcium** help to keep your bones strong. Vitamin D is linked with reduced falls and fewer broken bones in older adults. Talk to your healthcare provider about how much vitamin D and calcium are right for you.
2. **Regular physical activity** and weight-bearing exercises help reduce the risk of a fall and improve your bone health.

### **Take care of your bones and prevent falls:**

1. Eat a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D.
2. Exercise regularly and include weight-bearing exercises to stimulate bone building.
3. Don't smoke, smoking will reduce blood supply to bones.
4. Limit alcohol. If you choose to drink, limit to one drink a day for women and two drinks for men.
5. Check your home for safety. Remove clutter, throw rugs, and ensure flooring and handrails are secure.
6. Talk with your health care provider about a bone density test. This will allow you to check in on your bone health. *Source: Juniper/ National Council on Aging*

### Tai Ji Quan class beginning Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Rec Room at FLC.

Everyone welcome! The first class will include information about the sessions and scheduling days and times for the remaining classes.

\*\*\*\*\*

### October 16<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure Checks are coming back!

Starting October 16<sup>th</sup>, I will be available between services on every third Sunday of the month to check your blood pressure. All are welcome to stop by the church office and get your blood pressure checked.

\*\*\*\*\*

### When Are You Up to Date with Covid 19 vaccines?

You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC. If you have questions regarding vaccines, call Denise.

# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

So much information and potential out there but so little time . . .

The goal of the Adult Faith Formation program here at First Lutheran Church is to plan and coordinate spiritual and educational opportunities for the growth and development of our adult faith community. One of those opportunities would be through book studies.

Would you be interested in helping meet this goal . . . ?

- You could lead a book study
- Host a book study in your home, in a Detroit Lakes City park, on the FLC green space, or reserve a room in the church and then convince your friend to lead the study
- Add a food feature that is part of the book's content
- Zoom with the author
- The ideas and potential are endless
- Talk to a member of the adult faith formation team



Some book titles that have surfaced in discussion over coffee include:

- *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by Katharine Hayhoe (2021)
- *Outlaw Christian* by Jacqueline Bussie (2016) and can be found in the FLC library
- *Love Without Limits* by Jacqueline Bussie (2022) and can be found in the FLC library
- *Talking with God: What to Say When You Don't Know How to Pray* by Adam Weber (2017)
- *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Maz (2020)
- *Atlas of the Heart* by Brene' Brown (2022)
- *Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness* by Cindy Wang Brandt (2019)
- *Solito* (a memoir) by Javier Zamora (2022)
- *Across the River: Life, Death, and Football in an American City* by Kent Babb (2021)

Or for your own growth and development through a self-study, David Rustad has a three-book study series on the topics of conquering worry and fear, how God defines success, and overcoming busyness. And how many of us have not faced worry, fear, success, failure, or busyness. Each book will lead you through Bible scripture that connects with and helps understand the three book topics. Don't be overwhelmed, each book is approximately 70 pages. Rustad is a professional communicator, author, and church entrepreneur. He is also "somewhat" connected to First Lutheran Church—he is the son-in-law of our friends and yours, Jim and Joyce Armstrong.

If your interest has been piqued or you have questions, please contact Pastor Joe, Pastor Lauryl, or Parish Nurse Denise. You are also welcome to contact Sandi at 218.779.4679 or Terry at 701.330.3087. Plan to visit the Adult Faith Formation booth at the Ministry Fair scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, and Sunday, October 30.



End-of-year gifts must be received at the church office by Wednesday, December 28 to be recorded in your 2022 generosity statement. Online gifts may be made until December 31. If you have questions, please contact Paul at the church office.



# ROSES

Written by, Patti Cummins

“Oh Lord, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to You the nations will come...” Jeremiah 16:19a

Even though I'd had a large vegetable garden for years, growing roses intimidated me. They seemed so delicate and fragile, requiring specialized care and knowledge. After moving to town, out of my desire to enjoy their exquisite beauty I purchased a red rose bush. It was lovely the first year but didn't survive the winter. Determination set in, and after researching how to winter roses I purchased another. I now have three – one bearing many petite pink blossoms, one adorns my yard with fewer but much larger white flowers, and the third blooms a spritely yellow with bright pink highlights.

I watch the weather forecast every day, so I can prepare for any hint of damaging temperatures. I water the ground sustaining them thoroughly and often so when the freeze comes, the roots are preserved as though in an icy bag. As that ice melts in the spring, it provides the life-giving water the roots need so they don't dry out. A few inches of mulch bed down and protect the bush's crown at its base and all branches are left intact, waiting for their springtime trim. I don't know if there's another way to prepare these living creations for winter, but in thirty years I've never lost another rose due to winter's stress.

A few weeks ago, I passed a sign that said “Distressed? Seek God.” The first thing that popped into my head was a caricature of a stick figure running around frantically calling out “Where's God, I need God.” I thought about my roses and how I prepare them for the stress winter places on them. It's really a year long process – clearing away and trimming in the spring, ample water and nutrition during the hot days of summer, keeping the aphids and other pests away, and giving them a secure, protected bed before winter throws its best at them.

Distress comes and I seek God. And in all those moments, I'm glad I mulched myself in prayer every day so maybe I'm a little more open to hearing God's voice which brings comfort and guidance. And I try to keep God's Word bedded in my mind and heart, so when the arid times come, the Word's life-giving water will be right there to nurture and protect my soul.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MINISTRY FAIR

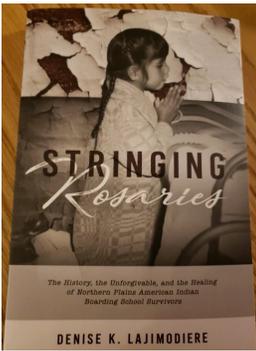
Wednesday, October 26  
(During Oasis)

Sunday, October 30  
(During the Fellowship Hour)

Make plans to attend the FLC Ministry Fair...Table/Booths will be set up around the dining room with information about each ministry & how you could participate! See you there!

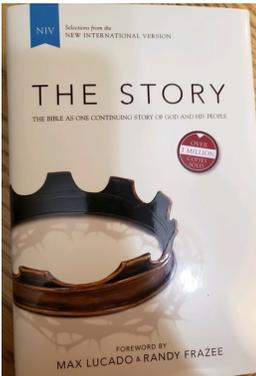
# FLC LIBRARY

## New Books



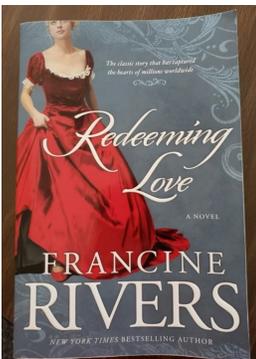
**Stringing Rosaries—The History, the Unforgivable, and the Healing of Northern Plains American Indian Boarding School Survivors**  
Written by Denise K Lajimodiere

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.



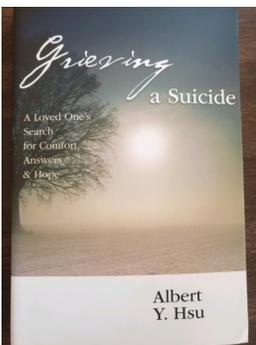
**NIV, The Story, Hardcover, Comfort Print: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People**  
Written by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee

The Story is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. There are no verse references, and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, The Story helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily.



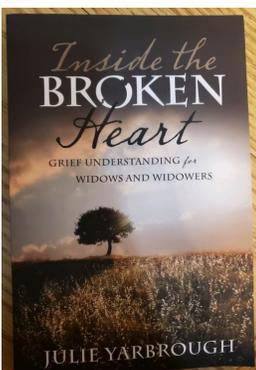
**Redeeming Love**  
Written by Francine Rivers

Sold into prostitution in childhood, Angel is a bitter woman who trusts no man. But when God tells Michael Hosea to marry her, she learns to love---until fear overwhelms her and she returns to her former life. Can she be redeemed? A skillful retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea.



**Grieving a Suicide—A Loved One's Search for Comfort, Answers, & Hope**  
Written by Albert Y. Hsu

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide and for their counselors and pastors, *Grieving A Suicide* is an essential companion for the journey toward healing.



**Inside the Broken Heart—Grief Understanding for Widows and Widowers**  
Written by Julie Yarbrough

How does the heart understand grief when it is broken by the death of a husband or wife? To survive and live forward, those who grieve must find answers. Inside the Broken Heart is for anyone who has ever grieved the death of a spouse and asked 'why?' The book meets the reader at a spiritual place reserved specifically for widows and widowers.

Author Jacqueline Bussie spoke at the WELCA conference about her two books – “Outlaw Christian” and “Love without Limits”. She gave an amazing presentation and her books sold out. We have both books in the library if you haven't had a chance to read them yet.

# LAKES AREA

# EV EVENT!

KIDS  
WELCOME

*October 15, 2022*

First Lutheran Church  
912 Lake Ave. Detroit Lakes  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

TEST DRIVE  OUR CLEAN  
ENERGY FUTURE IN A FUN,  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
ATMOSPHERE



## KEYNOTE

Paul Douglas will be our Keynote speaker. Paul is a Meteorologist, entrepreneur, and author.

LOCAL

## UTILITIES

Come and talk with your local electric utility to learn about all the electrification incentives they have to offer.



Electric vehicle

## EV DEALERS

There will be several local EV dealers and owners to answer questions and let you drive one of their EVs!



## AND MORE

Kids activities  
Electric Bikes  
Yard Equipment

Get updates from the sponsors of this event:  
[www.facebook.com/PrairieWoodsIWLA](https://www.facebook.com/PrairieWoodsIWLA) or <https://www.facebook.com/DLPublicUtilities>  
[www.facebook.com/WestCentralClimateAction/](https://www.facebook.com/WestCentralClimateAction/)



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

**AGAPE FUND**

**In Memory of: Otto Evenson**

Given by: Robert & Marilyn Jernberg

**EVANGELISM FUND**

**In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson**

Given by: Patti Cummins

**FOUNDATION FUND**

**In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson**

Given by: John & Mary Lee

Given by: Lois Thiesse

Given by: Sherwin & Cathy Nelson

Given by: Eugene & Eloyce Gaffney

Given by: Richard & Shan Manke

Given by: Judith Peterson

Given by: Robert & Marilyn Jernberg

Given by: Paul & Brenda Muckenhirn

Given by: Darrol & Grace Nichols

Given by: Donald Oldenburg

Given by: Jill & Mark Heggstad

Given by: Terry & Sandra Kemmer

Given by: Denise & Mark Buller

Given by: Jean Benson

Given by: Bonnie Freeland

Given by: Jeffrey & Joanne Knutson

**HOSPITALITY FUND**

**In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson**

Given by: Cindy Bruflodt

**JUBILATE CHOIR FUND**

**In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson**

Given by: Madalyn Sukke

**KITCHEN FUND**

**In Memory of: John & Evelyn Grongina**

Given by: Ardys Horner

**MUSIC FUND**

**In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson**

Given by: Ruth Price

**QUILTERS FUND**

**In Memory of: Pat Magnusson**

Given by: Arlene Olson

Given by: Tallack & Jan Johnson

Given by: Jean Benson

**UNDESIGNATED FUND**

**In Memory of: Pat Magnusson**

Given by: Patti Cummins



**WFLC UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Rachel Circle—October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Library
- Rebekah Circle—October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room
- Ruth Circle—October 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the Dining Room
- Co-Council Meeting—October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room

# 'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

## October

**Leader: Tanzy Haisley**

Dawn Barnack  
Terry & Linda Beilke  
Ryan & Susan Bjorklund  
Brent & Jodi Blake  
Richard & Linda Branden  
Ardith Carlson  
Lenora Dire  
Jim & Beverly Elletson  
Leif & Deb Erickson  
Zackary & Sara Erickson  
Betty Fischer  
Steve & Rhonda Fode  
Benjamin & Kristi Fradenburgh

Kim Fuhs  
Brent & Sarah Fulton  
Keith & Virginia Gilbertson  
Steven & Rita Glunberg  
Gary & Tanzy Haisley  
Virginia & Justin Hanson  
David & Elaine Hedman  
Amanda Heisserer  
Ted & Hollice Heisserer  
Jody & Julie Hibma  
Jeana Ketter  
Josh & Tiffany Krieg  
Sonja Lillquist

Robert Lund  
Paul & Brenda Muckenhirn  
Jeff & Lori Nustad  
Charlotte Olson  
Paul & Pamela Orth  
Roger & Arlene Reiersen  
Samuel & Kayla Ruppert  
Rodney & Susan Schaffer  
Kristie Shaffer  
Frank & Joleen Skolte  
LaVonne Stallman & William Mayberry  
LeRoy & Mathilde Svenby

Action Corps serves the Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provides desserts for funerals and serves other congregational events.

The month you are on Action Corps, you will be called by your Action Corps leader to see when and how you would like to participate. For Sunday mornings: You **can serve** (set-up, serving and/or clean up). You **can donate food** items or you **can donate money** to purchase food items. You will only be called as the need arises for funerals & other events.

We accomplish big things when everybody does a little bit! Thank You!!



## November

**Leader: Marilyn Tinjum & Catie Herman**

Mary Lou Anderson  
Verly Anderson  
Claudia & Duane Arne  
Dick & Lonni Beaton  
Steve & Missy Doppler  
Carl & Janice Fingalson  
Barbara Haugen  
Dylan Herman  
James & Carolyn Herman  
Jay Johnson & Anne McKay  
Jan Kvidt

Curtis & Audrey Listul  
Eric & Katie Lundmark  
Janelle & Fran Maday  
Kalan & Renee Malchow  
Delroy & Elizabeth Mathison  
LaVerne & Judy Maxwell  
Basil & Myrna Mielke  
Thomas & Phyllis Neuenfeldt  
Carl & Carol Oberholtzer  
Darlene Olson  
Bruce & Judy Palm

Christopher & Heather Perry  
Les & Norma Perry  
Ruth Price  
Victor & Jean Rolle  
Charles & Barb Scherzer  
Thomas & Elizabeth Schroeder  
Daniel & Deborah Sprague  
Beth Tinjum  
Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum  
Dennis & Angela Weaver  
Gaylen & Catharine Weisenburger  
Gregory & Melissa Wokasch

Each family/person has a 3-month quarter in which they will be called upon for serving. If you know which Sunday you would prefer to help serve during Sunday Coffee Fellowship time, please contact your leader and let them know! Call the office, 847-5656, if you would like to change the season in which you serve.

# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>3</b> 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 7:00p Creation Care Book Study	<b>4</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	<b>5</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Oak Crossing Wshp Svc. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	<b>7</b> 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>8</b> 11:00a Ditch Cleanup
<b>9</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>10</b> 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 7:00p Creation Care Book Study	<b>11</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:30a Rebekah Circ, Din Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Linc Park/Winch Worship 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	<b>12</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Pelican Landing Devo 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circle, Din Rm	<b>14</b> 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>15</b> 10:00a Electric Car Event
<b>16</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 4:00p High School Event	<b>17</b> 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>18</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 6:00p Stewardship Team Mtg	<b>19</b> <b>MEA BREAK</b> <i>No Worship            No Wednesday School            No Confirmation</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	<b>21</b> 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Healing Service            No Sunday School—MEA</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>24</b> 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>25</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	<b>26</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> <i>Baptism</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Ministry Fair, Din. Rm 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	<b>28</b> 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Ministry Fair, Din Rm 10:45a Contemporary Worship	<b>31</b> 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>1</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	<b>2</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	<b>4</b> 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>5</b>



## **The First Messenger**

First Lutheran Church  
912 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Volume 31 Issue 9  
Non-Profit Organization

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.

## **Office Hours:**

### **Winter Hours**

*(Labor Day to Memorial Day)*  
Monday—Friday  
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

### **Summer Hours**

*(Memorial Day to Labor Day)*  
Monday—Thursday  
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Fridays  
8:30 AM to Noon

Office Phone: 847-5656

Fax Phone: 847-7009

[flc@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:flc@firstlutheranchurch.com)

[www.firstlutheranchurch.com](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.com)

## **Vision Council**

President: Nathan Olson  
President-Elect: Gail Colby  
Secretary: Deanne Udby  
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

Erin Erickson, Scott Sonstegard, Carla Solem,  
Todd Gaard, & Tanner Duncan

## **Foundation Board**

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

Shar Arvig, Lynn Schulberg,  
Don Busker & Pam Orth

## **Congregational Staff**

### **Lead Pastor:**

Pastor Joe Skogmo     [pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Associate Pastor:**

Pastor Lauryl Ivers     [pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Business Manager**

Paul Haarstick     [paul@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:paul@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Youth and Family Ministry Director**

Emma Duncan     [emma@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:emma@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Support Ministries Coordinator:**

Mackenzie Hamm     [mackenzie@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:mackenzie@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Communications Director:**

Melissa Christianson     [melissa@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:melissa@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Information Technology/Media:**

Cory Oswald     [cory@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:cory@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Parish Nurse:**

Denise Gaard     [denise@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:denise@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Worship Music Coordinator:**

Karen Bimberg     [karen@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:karen@firstlutheranchurch.com)

### **Adult Choir Director:**

Kathy Larson     [klarson@detlakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:klarson@detlakes.k12.mn.us)

### **Bell Choir Director:**

Carla Hansen     [Hansencarla62@gmail.com](mailto:Hansencarla62@gmail.com)

### **Missionary Pastor:**

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

**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](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.com).**

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