



The First Messenger

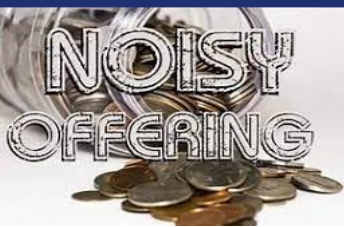
APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth Pie AuctionApril 7th
- 234 Fellowship @ VoyagerApril 12th
- "Growing Young" Book PanelApril 15th & 22nd
- Adult Forum: by Pr. Roy HammeringApril 21st & 28th

Volume 33

April 2024

Issue 4



NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The total from the February Noisy Offering going to Patriot Assistance Dogs of DL totaled \$690.21.

Check back next month for noisy offering total for March going to the Becker County Food Pantry.

In the month of April, Noisy Offering will go towards Churches United in Moorhead, MN. The mission of Churches United is to provide Safe Shelter, Stable Housing, Nutritious Food, and a Path Toward Healing to those in the community in need.

What's Inside?

Action Corps	Page 16
Calendar	Page 17
Library Update	Page 7
Making Connections	Page 11/12
Memorials	Page 15
Parish Health	Page 4
Pastor Joe's Update	Page 2
President's Post	Page 3
Stewardship Team	Page 14
Youth/Family Update	Page 5

YOUTH PIE AUCTION

Sunday, April 7

Thank you in advance for your donations and support!

We hope to see you there!



Our High School Youth are preparing to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans and will be hosting our annual pie auction. The auction will be in between worship services on Sunday, April 7 in the dining room. Out bid your friends on pies to help raise funds for this once in a lifetime opportunity for our youth.

Donations: We are in need of pies!

If you would like to help us by donating some pies for our auction, please sign up at the volunteer table or in the church office. You can donate as many pies as you would like!



HAPPY EARTH DAY!
April 22, 2024

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Happy April, everyone, and a blessed Easter Season to you and yours.



HAPPY EASTER

Peace, Joe

The 234 Group
(Adults in our 20's, 30's & 40's)

**WANTS TO
STRIKE
UP SOME FUN!**

Voyager Lanes

Friday, April 12th - 6 PM to 8 PM

Adults Only :)

To secure lanes please RSVP to
the link sent out by Olivia by 4/6

Questions? Text Shea - 218-850-4897

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Gail Colby



Happy Easter and Happy Spring First Lutheran Church!

We have many volunteer opportunities here at First Lutheran. I want to encourage you to pray about where your passions are in serving your church. The Vision Council has approved our Nominating Committee for this year. The Nominating Committee is the group that finds members for our upcoming vacancies on our various committees we have at FLC.

The Vision Council is responsible for the overall business of the church and provides visionary and strategic leadership for the congregation. It consists of four officers and six At Large members that have three-year terms. They meet monthly.

The Personnel Committee assists with work such as employee policies, reviews and compensation. They have a chairman and 4 members with three-year terms. They meet every other month.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for the management and care of all real and physical property owned by the congregation, in collaboration with the Vision Council. They have a chairman and 5 members. They meet monthly.

Our Stewardship Committee reviews giving patterns in the FLC congregation and may also research and recommend opportunities for funding campaigns. They have a chairman and 4 members. They meet at least quarterly.

The Foundation Board works to serve the mission of the church through financial giving exclusively for the charitable, religious, literary, or educational purposes. They have 4 officers and 5 at Large members. They meet quarterly.

Sometimes people think they need to have some special skills to a part of these committees. For that reason, I am asking each of you to pray about the things you feel passionate about. Some of our members of these committees do have special skills, which we are very grateful for. Some of us, such as myself, do not. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by Pastors, staff and other committee members that support and mentor me to help me accomplish the tasks at hand. I always learn a lot and enjoy the fellowship that occurs. If you chose to not be on a committee, please continue to volunteer and be apart of other serving you do. Every part is important and we are very grateful for you! If you are asked to serve on a committee, whether it is the right time for you or not, know that it is a compliment. We value you and we see you as someone that values all of our members, young and mature, at FLC and members of our community.

Jesus chose his twelve disciples from all different walks of life. I'm up to season 3 in watching "The Chosen". Jesus is becoming more famous; his preaching and word of his miracles are spreading from city to city. He pairs up his disciples and instructs them to go out on their own and cast out demons and perform healings. Little James, who has a disability of his own, wasn't sure how he would go out to heal other people when he was crippled. He asked Jesus why he hadn't healed him or if it was possible. Little James had seen many miracles so, of course, he knew it was possible. Jesus said, "I haven't healed you because I trust you." What?! So Jesus explained that if he healed Little James, then he also, would have a story of a miracle to tell. There will be hundreds and even thousands more miracle stories that will be told. But if Jesus send him out proclaiming God, praising God, and healing people, *despite* his own difficulty, what an amazing site that would be! He could show people that he knew how to focus on so much more than the body. He could show people that he could be patient with his suffering here on earth because he will spend eternity with no suffering. Jesus said not everyone understands that and that God doesn't trust this to everyone. Little James said that even though he knows he is "fearfully and wonderfully made" he didn't feel like less of a burden to the other disciples. Jesus would not allow Little James to speak that way of himself and assured him the he would accomplish more for Jesus than some people ever dream of! He told him that some people need to be healed to believe, but that was not the case for Little James. Many are healed or not healed because the father in heaven has a plan for them. That plan may be a mystery. Jesus told him that when he discovers himself doing great things *because* of his weakness and when he does great things in Jesus's name *in spite* of his disability, the impact will last for generations.

(Article continues on page 9)



Parish Health

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

April is Stress Awareness Month

Let's face it, our lives can be very stressful and it's crucial to recognize the impact of stress on our overall well-being. April marks Stress Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about stress and its effects on mental and physical health. Stress, when managed poorly, can lead to a myriad of health issues including anxiety, depression, heart disease, and weakened immune function. By understanding the triggers of stress and implementing effective coping mechanisms, individuals can take proactive steps to mitigate its negative effects and lead healthier, more balanced lives.

Stress affects people of all ages and backgrounds. Whether it's due to work pressures, financial worries, relationship strains, or other life challenges, stress can take a toll on both our minds and bodies. Stress Awareness Month provides a timely reminder to prioritize self-care and mental health awareness. By fostering open conversations, seeking support when needed, and adopting healthy lifestyle habits such as regular exercise, mindfulness practices, and adequate sleep, we can empower ourselves and others to better manage stress and cultivate resilience in the face of life's inevitable challenges.

Learning what causes or triggers your stress and what coping techniques work for you can help reduce your anxiety and improve your daily life. It may take trial and error to discover what works best for you. Here are some activities you can try when you start to feel overwhelmed:

- Keep a journal.
- Download an app that provides relaxation exercises (such as deep breathing or visualization) or tips for practicing mindfulness, which is a psychological process of actively paying attention to the present moment.
- Exercise, and make sure you are eating healthy, regular meals.
- Stick to a sleep routine, and make sure you are getting enough sleep.
- Avoid drinking excess caffeine such as soft drinks or coffee.
- Identify and challenge your negative and unhelpful thoughts.
- Reach out to your friends or family members who help you cope in a positive way.

There are some great resources available online at the National Institute of Health's website. You can find them here: <https://hr.nih.gov/working-nih/civil/national-stress-awareness-month>.

Who will speak for you? Advanced Health Care Planning

Life can change in an instant. You never know if you will be involved in a car accident, suffer a stroke, or suddenly be admitted to the hospital with a life-threatening illness. If you are unable to speak for yourself, do your loved ones or health care professionals know your preferences regarding the care and treatment you receive? Would your loved ones feel overwhelmed and unsure of what your wishes might be? Advanced Care Planning is a gift for your loved ones, providing them with your wishes and making a difficult situation much easier.

National Healthcare Decisions Day, observed on April 16th, reminds us of the importance of advance care planning and making informed healthcare decisions. This day encourages us to engage in meaningful conversations with our loved ones and healthcare providers about our healthcare preferences, values, and wishes for future medical treatment. By taking proactive steps to complete advance directives such as living wills and healthcare proxies in advance, we can ensure that our wishes are respected and honored, even if we become unable to communicate and make decisions on our own.

Use April 16th as a cue for yourself and your loved ones to make informed decisions about your healthcare journey, ensuring that your values and wishes are upheld with dignity and respect. To get assistance with how to start these conversations or how to complete your Healthcare Directive you can call me at 218-847-5656 or visit with your health care provider.

To find resources online go to; MN Department of Health, <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/infobulletins/advdir.html>



Youth & Family Ministry

By Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director

April News

RESCHEDULED 2nd grade Service Project: On April 10th, our 2nd grade classes will have the opportunity to help animals with the help of Lakes Area Humane Society. Parents/Guardians please consider attending this opportunity with your child.

1st grade Service Project: On April 17th, our 1st grade class will have the opportunity to help save our planet with the help of Becker County Soil and Water District. Parents/Guardians please consider attending this opportunity with your child.

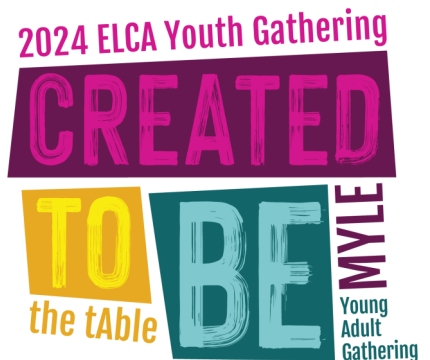
Looking Ahead

Confirmation Sunday: This service will take place May 5th, in the sanctuary. Service will start at 1 PM, with photos and light refreshments to follow. Please consider attending this special service to congratulate our 2024 confirmands on the work and dedication they put into their faith journey.

Senior Recognition: Graduating high school seniors will have a special recognition and blessing on their new journey. This recognition will take place on May 19th at both 8:30 and 10:45 services. More information will be sent to graduating seniors' families soon.

Youth Gathering: What is the gathering? Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

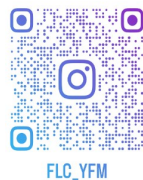
****New Orleans - July 16th-20th****



FLC Busy Bags

We love that kids are in worship and want to continue to have them present! We understand that sometimes it can be difficult to be engaged with worship when you're a kid. To help stay engaged we are introducing FLC Busy Bags, intended for elementary aged kids. You'll find them on the coat rack just outside of the sanctuary. In these bags you'll find various activities and fidgets to keep you busy and engaged during worship.

Follow First Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry on Instagram!



**Mark your Calendars!
Vacation Bible School
June 16th - June 20th**

Open to kids entering 1st-5th grade in fall '24

If you have any questions or concerns, or want more information feel free to contact Olivia
Email: olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com or Cell: 218-325-3953
Typically in Office M-Th 8:30 AM—4:00 PM



The Women of FLC Mother's Day Project

As a project for Mother's Day, the WFLC will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. A list of items they will be collecting can be found to the right. Please have all donations dropped off in the bin by the church office by May 12.

BABY CARE KIT NEEDED ITEMS

- o **TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)
- o **TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- o **TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- o **FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- o **ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- o **TWO** pairs of socks
- o **ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended
- o **TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- o **TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins



I LOVE YOU MIMI AND PAPA SO MUCH LOVE OAKLYN

Article submitted by Patti Cummins

Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray, and when it was evening, He was there alone. Matthew 14:22-23

Oaklyn's thrill of reading is only matched by her joy in writing. Notes like the above, menus for her restaurant of plastic food, and transcriptions of recipes previously held only in Grandma's memory. My family cookbook now contains our pancake recipe with a "secret ingredient" flourish contributed by Oaklyn.

While she was writing one day, I caught a glimpse of one pointer finger placed carefully on the page, then she continued writing, her finger marking the end of each word. Apparently, she was taught that, recognized her note recipients sometimes took a long time to read her messages, or realized books, road signs, cereal boxes had spaces between words. Spaces that bring clarity to ideas. Spaces elucidated her thoughts, intentions, and feelings.

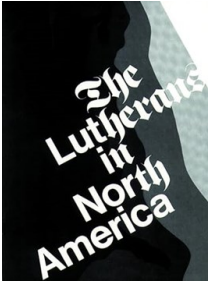
The walls at her home, my house, and Mimi and Papa's are papered with Oaklyn's artwork and notes. It's fun to see how she's progressed as the months and years tick by. Her first notes, with words compressed together prompt me to consider my own life. No matter how hard I try to keep an organized schedule, things sometimes just pile up and the path ahead can become cloudy or confusing. How much space do I take in each day to evaluate where I'm going, or whether I'm investing my time and energy the best I can in the hours afforded me.

Spring is just around the corner, with all its added busyness in the yard and garden. And I am reminded of my mother who always put "people" things first – family, friends, those in need. So, I seek paths that help strengthen my relationship with God to better love people as He envisioned.

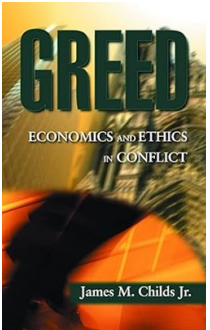
Jesus took time to step away, to pray about, connect with, and share in His Father's vision. He decluttered His mind and spirit from all the noise of the world. His disciples followed His example. "These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jese and with His brothers." (Acts 1:14) And I ask myself, how do I set aside time to do the same. I can't "create" extra hours in a day.

But I can try to plan some intentional "space" within each day to pray, read, connect, and hope God's vision for my life becomes manifest. It may or may not be the same time each day, but sorting through the clutter, putting things in their proper place, catching sight of the light shining through so that light can be shared with others. Like Oaklyn, finding clarity. Like my mother, putting people first.

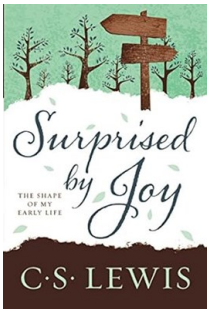
Library Update—Submitted by Patti Cummins



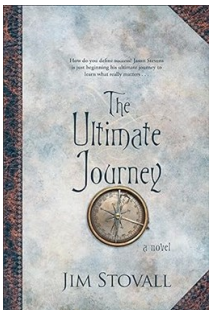
THE LUTHERANS IN NORTH AMERICA—This book gives today's Lutherans a sense of heritage, identity and continuity, a sense of self-understanding. Readers will see themselves as part of a family. They can identify with the struggles, hopes, and frustrations of wave after wave of immigrants adapting to the strange new world of America and at the same time trying to preserve all they had known and loved and brought with them from the homeland. The genius of the entire volume is that it points beyond family memories to an ongoing and continuing life of which we and our children are a living part.



GREED ECONOMICS AND ETHICS IN CONFLICT—We live in an age of greed. Economic good times and the self-immolation of socialist alternatives have left capitalism unrivaled in popular minds as a way of life a prized set of values and expectations. However, capitalism is not without its downside or its victims. Basic human services and even religion have become commodities. Corporations reorganize for short-term gain at the expense of employees and of their own long-term viability. Increasingly, people see themselves not as citizens but as consumers. First World countries, 15 percent of the globe, account for 86 percent of private consumption. In this important book, Childs probes this disturbing development in its economic and cultural dimensions, gauging contemporary ways in light of Christian ethical principles and investigating a wide range of particular sectors and problems.

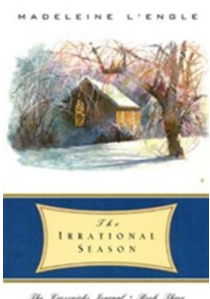


SURPRISED BY JOY—C. S. Lewis—the great British writer, scholar, lay theologian, broadcaster, Christian apologist, and bestselling author of *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and many other beloved classics—takes readers on a spiritual journey through his early life and eventual embrace of the Christian faith. Lewis begins with his childhood in Belfast, surveys his boarding school years and his youthful atheism in England, reflects on his experience in World War I, and ends at Oxford, where he became "the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England." As he recounts his lifelong search for joy, Lewis demonstrates its role in guiding him to find God.



THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY—The fourth in the series. In *The Ultimate Journey*, readers will discover the secrets of a successful life, including

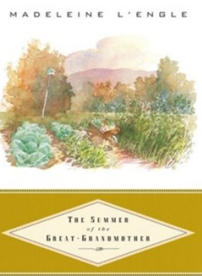
- money helps pay for the trip, but should never be a destination
- friends make the journey worthwhile
- laughter lightens the load of any rough or rocky uphill road
- time may be allotted in small or large portions but the moment is what counts
- and so much more



THE IRRATIONAL SEASON—Madeleine L'Engle was an American writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and young adult fiction, including *A Wrinkle in Time* and its sequels: *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *Many Waters*, and *An Acceptable Time*. Her works reflect both her Christian faith and her strong interest in modern science. The liturgical seasons in this third book provide the backdrop to L'Engle's reflections on her writing, her friendships, her memories, her views on history, art, theater, prayer, etc., transforming this rambling conversation into a testimony to faith and life's abiding goodness,"

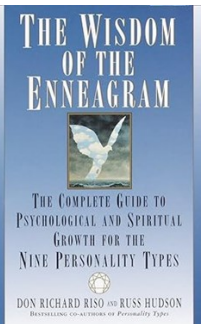
(Continued on page 8)

(Library Update Continued from page 7)



THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT GRANDMOTHER—In the second memoir of her Crosswicks Journals, Madeleine L'Engle chronicles a season of extremes. Four generations of family have gathered at Crosswicks, her Connecticut farmhouse, to care for L'Engle's ninety-year-old mother. As summer days fade to sleepless nights, her mother's health rapidly declines and her once astute mind slips into senility. With poignant honesty, L'Engle describes the gifts and graces, as well as the painful emotional cost, of caring for the one who once cared for you.

As she spends her days with a mother who barely resembles the competent and vigorous woman who bore and raised her, L'Engle delves into her memories, reflecting on the lives of the strong women in her family's history. Evoking both personal experiences and universal themes, *The Summer of the Great-Grandmother* takes an unflinching look at diminishment and death, all the while celebrating the wonder of life.



THE WISDOM OF THE ENNEAGRAM—The ancient symbol of the Enneagram has become one of today's most popular systems for self-understanding, based on nine distinct personality types. Now, two of the world's foremost Enneagram authorities introduce a powerful new way to use the Enneagram as a tool for personal transformation and development. Whatever your spiritual background, the Enneagram shows how you can overcome your inner barriers, realize your unique gifts and strengths, and discover your deepest direction in life. Highly accessible, yet filled with sophisticated concepts and techniques found nowhere else, *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* is a strikingly new fusion of psychology and spirituality. It offers an exciting vision of human possibility and a clear map of the nine paths to our highest self-expression.



Who Would Jesus Love?

Submitted by Tom Neuenfeldt

Music has a way of touching us emotionally. Sometimes you hear a song and it reminds you of an event or circumstance in your life. There are times when the lyrics of a song make you feel like the words were especially written for you for that particular moment. That was the feeling I had recently when I heard the song "Who Would Jesus Love?" by Ray Boltz from the album "True". I would like to share these lyrics with you all.

I used to wear a bracelet
asking, "what would Jesus do?"
But all my faith and promises would quickly fade from view.
I tried to do my best, but what I did was never enough.
Then I asked the question, "who would Jesus love?"

Chorus: **Would he only love the ones who looked the same as me?**
 Would he only offer hope when he saw similarity
 Would he leave the others waiting like a stranger at the gate?
 Would he discriminate?
 Tell me: who would Jesus love?

Now I can build a bridge that will reach from me to you
Or I can build a wall instead if I don't like the view.
'Cause I make the decision on how to follow through.
I don't need a bracelet to know what he would do. **Chorus**

There is no Jew or Greek, there is no slave or free,
And no male or female. He treats us equally. **Chorus**

Thank you, Lord for the gift of music.

Take a moment to reread 1 Corinthians 13.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

At the May 2023 Northwest Minnesota ELCA Synod Assembly, the book ***Growing Young*** was introduced to delegates. Our First Lutheran Church delegates brought this resource to our attention.

The authors surveyed, interviewed, observed, and analyzed the workings of nearly 400 church leaders, lay and rostered, from approximately 250 nominated noteworthy growing young congregations. Thus this research is “from the ground of real-life ministry contexts and communities”. Experts in the field have said that the book is “incredibly insightful, theologically robust, and practically engaging”.

Several members of the FLC Adult Faith Formation team have read the book and taken a class offered by the NW MN ELCA synod staff. When consideration is given to our society’s

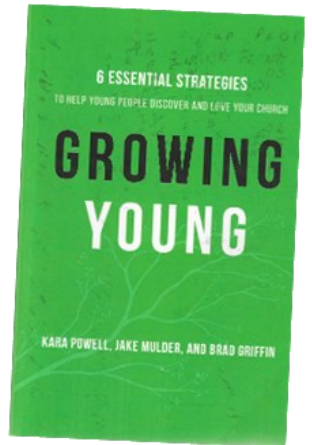
fast-changing culture and needs of the various generations here at FLC, it seems appropriate that some time and effort be given to the findings within the ***Growing Young*** book.

A cross-generational task force has been established and given the assignment to read and discuss the content and compare to what is happening and not happening here at FLC. The task force is currently reading the book and will be discussing the content in April. During the discussion, the four goals that our Vision Council has been using in its strategic planning will be incorporated. The task force is working with a target date of May 19, which is the FLC Annual Meeting.

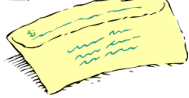
To assist in understanding the dynamics of the ***Growing Young*** book, the central focus includes six core strategies needed by churches to grow young. Those six strategies are:

1. *Unlock keychain leadership...* empower people from across the generations
2. *Empathize with today’s younger generations...* instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of these generations
3. *Take Jesus’ message seriously...* welcome all into a Jesus-centered way of living
4. *Fuel a warm community...* aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships
5. *Prioritize young people and families everywhere...* look for creative ways to support, resource, and involve them
6. *Be the best neighbors...* learn to “neighbor well” locally and globally

Please watch for updates and progress reports on the workings of the growing young task force. And if this information piqued your interest, stop in the church office and sign out a ***Growing Young*** book... read, highlight, take notes, and then return for someone else!



Offering Envelopes



If you have not picked up your 2024 Giving Envelopes, please check with the office. Envelopes will be mailed by request.



Annual Ministry Reports

If you lead a ministry at First Lutheran Church, please submit your annual report to Paul by April 15 so that it can be included in the Congregation's Annual Report in May.

(President's Post continues from page 3)

Who can you think of from Black History Month or Women's History Month, or Holocaust Remembrance Days, that overcame huge obstacles to accomplish something great that is still remembered now?

So, in some situations, could it be that our excuse for not serving is actually the reason why God wants us to serve?

Jordon Walker Ross who plays Little James on "The Chosen" was born with cerebral palsy and scoliosis. He was approached by Dallas Jenkins, the creator of the series, to use his disability as part of the Little James character which makes this scene very impactful. He shares this story on his Facebook page if you'd like to learn more about his challenges.

So FLC please pray for our Nominating Committee on our journey to find our new leadership members and we will see you at worship!

First Lutheran Women

Present

PROGRAM

Sewing Machines, Fun Facts,
Trends and Quilt Trunk Show

AND

SPRING BRUNCH

Featuring:

Egg Bakes, Muffins, Fruit, Coffee & Juice

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 - 9:30 AM

In the FLC Dining Room

\$10.00 Each - Includes Brunch and Program

Tickets will be sold on

Wednesday, April 3 and 10 from 4:30 PM-6 PM in the lower narthex.

Sunday, April 7 and 14 between services in the lower narthex.



Making Connections

The Hummel Family



Lynn and Bev Hummel moved to Detroit Lakes in 1961 and joined First Lutheran Church. They found a home about a block from the church halfway up the hill on Minnesota Avenue.

Lynn and Bev both grew up in North Dakota. Lynn in Garrison and Bev in Parshall. They met at Minot State University where Bev was in teacher training and Lynn was in pre-law. They were married in 1959 and lived in Minneapolis where Bev taught 4th graders in Circle Pines and Lynn finished law school.

Bev grew up in the Congregational Church and was a new Lutheran having just been confirmed in Minneapolis by Rev. David N. Preus who later became national president at the American Lutheran Church which later merged with the ELCA.

The pastor of First Lutheran Church in 1961 was T.C. Hanson, fully loaded with gospels, a sense of humor and a rich Norwegian accent. Were any current members of First Lutheran members of the church during the Hanson era in 1961?

Joining the Detroit Lakes Communion of Saints, the Hummel family taught Sr. High Sunday School, served on the Vision Council, Call Committees, Foundation Board, FLCW membership and various committees and sang together in the church choir for over 50 years.

In the Detroit Lakes community, Lynn worked as a lawyer and Bev taught school in Callaway for a year before becoming a mother. Both were active in community services and organizations. They traveled to Europe on choir trips organized by Marlys Douglas, then Gene Gaffney. Lynn's main hobby was writing, including four books and a weekly column in the Detroit Lakes Tribune called Pony Express. The family lived continuously in Detroit Lakes to the present time, except for an 18-month period in 1969-1971 when they lived in Boston and Phoenix while on fellowship under the Bush Foundation of St. Paul.

The family includes three children: Jane (now in Fargo), Guy (now in Woodbury, MN) and Sally (now in Perham), 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren (both adopted children with down syndrome). All three children were baptized, confirmed and married in First Lutheran Church.

Presently senior citizens and retired, the Hummels continue to enjoy the warmth, love, fellowship and inspiration of the First Lutheran Communion of Saints in worship, birthdays, anniversaries, meetings, social events and funerals.

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



Food Packing Teams Needed! How many teams of 10 can we form to help Calvary Lutheran in Perham meet their goal of packing 100,000 meals for "Feed My Starving Children"? Our packing shift would be Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club in Perham. Each team is responsible for a \$500 registration fee (\$50 per team member) to cover the cost of the food packed by them during their shift. Children, K-12, accompanied by an adult, are invited to pack. Consider helping to feed hungry families and give me an enthusiastic call to join this team effort! Sandi Kemmer, 218-779-4679.

Making Connections

The Brodsho Family



Our busy family includes Ryan, Melissa, Hendrix, Jameson, Blakely, two cats (Cliff & Norm), one lizard (Liz) and our newest addition, a black goldendoodle (Bear). We moved to Detroit Lakes 4 ½ years ago and found First Lutheran Church right away. We were able to attend a couple times before everything shut down in 2020. We were finally able to join FLC in 2022 and have really enjoyed the friendly congregation, all the ways we can get involved and give back to our community. Ryan joined the worship band, playing guitar, soon after we joined. I (Melissa) am on my second-year teaching preschoolers and kindergarteners in Sunday school and love making learning about church fun for our little ones!

Ryan's family is from the Mahnomen area with lots of extended family between Mahnomen and Fargo. Ryan grew up in Fargo and was raised in the Catholic church. After high school Ryan went to Concordia College in Moorhead and majored in Business and Economics; this is where he decided to join the Lutheran church. Ryan enjoys music, woodworking, golf, curling and most anything sports related.

I grew up in South Saint Paul and really didn't have much exposure to church as a child. The only time I really attended church was at my Grandparent's house when my siblings and I were forced to sit in the living room and listen to church on the radio. It was about as exciting as it sounds! I left SSP in 2000 to attend Concordia College in Moorhead and majored in Nursing and Classical Studies. This was my first positive exposure to church. Concordia requires students to take religion classes and many of my friends went to church on a regular basis. It was a much different experience from the radio program in my Grandparent's living room! My faith journey has only grown from there. In my spare time I enjoy baking, cooking, sewing and all things arts and crafts.

As you probably guessed ... Ryan and I met at Concordia but we actually didn't start dating until after graduation. We moved around a couple times for our jobs and eventually made it back to Moorhead in 2007. We got married in 2008 and bought our first home. I started graduate school shortly after at NDSU, receiving a Master's Degree in Nursing Education. In May of 2012 we started our family with Hendrix, added Jameson in January of 2014 and Blakely in August of 2017. Ryan and I felt strongly about including God in our children's lives and have been fortunate to find a two fantastic church homes (previously Good Shepherd in Moorhead, MN) that welcome children and embrace all the wild stages our children have gone through ... the dancing in the aisles stage, Jameson's jail breaks from Wednesday school stage and Blakely's Associate Pastor stage when she'd rather loudly add to Joe's sermons.



Hendrix is now 11 and a 5th grader at Roosevelt. Hendrix is on the shyer side and takes a little to open up. Once he does, you'll meet a thoughtful kid who loves to build things, play sports and you know he really likes you if he starts playing jokes on you. Jameson is now 10 and a 4th grader at Roosevelt. He is our outgoing kid who loves to be the center of attention. Jameson loves math, theatre and is slowly getting into sports. Blakely is now 6 and a kindergartener at Holy Rosary. Blakely always has a smile on her face, loves dancing and Jesus.



Ryan has worked at Microsoft for the last 17 years in various roles, and is now a Partner Success Manager. I am working as a labor and delivery / lactation RN at Essentia in DL. I also teach Essentia's OB related community ed classes and M States Reproductive Health & Disorders Class in DL. In our spare time you can find us on the lake, traveling, spending time together as a family and of course at church on Sundays.

Thanks for reading and we look forward to continuing to grow with FLC!

FLC Tree Give-Away Sunday, May 5, 2024

Last year FLC Creation Care Team (CCT) sponsored a tree give-away. Our goals were to give trees to people to plant, help people connect with the earth, and to promote our care for God's earth. The entire DL community was invited to come to FLC parking lot and pick-up their seedlings. The event was well-received as all 325 trees were given away.

This year the CCT will be giving away 300 trees to help offset the effects of global warming. Available species include: Chokecherry, Red Splendor Crabapple, Red (or Norway) Pine, Hackberry, White Pine and White Spruce.



Chokecherry: [Adapted to a wide variety of soil types. Grows to 12 to 25 feet tall. Has moderate drought resistance. Will tolerate shaded sites, but likes full sun. Fruits are commonly used for jellies and jams.](#)

Red Splendor Crabapple: Adapted to a wide variety of soil types. Grows to 20 to 30 feet tall. Has moderate drought resistance. Likes full sun. Fruits hang on the branch through winter.

Red (or Norway) Pine: [Prefers dry, sandy soils. Grows to 50 to 80 feet tall. Resistance to insects and disease. Likes full sun.](#)

Hackberry: Adapted to a wide variety of soil types. Grows to 40 to 60 feet tall. Has moderate drought resistance. Will tolerate shaded sites, but likes full sun. Fruits are eaten by many birds and mammals.

White Pine: Prefers moist well-drained soils. Grows to 50 to 80 feet tall. Easily transplanted. Likes full sun, but will tolerate shaded sites.

White Spruce: Prefers moist loamy soils. Grows to 40 to 60 feet tall. Tolerant of wind, heat, cold, drought, and crowding. Likes full sun.

Now is the time to consider adding trees to your landscape.

Our CCT will be assembled in the southwest corner of the church parking lot on **Sunday, May 5th from 9:30 to 12:00 am** ready to give you 1 to 3 seedlings to plant and enjoy for years to come. Species availability will be first-come, first-serve basis. [You are invited to bring a bag/container suitable to carry mulch](#) (free also). A mulch donut helps your young trees survive during the early years of life.

The trees are gifted to you by the Creation Care Team of First Lutheran Church. It is our hope that you and your family will plant, care for, and enjoy this free gift as a celebration of God's wonderful creation. Planting a tree declares hope for the future!

The Creation Care Team was created to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and to realize our responsibility as stewards to care for our earth.



February 2024 Financial Snapshot

Actual Revenue*, Year to Date:	\$450,767.07
Budget Revenue, Year to Date:	\$487,764.00
Favorable/(Unfavorable):	\$(36,996.93)

*unaudited

PIECEMAKER

Submitted by the FLC Quilters—Written by Deb Ormseth

Can you tie a knot?



We need your help!

The FLC Quilters need your help! We will be packing quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief in May and some of our shelves are **EMPTY!**

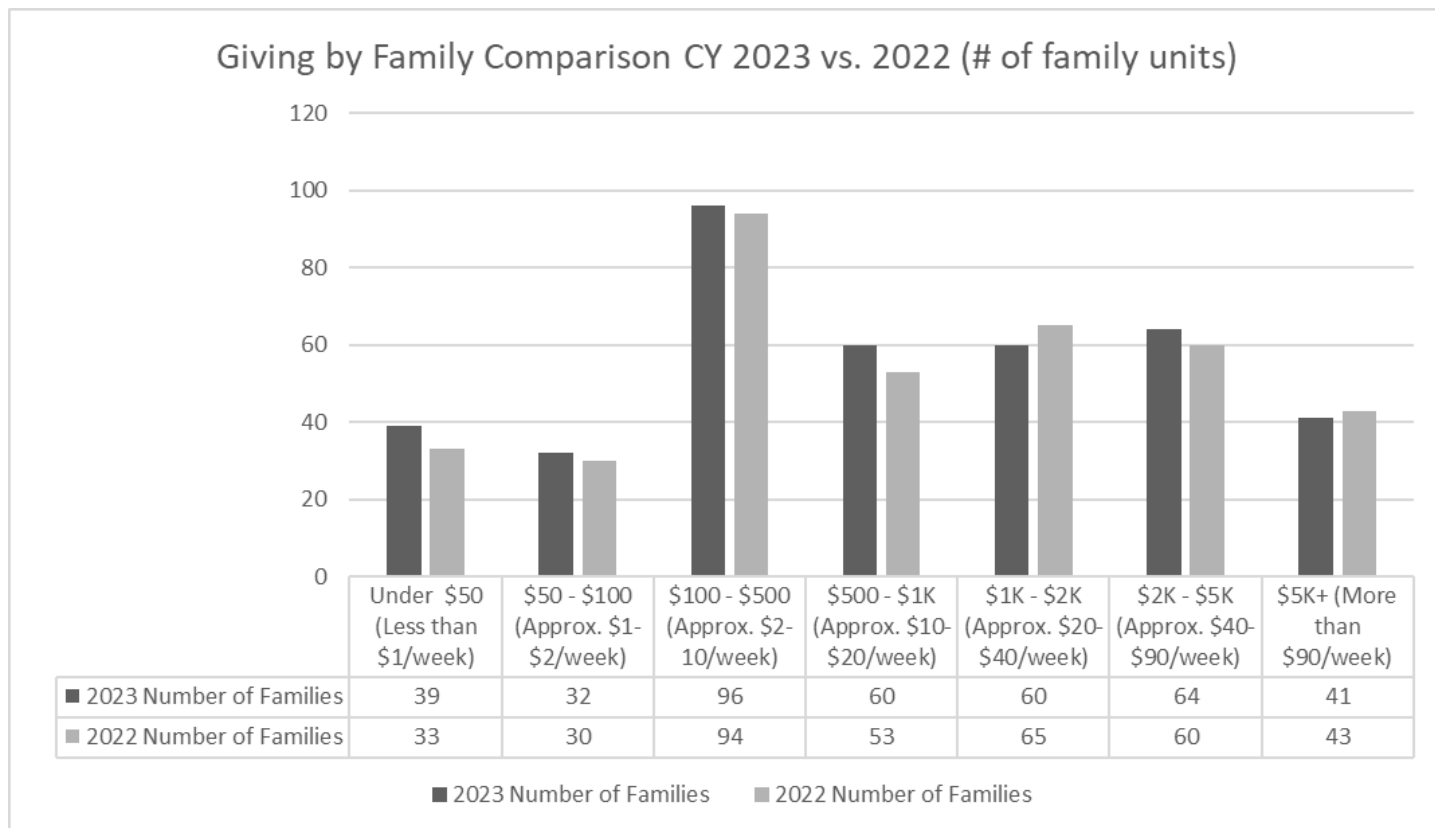
While there are many parts to creating the warm quilts, we are most in need of helping hands to tie the quilts. If you can **TIE A KNOT**, we would appreciate your help. We have 50 or more quilts ready to be tied. Quilts can be tied at a sit-down frame or a standing frame. Training provided. Come for an hour or for the morning, Tuesday's 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. We break for coffee and treats at 10 AM.

Help us fill the shelves before the next shipping date!



Calendar Year 2023 Family Giving Information

The FLC Stewardship team has been able to gather and analyze financial stewardship data from the last year and compare this data to previous years. One of the comparisons the team looks at is giving by family unit. In the graphic below, you can see how this data from calendar year 2023 compares to data from calendar year 2022. The data from 2023 is the first bar in each of the giving brackets. Cash gifts not in an envelope are not reflected in the data.



There are some things to celebrate and some challenges based on this information. There were **392 family giving units in 2023**. This is an increase from the number of families in 2022 which was 378. The number of families in the second, third, fourth, and sixth giving brackets increased from 2022. We have a number of families who give less than \$ 50 a year. This is a challenge. The number of families in fifth (approximately \$20 to \$40 a week) and seventh (more than \$90 a week) giving brackets decreased from calendar year 2022. Another challenge.

One of the things your family may want to consider in 2024 is your giving to support the ministries of our church. If you have been giving the same amount for the last several years (ex: \$5 a week or \$20 a month), it may be time to increase your weekly or monthly gift. If your family gives electronically and you have not thought about your giving amount for a while, you might want to re-evaluate that amount. If you want to increase the amount you are giving electronically or start giving electronically, please contact Paul in the church office to help you.

Prayerfully consider your financial gifts to the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Many thanks to you for giving of your time, talent, and treasure to grow God's mission through First Lutheran Church. Our church family is blessed to have you as a contributing member.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6-8)



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

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson
 Given by: Dolly Tovson
 Given by: Robert & Marilyn Jernberg
 Given by: Twila Halvorson
 Given by: Lynn & Beverly Hummel

Memory of: **Lou Heino**
 Given by: Ardys Horner
 Given by: Jason Kuehn

ALTAR GUILD FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Kris Shaffer
 Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

In Memory of: **Bev Skogen**
 Given by: Cindy & Jim Bruflodt
 Given by: Jean & Wayne Benson
 Given by: Dan & Twylla Vickmark
 Given by: Marlys Charles & Sandra Aarestad
 Given by: Jim & Jean Anderson
 Given by: Tom & Kay Anderson

FLOWER FUND

In Memory of: **Lou Heino**
 Given by: Marilyn Tinjum

FOUNDATION FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Rod & Carolyn Boyer
 Given by: Wayne & Jean Benson
 Given by: Mike & Dianne Fillmore

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of: **Lou Heino**
 Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson

HOSPITALITY FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Thomas & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: **Lou Heino**
 Given by: Gloria Dahlen
 Given by: Sonja Lillquist
 Given by: Les & Glenette Olson
 Given by: Rebekah Circle
 Given by: Arlene Olson

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of: **Ruth Seal**
 Given by: Cindy & Jim Bruflodt

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Karen & Cliff Bimberg

Memory of: **Bev Skogen**
 Given by: Karen & Cliff Bimberg

Memory of: **Elaine Renslow**
 Given by: Karen & Cliff Bimberg

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Pat Zurn
 Given by: Kurtis & Laurie Fong

In Memory of: **Lou Heino**
 Given by: Deryk & Beth Ann Funkhouser

QUILTERS FUND

In Memory of: **Char Bergeron**
 Given by: The Family of Char Bergeron

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Rod & Sue Schaffer
 Given by: Ardis Hegna & Virgil Pederson
 Given by: Pam Ross
 Given by: Henrietta Malchow
 Given by: Sue Christenson
 Given by: Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson
 Given by: Madalyn Sukke
 Given by: Milton & Marcella Erickson
 Given by: Harry & Susanne Hilden
 Given by: Terry & Sandi Kemmer
 Given by: Karen Evans
 Given by: Lorna & Vernon Hagerup
 Given by: Willard & Faye Johnson

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Janelle Maday
 Given by: Dan & Twylla Vickmark
 Given by: Brian & Kristin Bausman
 Given by: Janice Ness
 Given by: Ruth Price
 Given by: March Drege & Ann Siegle-Drege

In Memory of: **Bev Skogen**
 Given by: Ruth Price

In Memory of: **Ruth Seal**
 Given by: Ruth Price

WFLC FUND

In Memory of: **Fern Brown**
 Given by: Marilyn Tinjum
 Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

In Memory of: **Bev Skogen**
 Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

In Memory of: **Ruth Seal**
 Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

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

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

April

Leader: NEEDED

Keith Arneson & Rebecca Rudel
Scott Berseth
Eric & Melissa Christianson
Connie Cleveland
Chris Collins
Patti Cummins
Nick & Paula Disse
Wayne & Jodi Disse
Marvella Epema
Herb Floan
Tyler & Kelsey Fode
Joe & Melissa Glass
Paul Haarstick
Alyssa & Alex Hagedorn
Russell & LeAnn Hanson
Paul Heisler

Kelsey & Cole Helbling
William & Nancy Henke
Garnet Hultgren
Justin & Tessa Hunter
David & Carrie Johnston
Hudson Kalina
Nathan & Eliza Kieselhorst
Kayla Klatt & Tyler Hilde
Linda Kohler
Chris & Joanie Malecka
Kari & Jed Melbostad
Scott Neil
Damitru Neisen
Shawn & Sarah Nygaard
Thomas & Nancy Olson
Gregory Overland

Ben & Carly Pedersen
Susie Reitmeier
Paul & Mary Rydquist
David & Lois Samuelson
Kevin & Carol Shipley
Jeff & Marlys Skogmo
Joe & Margaret Skogmo
Joe & Kari Stattelman
Alexa & Eric Stelzer
Kris Tovson
Gregory & Jill Unruh
Patty Walter
Michelle & Wade Weets
Delyle & Sandra Willprecht

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!!



May

Leader: NEEDED



Paul & Joleen Backlund
Andrew & Meagan Barker
Claire Beardsley
Dean & Susan Berg
Alan & Brenda Bergum
Mitchell & Jaquelyn Buboltz
Brian & Jessica Burhans
Daniel & Janelle Disrud
Brad & Erin Erickson
Daniel & Angela Erickson
Troy & Skye Fingalson
Stephen & Jennifer Frank
John & Kim Green

Holly & Daniel Gustner
James & Sandra Hedstrom
Steven & Elizabeth Hedstrom
Eric & Jennifer Hellekson
John & Lori Hinrichs
Timothy Hunnel
Robert Jernberg
Larry & Kimberly Kjono
Robert & Jill Larson
David & Kathryn Larson
LaVon Loerzel
Christopher & Miranda Mahlum
Jessica Moench

David & Melissa Opsahl
Jeremy & Jessica Peterson
Judy Peterson
Janeice & Ryan Pierce
Bonnie Price
Steven & Courtney Schantzen
Diane Schjervheim
Vonnie Stenger
Christopher & DeAnne Udby
Brian & Coleen Voeltz
Steve & Amy Zamzo
Ryan & Carolyn Zurich

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.

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Sunday Schedule <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Traditional Worship 10:45a Contemporary Worship 	1  Church Office Closed 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	2 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 12:00p Rachel Circle, CR 7:00p Theology on Tap	3 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 5:30p Build & Grounds Mtg, CR 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	4 8:00a Women's Bible St. Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg	5 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	6 10:00p Pie Auction Drop Off
7 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> <i>Pie Auction</i> <i>Baptism</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Youth Pie Auction 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	8 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	9 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Circle, CR 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Adult Faith Form Mtg, CR 4:00p Sons of Norway, DR 7:00p Theology on Tap	10 Wednesday Schedule <i>Communion</i> <i>2nd Grade Service Project</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	11 8:00a Women's Bible St. Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:30p Ruth Circle, DR 5:30p Personnel Mtg, DR	12 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:00p 234 Fellowship, Voyager	13
14 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale 5:30p Youth Gathering Mtg	15 9:00a WELCA Synod Mtg, DR 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 5:30p Book Panel, DR	16 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 7:00p Creation Care Mtg, Library 7:00p Theology on Tap	17 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	18 8:00a Women's Bible St. Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	19 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	20 9:30a WELCA Brunch
21 Sunday Schedule <i>Creation Care Sunday</i> <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Forum, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	22 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 5:30p Book Panel, DR	23 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm	24 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	25 8:00a Women's Bible St. Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	26 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	27 7:30a MMTA Contest
28 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> <i>Baptism</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Forum, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	29 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	30 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib	1 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	2 8:00a Women's Bible St. Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	3 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	4



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Volume 33 Issue 4
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
www.firstlutheranchurch.com

Vision Council

President: Gail Colby
President-Elect: Carla Solem
Secretary: Paula Schulz
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

Erin Erickson, Steve Fode, DeAnne Udby, Jon Freeman,
Catharine Weisenburger, & Tanner Duncan

Foundation Board

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

Shar Arvig, Lynn Schulberg,
Don Busker, Ted Heisserer & Pam Orth

Congregational Staff

Lead Pastor:

Pastor Joe Skogmo pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com

Vice Pastor:

Pastor Roy Hammerling pastorroym@firstlutheranchurch.com

Business Manager

Paul Haarstick paul@firstlutheranchurch.com

Ministry & Social Assistance Coordinator

Sarah Nelson sarah@firstlutheranchurch.com

Communications Director:

Melissa Christianson melissa@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

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.**

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