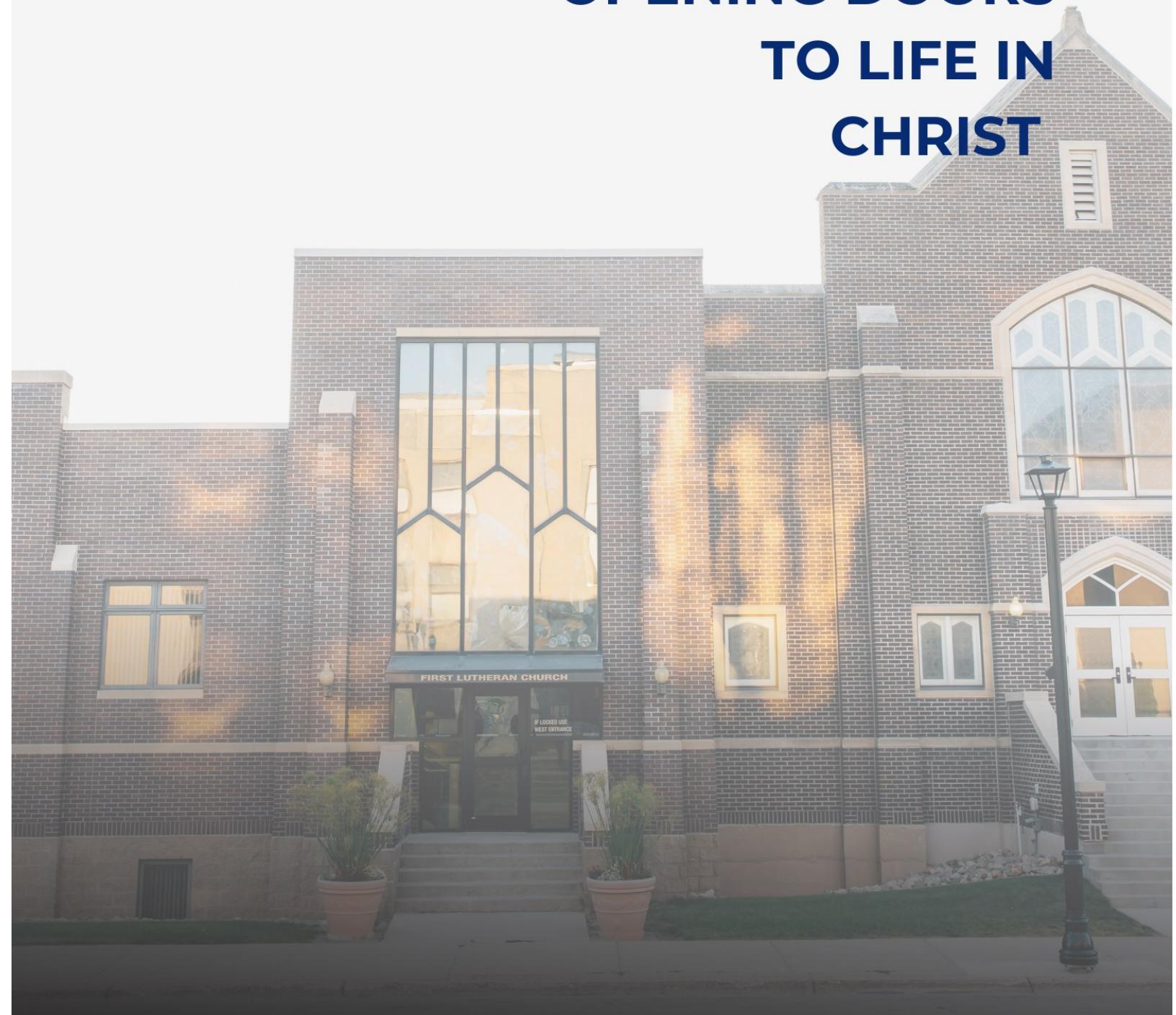


the first messenger •

**OPENING DOORS
TO LIFE IN
CHRIST**



FLC Happenings

Watch our Friday email and the bulletins for the latest updates

Worship together

Sundays 9:30am Wednesdays 6pm

Ash Wednesday

Worship services @ 12pm & 6pm

Lenten Worship Services

Wednesdays @ noon
February 18—March 25

February 1

Loving Your Neighbors: Mental Illness & Depression @ 10:30am

February 5 & 19

Theology on Tap @ 7pm

February 10

Rebekah Circle @ 9am

February 12

Ruth Circle @ 1:30pm

February 16

Church office closed | President's Day

February 18

Ash Wednesday | Noon worship services & meal begin.

February 24

Vision Council @ 5:30pm

February 26

HS Free Pizza Lunch @ 11:30am

Weekly

Kids Fellowship | Sunday @ 10:30am

Quilters | Tuesdays @ 8:30am

Men's Bible Study | Wed @ 6:30am

Oasis Meal | Wednesday @ 5pm

Worship Tm Rehearsal | Wed @ 5pm

Wednesday School, Confirmation &

Youth Group | Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Jubilate Choir practice | Wed @

7:15pm

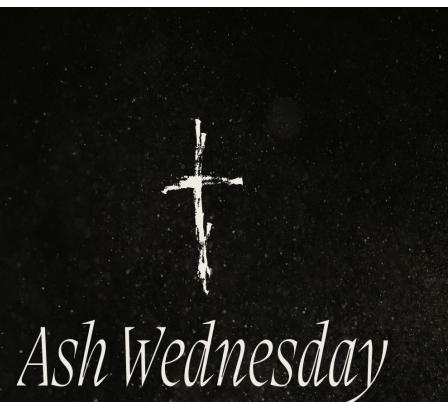
Women's Bible Study | Thurs @ 8am

February

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fr	S
1 <i>Communion</i> 10:30am AFF: Loving your Neighbor with Mental Illness & Depression	2	3 1pm The Chosen Bible Study	4 <i>Communion</i> 6:30pm 5th grade service project	5 7pm Theology on Tap	6	7
8	9	10 1pm The Chosen Bible Study 9a Rebekah Circle	11 6:30pm Confirmation "refresh"	12 1:30pm Ruth Circle	13	14
15 <i>Communion</i>	16 Office Closed	17 1pm Gene & Margaret Prechel funeral	18 Ash Wednesday 12pm Ash Wednesday service 12:30pm Lenten lunch 6pm Ash Wednesday service	19 7pm Theology on Tap	20	21
22	23	24 1pm The Chosen Bible Study 5:30pm Vision Council	25 6:30pm Confirmation "refresh"	26 11:30am HS Pizza Lunch	27	28

JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

Pastor Joe and Pastor Matthew (*and the "confirmation students"*) have been sharing questions with the congregation on Sunday mornings. Here is an opportunity to "join in the discussion" of some of those questions. On **Sundays, March 8 and April 12**, there will be that opportunity, come join in on the discussion in an informal, relaxed, and fun environment! The Adult Faith Formation team is sponsoring this discussion and also invited some of the confirmation students and the pastors. Coffee, tea, and juice will be available along with sweet treats. Plan to "join in the discussion" in the **FLC Library from 10:30 to 11:30 am on those two dates**. See you there and it should be fun!



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**SERVICE AT 12PM
SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH
AT 12:30PM**

**EVENING SERVICE AT 6PM
SUPPER SERVED AT 5PM**

President's Message

by Tom Neuenfeldt, Vision Council President

Dream Big Update

Some folks may be wondering what is happening with Dream Big: Expanding Walls, Expanding Ministry. Here's a snapshot of where we are now and where the Vision Council thinks things will go in the near future.

Presently, the capital campaign has resulted in about \$1.6 million in commitments. Although this number is far short of the goal we set for ourselves, this was a successful campaign. The amount raised thus far is a major step forward in FLC history. As of the January Vision Council meeting, the Dream Big dedicated account had a balance of approximately \$97,800. There are about 166 giving units that have made Dream Big part of their giving efforts for the next 4 years.

The follow-up team is still working to contact those members, friends, and family of FLC who have not turned in a commitment card. If you have not turned in a commitment card yet, you can pick one up in the narthex or church office. The completed cards can be put in the offering plate at worship, mailed back to the office, or physically dropped off at the office.

The Vision Council has decided that these Dream Big funds should be held in interest bearing accounts until such time when expansion/remodeling plans are developed and approved. Obviously, the expansion plans presented at the congregational meeting last September are out of reach for us now. The Vision Council and the Master Planning Team will work with our architects, YHR partners, to develop a design proposal within our financial means that will benefit our growing ministries. Hopefully, this amended plan will be substantive and be ready to show and discuss by the annual meeting in May.

We will be able to make some "behind the scenes" improvements that most of us may not see. For instance, we can make improvements to our aging heating system with an eye toward building improvements. We can also remodel the narthex area to comply with fire codes. Another item we can invest in is the update of our current elevator, which is serving beyond its original design life.

In all of the upcoming discussions, let us all remember the strategic goal here is to provide a safe, healthy, and inviting facility and location to support the thriving ministry of First Lutheran Church. We have much to be thankful for at First Lutheran. We have many gifted ministry leaders. We will work together to develop and implement plans that will impact the future ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Let us continue to walk in faith together.

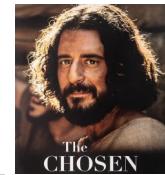
See you in Church!



"The Chosen" | Video Bible

Tuesdays at 1 pm
through March 10.

Led by Wade Dutton, see and discuss this acclaimed video series about Jesus and his "chosen" disciples. Using artistic interpretation of biblical stories, the series is meticulous in its historical and theological grounding and wonderful in acting and production. The viewing and conversation afterward can help us discover our own "chosen-ness" as followers of Jesus.



Each of the 8 sessions includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, each video stands on its own. Or you can watch online anytime at:

[Home Page | The Chosen](http://watch.thechosen.tv)
<http://watch.thechosen.tv>

These sessions are planned for the library and are sponsored by FLC Adult Faith Formation ministry.

Please note that we will **NOT meet on **February 17** and will extend the study through March 10.

A Note of Thanks!

First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your wonderful and generous support! We are privileged to steward your gift well as we change people's lives and show a glimpse of the love of Jesus! Our goal for 2026 is 144 vehicles donated and 140 repaired which will likely be around 800 individuals who will have HOPE. Thank you!
~~Fix it Forward Ministry

The Fix it Forward Ministry was the November recipient of the Noisy Offering.

Youth & Family

Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director | 920-860-4655

email: olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com | Typically in office M-Th 8:30am-4pm

Although the Christmas season is over, I want to take a moment to lift up all the hard work our kids put into our program this past December. Thank you Emma Duncan and Karen Bimberg for your musical assistance. Thank you to all my teachers for your endless support and work, and thank you kiddos, you did an amazing job, and I am so proud of you.



Service to Community

Service Projects are held on select Wednesdays throughout the school year, from 6:30-7:30pm in the chapel. Each grade level is given an opportunity to learn about a nonprofit organization in our community, given a biblical reflection and learn ways to help those in need. Then they participate in a group project to benefit the featured nonprofit. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend with their child.

In January, our 4th graders had their service project. We learned all about what it means to care for our elderly members. We heard from our FLC visitation team volunteers about their work and created lap blankets to be handed out on their visits.



Upcoming Service Project Dates:

February 4: 5th Grade - Helping Victims of Abuse, with Lakes Area Crisis & Resource Center.

March 18: 2nd Grade - Helping Animals

April 22: 1st Grade - Helping our Planet



FEBRUARY DATES:

February 4 - 5th Grade Service Project - Helping Victims of Abuse w/ Lakes Crisis and Resource Center

February 15- No Kids Fellowship; Presidents Day Break

February 16 - Office Closed - Presidents Day

February 18 - Ash Wednesday *Worship at Noon and 6pm

Oasis Meal - 5-6pm, Worship 6-7pm, **NO PreK-12th grade programming**

February 26 - High School FREE Lunch w/ Pastors | FLC high school students who are able to leave campus during lunch are invited to join Pr. Joe and Pr. Matthew at **Pizza Ranch** for a free lunch!



Middle School Lock-in | March 7th/8th, 8pm-8am

Sixth–eighth graders, get ready for a night to remember. Join us for an epic filled lock-in at FLC, with tons of activities, games, fellowship, and pizza!

Still have the energy to pull an all-nighter? We are looking for 1-2 adults and/or 2-4 high school youth volunteers to help lead this night.

Pie and Baked Goods Auction | March 22

***date subject to change**

We are in need of pies and other baked goods! If you would like to support this event by donating pies or baked goods for our auction, please sign-up at the volunteer table (sign-up comes out in early February). You can bring as many goodies as you'd like. We hope to see you there!



Scan here to follow YFM on Insta!

Confirmation Sunday | May 3rd

Please consider attending this special service to support and congratulate our 2026 confirmants on the work and dedication they put into their faith journey. Our Confirmation service will take place May 3, in the sanctuary at 12pm. Photos and light refreshments to follow.

Senior Recognition Sunday | April 26th

Join us as we recognize our graduating high school seniors and pray a special blessing on them as they prepare to embark on their new journey. Our Senior Recognition Sunday will take place on April 26 during our 9:30am worship service, with a special fellowship time to follow. More information will be sent to the graduating seniors' families.

If you would like to take part in this special day, we are looking for individuals or families to carry on the FLC tradition of creating homemade blankets to gift to a graduating senior. A sign-up for blankets will come out in mid-March.

High School Summer Trip

July 19th-23rd

This summer, we will be taking current 9th-12th graders to an exciting trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. While here, we will explore how our environment and nature connect and intertwine with our faith. A sign-up for this trip will open on February 28. Cost is TBD

"At Wolf Ridge, nearly all of our activities and classes take place outdoors, embracing an experiential learning model that engages participants through direct interaction with the natural world. We cover a wide range of subjects, including environmental science, cultural history, contemporary environmental issues, personal growth, team building, and outdoor recreation.

Wolf Ridge is more than just a learning destination; it's a place where curiosity is sparked, and minds are opened to the joy and wonder of nature." (Wolf Ridge Website - <https://wolf-ridge.org/>)



Children's Christmas Store

Thank you to all the people who donated to, prepped for and worked at the Children's Christmas Store on December 6! We had families lined up outside the church waiting to get in before the event started and by the end of the day had 90 children shop in the store! We estimated that 700 gifts were sold! This year we worked with Lakes Crisis Center and gave out "scholarships" to families in need and had several children shop in the store with a baggie of \$1 bills that were gifted to them from the Christmas Store budget. Because of this, our total profit from the event was \$670. The Christmas Store is lucky enough to have generous donors and volunteers which allows us to donate 100% of our profits each year. This year we donated \$335 to Lakes Crisis Center, \$200 to our youth group and \$135 to the church for operating expenses. I want to give a special shout out to all of the youth that volunteered at the event this year! We had such a nice mix of ages all working together.

Because of all the great items that were donated we were even able to use leftover Christmas Store gifts to fill 30 Angel Tree tags in the days before Christmas.

As a reminder, this is a year-round operation, and the **Christmas Store accepts donations anytime of the year!** We always have a bin inside the doors of the church office.

If you have any questions or suggestions for next year, please find us at church or reach out anytime!

With Gratitude,
Melissa Brodsho & family



The "Faithful Few"

Encouraging others to become a part of the ministry.

By Sonny Thomas, Office & Volunteer Coordinator

Many congregations suffer because everything appears to run smoothly on the surface. Attendees often don't realize the same small group of "faithful few" is nearing burnout to maintain that appearance. Relying on the same 20% of the people to do 80% of the work is no longer sustainable. Volunteers are increasingly resistant to roles that feel like "unpaid work" rather than meaningful ministry. What are the benefits to being a steward of the church? Here are my thoughts:



1. Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

Serving is often described as "discipleship in action." It allows individuals to move beyond being passive observers to active participants in their faith.

Modeling Christ: Jesus provided the ultimate example of a servant-leader, stating he "came not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28).

Discovering Spiritual Gifts: Helping provides a platform to discover and develop unique talents, such as hospitality, teaching or administration, intended for the "common good" (1 Cor. 12:7).

Witnessing Transformation: Volunteers often have a "front-row seat" to seeing God change lives, which directly increases their own faith.

2. Building Authentic Community

Volunteering is the fastest way to feel connected to a church. In 2026, church trends emphasize creating "spaces to know and be known," moving away from large programs toward intimate, team-based relationships.

Deep Bonds: Working side-by-side on a ministry team fosters lifelong friendships and a sense of belonging.

Support Networks: Being part of a serving team creates a natural support system where members "bear one another's burdens".

3. Mental and Physical Health Benefits

Research consistently shows that serving others provides a "helper's high," releasing endorphins and dopamine that improve overall well-being.

Reduced Depression: Regular church service attendance and volunteering are linked to a 29% lower likelihood of depression.

Longevity: Older adults who volunteer at least 100 hours per year (about 2 hours a week) report better physical health and increased longevity.

Purpose and Perspective: Shifting focus from personal problems to the needs of others reduces stress and provides a profound sense of purpose.

4. Impact on the Community

Churches act as essential social safety nets. In 2026, leaders are prioritizing "community first" approaches to ensure local needs are met.

Meeting Practical Needs: Church volunteers staff food pantries, host job fairs, and provide support for those in recovery.

Economic and Social Boost: Communities with active churches often see lower crime rates and higher levels of charitable work.

Testimony of Faith: Acts of service serve as a practical demonstration of God's love to neighbors, often more effectively than words alone.

Together

By Patti Cummins

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 1 Chronicles 16:8-10

Oaklyn and I stopped at the mailroom on our way to the apartment. Oaklyn likes having responsibility for the keys when we are together. As soon as we reached the apartment, she handed me the day's mail which contained a small package.

"What's in the package Grandma?"

One rip of the plain brown paper revealed its contents. "It's a Christmas present I got you."

Her response threw me – with face immediately turned away from me and her hand raised as a stop sign, "Grandma! Do NOT let me see that! Take it out of here!"

I packed it away in my bedroom, puzzled by her reaction.

Later, when we opened presents for her birthday, her Papa asked what day he could take her to pick out her present. Again, an unexpected reply.

"Papa, don't you know what you're giving me?"

"Yes" Papa clarified. "I know what I want to give you, but there are different kinds and I want you to choose the one you like."

"But Papa, then I'll know what it is!"

She seemed unsettled about the plan so later I asked her why she wasn't more excited about Papa's idea. "I want it to be a surprise. When I take the wrapping off, I want the surprise when I see the present inside." My brother recently lost his 17-year battle with congestive heart failure, just shy of his 72nd birthday. For 17 years he carefully tracked and wrote down his stats, revealing the propensity for detail that was part of his engineering nature. He far exceeded the two to five-year life expectancy predicted in 2008.

The freezing weather paused the latest engineering project Mike was supervising just in time for hunting season to reward him with a welcome deer that broke the last couple "deer drought" years.

As I sat beside him in the hospital I thought of the words "Be patient then brothers and sisters until the Lord's coming." Mike patiently continued the path set before him, keeping on keeping on until he no longer could. He knew his Father's house had room prepared for him, although he had no idea what that would be like. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Oaklyn was patient waiting for the "surprise" when she pulled the wrapping off her presents. She knew the giver's love and protection. And Mike was patient waiting for the promised "surprise" waiting for him at the end of his faithful life, because he knew God's love and grace.

I trust God to help me remain patient and mindful of the "surprises" that life throws my way, as I seek to become a more faithful follower of His.

Agape Ministry Update

Sara Peterson | Community Relations Director

December and January have been cold and snowy months, a normal Minnesota winter so far. As you might imagine, the cold winter months are hard for those who are homeless or are struggling to make ends meet. Every week we see countless people without winter jackets, gloves or warm footwear. But thanks to generous outpouring of donations by our FLC community, local individuals & area organizations we have been able to do our part to keep people warm!

One recent example comes to mind—a few weeks ago, a young man came to us looking for winter boots. He doesn't have a car, is working two jobs and has to walk to work. All he had was tennis shoes, which are not warm in this weather. We didn't have boots, but Sonny & I dug through the HUGE pile of donations and found a bag of donated Smartwool socks! PERFECT!

Small things can make a big difference.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support for the Agape Ministry.

November–December Agape Assistance Highlights

Over **65** guests assisted

103 frozen meals given

& **47** visits to the
Blessing Closet

46 gas vouchers given.

2 rent downpayments

MEMORIALS

Thank you to those who gave in honor or memory of their family and friends.

AGAPE

In memory of Bev Hummel, given by: Twila Halvorson, Ardy Rydell, Michael & Andrea Story

In memory of Stanley Egenes, given by Dennis & Sharon Meyer

In memory of Don Getz, given by Garnet Hultgren, Rodney & Shirley Sears

In memory of Jeffrey Meyer, given by Dennis & Sharon Meyer

In honor of grandchildren, given by Claire Beardsley

BEAUTIFICATION

In Memory of Lou Ann Hanson, given by Kurtis & Laurie Fong

BUILDING

In memory of Don Getz, given by Pat Zurn

In memory of Gene Klinnert, given by Pat Zurn

DREAM BIG

In memory of Bev Hummel, given by Lynn Hummel

In memory of Paul Thorwaldsen, given by Adrienne Buboltz

GENERAL

In memory of Russell Wolff, given by Dean & Sue Berg

KITCHEN

In memory of Don Getz, given by Wayne & Jean Benson

MUSIC

In memory of Bev Hummel, given by, Lynn Hummel

In memory of Sarah Hayes, given by LaVerne & Judy Maxwell

In memory of Don Getz, given by Karen & Cliff Bimberg

UNDESIGNATED

In memory of Don Getz, given by Adrienne Buboltz

In memory of Ken Christianson, given by Twila Halvorson

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

December Financial Snapshot

YTD Actual Revenue:	\$361,794.31
YTD Budget Revenue:	\$392,603.00
Favorable/(Unfavorable)	(\$30,808.69)

** unaudited*

FLC Foundation

Ryan Manke | Foundation President

The FLC Foundation would like to thank all those who voted on where to send local charity funds. Based on voting, the following will receive:

Becker County Food Pantry (\$8,357)

Becker County DAC (\$3,214)

Flytime at Laker Flyers Gymnastics (\$2,142)



Thank you!

Dear First Lutheran,
On behalf of our entire team hear at Churches United, I want to express our dearest gratitude for your generosity. We can't do the work we do without the support of our ministry partners such as First Lutheran. As you may know, the need is great and unfortunately it continues to grow. We currently serve more than 500 neighbors every single day at our shelter, pantry and apartment buildings. Thanks you for being church together with us!

*Blessings Pastor Devlyn, CEO
Churches United*

*Churches United was the recipient of
the October Noisy Offering*



Noisy Offering Totals

The **December** total, going to:
The FLC Agape Ministry was **\$1,755.13**

The **January** Noisy Offering went to
Global Refuge.

The **February** Noisy Offering will go to
Lutheran Social Services of MN.

Advent Mini-Concerts

We want to thank ALL of the FLC members who helped to create such a warm, inviting, welcoming, atmosphere at First Lutheran for the "Wednesdays in Advent" mini-concerts. The kitchen help and lunch servers prepared wonderful meals and served several hundred people, the group of decorators made the interior of our church so festive, and appealing, the musicians performed beautiful music for the season, the office staff helped with bulletins, and PR to area churches, and we are happy to have offered these concerts to all the people who attended in person and online. They are a beautiful gift from First Lutheran to the DL community and area.

Thank you, again, for your gift of time and willingness to help to make our "Wednesdays in Advent" concerts a success!

*Sincerely: Karen Bimberg & Holly Heisserer
co-coordinators of the concerts*



Thank you

Thank you so much for your donation. Please extend our sincere appreciation for the little hands with faithful hearts who helped with donations. It was used to enhance Day Services here for the members by providing a new game that we in the program could all enjoy.

Thank you again,
The Becker County DAC

*The Becker County DAC was the recipient
of the August Noisy Offering*



Items Collected All Year

- **We Care Receipts (from Central Market)**
- **Christmas Store Items**
- **Blessing Closet Supplies (clothing, blankets, toiletries)**

**Bring your donations to the church office.
Thanks!**

**We are so thankful for our members
and are always ready to welcome new
members into the life of FLC!**



**Our next New
Member Sunday
will be in the
Spring!**

**Want to
become a
member?**

**TO LEARN MORE
& REGISTER
SCAN OR CALL
THE OFFICE**



Piecemakers

By Deb Ormseth

A record number of quilts were made in 2025. The **totals include 179 large quilts** (60 inches by 80 inches or larger); **148 baby quilts** and **12 lap quilts or pillows**. These numbers do not include the items which were donated to the Children's Christmas Store.

Large quilts were donated to the following organizations: Lutheran World Relief (121); Asheville, NC for Hurricane Helene relief (29); Food Pantry (16); gifts to First Lutheran Staff (4); Denim quilts filling client orders (5); Donated for raffle to FLC Youth/Lakes Crisis Center (2); Blessing Closet (2).

Baby quilts were donated to the Blessing Closet (3); Asheville, NC for Hurricane Helene relief (8); Food Pantry (33); Health Resources (25); MAHUBE (65); Hospice (8); and Emergency Room (6).

We often receive donations of fabrics, that have the United States flag, eagle, or are red, white and blue with designs that are decidedly related to the United States. Quilts with these types of fabrics cannot be sent overseas. Lap quilts and pillows were made using the fabrics and were donated to Oak Crossing and the Frazee Care Center for veterans living there.



Add the numbers together and the **grand total is 339!** We hope the quilts will bless those who receive them. Truthfully, those of us who meet and make the items are blessed by the time we spend with each other. Join us.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday at 8:30am in the Rec Room. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Worthy Women

By Gretchen Henrikson, WFLC Coordinating Council President

Happy New Year! 2026 promises to be eventful! We hope you will join us.

Rebecca Circle | meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00am

Ruth Circle | meets the 2nd Thursday at 1:30pm.

Circles study the lessons in the Gather Magazine, enjoy treats and work on service projects including Baby Kits, School Kits, Fabric Kits and Personal Care Kits.

FLC Quilters | meets every Tuesday 8:30am in the recreation room. They made and distributed 148 baby quilts and 179 full sized quilts in 2025. Wow!

Our Conference consists of 16 churches in our area.

The **Spring Event** will be a Gathering at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena!

Our Synod is the entire Northwest corner of MN consisting of 8 Conferences.

The 38th **NWMN Synod Women's Convention** will be in Crookston on Sept. 18-19, 2026.

Our **National Triennial Convention** (every 3 years) will be in Des Moines, IA July 16-18, 2026. The theme is **I AM Worthy**!



Donations to the Children's Christmas Store





begins february 18

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

LENTEN THEME: THE BOOK OF PSALMS

12:00PM | WORSHIP SERVICE
12:30PM | LUNCH

Congregational Staff

Lead Pastor:

Pastor Joe Skogmo

Associate Pastor:

Pastor Matthew Rossler

Director of Operations:

Paul Haarstick

Community Relations Director:

Sara Peterson

Youth & Family Ministry

Director: Olivia Sauer

Office & Volunteer Coordinator:

Sonny Thomas

Worship Music Coordinator:

Karen Bimberg

Adult Choir Director:

Kathy Larson

Bell Choir Director:

Carla Hansen

Vision Council

President: Tom Neuenfeldt

President-Elect: Kari Stattelman

Secretary: Beth Tinjum

Treasurer: Kevin Shipley

DeAnne Udby, Jon Freeman,

Catharine Weisenburger, Jeff Sliper,

Sue Quam, and Ryan Bjorklund

Foundation Board

President: Ryan Manke

President-Elect: Les Perry

Secretary: Patti Cummins

Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Alex Hagedorn,

Pam Orth and LeAnn Mouw

Our worship services can be found on:

**KDLM-1340 AM and 93.1 FM radio
Sundays at 10:00 AM.**

**On the church website:
firstlutheranchurch.com**

**on TV: Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**

First Lutheran Church

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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Office phone: 218-847-5656
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firstlutheranchurch.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM



*The First Messenger is published monthly.
Articles for publication are to be submitted to the church office by the 20th of each month.*