



# The First Messenger



## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Hands Only CPR Forum .....	February	4 <sup>th</sup>
Ash Wednesday .....	February	14 <sup>th</sup>
President's Day—Office Closed .....	February	19 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday Lenten Services Begin .....	February	21 <sup>st</sup>

Volume 33

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Issue 2



### **NOISY OFFERING TOTALS**

The total from the December Noisy Offering going to the FLC Agape Fund totaled 1,421.72.

Check back next month for noisy offering total for January going to Lutheran Social Services of MN.

The organization highlighted in February, via the noisy offering, is Patriot Assistance Dogs based here in Detroit Lakes. Their mission statement is: "Patriot Assistance Dogs provides highly trained, certified psychiatric service dogs to qualified U.S. Military veterans."

The Vision Statement of Patriot Assistance Dogs is: "We believe that veterans and dogs are entitled to be treated with respect and care for their emotional and physical well being. This results in highly trained, competent dogs and confident teams who continually improve their quality of lives."

Last year, the group acquired a 7-acre property to expand their operations. Their campus includes administration space, a meeting room, and a residence hall with six rooms for veterans to stay while training with their dogs. They are now in need of funding to construct a kennel, offices for trainers, grooming stations, and a trainer's apartment (to simulate in-home situations).

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### FISCAL MID-YEAR FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Actual Revenue*, Year to Date:	\$361,430.87
Budget Revenue, Year to Date:	\$382,485.00
Favorable/(Unfavorable):	\$(21,054.13)
Actual Expenses*, Year to Date:	\$346,247.08
Excess/(Loss) Revenue over Expenses:	\$15,183.79

\*unaudited



# PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo



Hi, Everyone!

I forgot about my newsletter article until it was too late, and then we left town for my birthday weekend when newsletter articles were due to our lovely Communications Director, Melissa! So, as a birthday gift to myself, I chose to take a break from writing my monthly article, I guess!

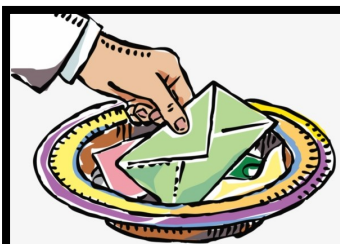
Let me at least say this; I can't help myself: things feel really healthy and hopeful around here. I am grateful for so much. Having Pr. Roy Hammerling help with pastoral ministry has been a gift! The staff continues to be reliable and driven by faithful stewardship of the ministries here. They are truly remarkable people. The YFM Program continues in full swing into the second semester, and Olivia has her hands full with an active and voluminous program from baptismal ministry to confirmation to High School Youth; we have consistent and robust attendance every week. The Oasis meal providers continue to astound me with their generosity of time and talent to feed hundreds of people in our congregation every week. The musicians at FLC continue to grace us with worshipful, beautiful, and faithful music at every service and I am so appreciative of their time and devotion. Our many ministry teams from Building and Grounds, to Stewardship, to Hospitality, Altar Guild, Personnel, Vision Council, Bible Studies and Circles, Adult Faith Formation, YFM ministry teams, Creation Care Team, and more all continue to bless this place and people with their active commitment. The Associate Pastor search is going well and I am so proud of the Call Committee for their commitment to this work.

Things feel healthy and hopeful, and that is an even BETTER birthday present. Thanks for being you, FLC.

Peace,

Pastor Joe

p.s. Holy smokes...Lent is almost here! Ash Wednesday is February 14th (how romantic!), so keep your eye out for all the Lenten opportunities to come.



## 2024 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2024 giving envelopes have arrived! They're available outside the church office. If you need yours mailed to you, please let Paul in the church office know.



## A Note About Security

During the week, you may notice that the doors on the church are locked. We do this to keep the little ones at KidsFirst Preschool safe as well as our office staff. Thank you so much to church members and visitors who identify themselves because we may not be able to see who is at the door. Helping us keep this building safe is so greatly appreciated. Thank you!

# PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Gail Colby



Hello First Lutheran Church! February can be cold and full of blizzards so make the most of enjoying your winter activities because it also means we should be a little closer to Spring. There are actually many things going on in February!

Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup> also happens to be Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Journey for 2024. On the third Monday of this month we celebrate President's Day which is Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>. And it is also the beginning of Black History Month.

Valentine's Day is not just couples celebrating love. There is love for parents and grandparents, love for brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, friends and family, neighbors, and love for your pets! A survey showed that teachers receive the most Valentines (and they are well deserved!) followed by children, mothers, and wives. People do give their pets valentines. So take no offense if Rover gets a Valentine treat before you. He has most likely shown his person a lot of consistent love, affection and protection and very much deserves a valentine! John 15:17 says, *So I command you to love each other.*

Black History Month is a good time to reflect on love for all of mankind, especially the races that have suffered oppression through history. At our Adult Faith Formation January 21<sup>st</sup>, Carl Oberholtzer shared his documentary, which he co-wrote and co-produced, "The Road to Little Rock." It is the story about the nine African-American teenagers who enrolled in Central High School, an all-white school, in Little Rock, AK, after the Supreme court declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Federal Judge Ronal Davies from Fargo, ND, showed honor and responsibility when he overrode the Governor's attempt to stop the integration by ordering the School Board to proceed with the integration. This is an important part of history that is still not included in the curriculum at every school. This story needs to be told and it needs to be shared. If you missed the documentary, there is a panel discussion about it on YouTube. John 13:35. *If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.*

On Ash Wednesday, Pastor Joe will impose an ash cross on our foreheads and we will repent of our sins and remember our mortality. It also reminds us that Easter is forty days away. Ephesians 5:2 *Let love be your guide. Christ loved us and offered his life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God.*

See you at worship!



A huge thank you to all who contributed amazing, delicious baked goods for the Sweet Treat sale, and to those who donated for the privilege of enjoying them! The event boosted our ability to support local and worldwide ministries and program expenses, including shipping costs to send quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief, rural counseling backpacks for REACH, Haiti Medical Mission, Lutheran Campus Ministries in Moorhead, and more. The fun part was watching people find a favorite treat and creating or continuing memories during the Christmas season.



# Parish Health

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



## It's February— American Heart Month

*This is a time when the nation spotlights heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute:*

**Heart disease** is the leading cause of death in the United States, causing one in four deaths each year. Research shows that stress can make us more likely to get heart disease and have a heart attack.

**Risk factors**, such as high blood pressure, increase your chance of developing heart disease. The more risks you have, the higher your overall risk.

**February is American Heart Month**, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. Taking time to care for your heart can be challenging as you go about daily life.

Heart-healthy living involves understanding your risk, making healthy choices, and taking steps to reduce your chances of getting heart disease, including coronary heart disease, the most common type. By taking preventive measures, you can lower your risk of developing heart disease that could lead to a heart attack. You can also improve your overall health and well-being.

Consider making one, or several, of the below lifestyle changes. Here's how to start:

### **Move more**

- Get at least 2½ hours of physical activity each week—that's just 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week.
- Can't carve out a lot of time in your day? Don't chuck your goal, chunk it! Try 5, 10, or 15 minutes a few times a day. Some physical activity is better than none.

### **Eat healthy foods**

- A healthy diet that is low in sodium and saturated fat is key to heart disease prevention.
- Such as eating vegetables, fruits, whole grains, vegetable oils, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products.
- Limiting foods with sugar and other sweeteners.

### **Aim for a healthy weight**

- Being overweight is hard on your heart. It increases your risk of having heart disease, a stroke, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes.
- Choosing heart-healthy foods and getting regular exercise will help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

### **Quit smoking**

- The chemicals in tobacco smoke harm your heart and blood vessels in many ways.
- Quitting is hard, but many people have succeeded, and you can too. Ask your family and friends for support in your effort.

### **Reduce stress and improve sleep**

- Stress can contribute to high blood pressure and other heart risks.
- Not getting enough sleep or regularly getting poor quality sleep increases the risk of having high blood pressure, heart disease, and other medical conditions. Aim for 7–8 hours of sleep a night.

### **Know your numbers**

- Meet your heart health goals by keeping track of how much you exercise, your blood pressure, your cholesterol numbers—all of which can impact your heart health—and tell your doctor how you're doing.

**WEAR RED!** Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Wear Red Day. Wear Red to bring greater attention to heart disease as a leading cause of death for Americans.

### **Thank You Blood Donors!**

FLC hosted a blood drive on December 27<sup>th</sup>. 54 products were donated!! This drive was the biggest blood drive we have hosted and it was a great success. Thanks to those who donated!



# Youth & Family Ministry

By Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director

## December Highlights

### January Highlights

**4th Grade Service Project:** In January our 4th Graders had the opportunity to participate in a service project. This month they created fleece tie blankets to donate to our local elderly homes. Thank you 4th Grade for keeping our eldest warm during these cold months.



### February News

**5th grade Service Project:** On February 7th our 5th grade classes will have the opportunity to learn from Lakes Crisis Center about different resources that people have when they are in need of help. We will also be making new crayons to give to the Center. Parents / Guardians please consider attending this opportunity with your child. We are asking for donations of old and broken crayons. All donations can be brought to the box outside the office.

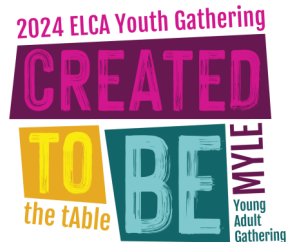
**UND Hockey Night:** FLC Youth have been invited to attend the University of North Dakota vs. Duluth Hockey game on February 23rd. This opportunity is open to 25 youth in grades 6th-12th and 4 chaperones. This event will cost \$35 per individual, which includes transportation, a meal, and your ticket. Parents/Guardians, to sign up for this event, check your emails! Spots are filling up fast!

### Looking Ahead

**2nd Grade Service Project:** On March 13th our 2nd grade classes will have the opportunity to help animals. Parents/Guardians please consider attending this opportunity with your child.

**Youth Gathering:** For those signed up to attend the ELCA youth gathering this July in New Orleans, please be on the watch for an email from Olivia on dates, times, and location of meetings to prepare for our trip.

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.



### **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!



FLC\_YFM

### **Mark your Calendars!**

Vacation Bible School—June 16<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>  
Open to kids entering 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade in fall '24

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

Join us for worship at 6:00 PM  
No Faith Formation

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



## NEIGHBOR—Submitted by Patti Cummins

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Galatians 5:14*

Her name was Pam. Because of where our names fell in the alphabet, she usually sat in the next row, a seat or two in front of mine. Her nylons never had runs up the back like mine did. Her blond hair was always coiffed to frame her face beautifully, but my hair was left long to control its wild, uncontrollable waves. I was convinced the light freckling on her face kept it from breaking out all the time like mine did. Her clothes always coordinated

flawlessly while my outfit was whatever I could throw together that morning. Her nose was small and straight, unlike my oft-broken nose.

I was totally intimidated by what I perceived as her perfection and my flaws, so I stayed out of her shadow. At our 50th class reunion, she came up to me and tried to start a conversation, and that old intimidation took hold of me again. When she commented on my long dark hair I'd had, I was so shocked I could hardly speak. It never occurred to me that this perfect female could like something about me. We might have been friends had I been able to get over my feelings of being "less than".

Why do we do that? We go to an art show to see all the different expressions of life and creation – we don't expect them to mirror each other. A car show gives us many colors, shapes, and features – we want to see a variety of options, not replicas of each other. Stores have a wide array of clothes and household items to suit the needs and preferences of each person. Why do we want to look like someone else, or fail to value what God has created in us?

Genesis 1 tells us, "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." He created us out of love, for love – to love God and to love others, to be in relationship with God and others. Our bodies are vessels of the potter, into which he has poured out the holy spirit as our guide and encouragement. 1st Corinthians 7:7 tells us "Each man has his own gift, one in this manner, another in that." God created each for His own purposes, and through his purposes, "God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." We were created for good.

I try to keep all this in mind. It is not my doing, but God's. Remembering who I am, and Whose I am. And appreciating the uniqueness of each person I meet, knowing Whose they are as well. Offering gratitude for the path of love God lays out for me daily, while breaking down the all-to-human barriers my human self sometimes creates.



### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

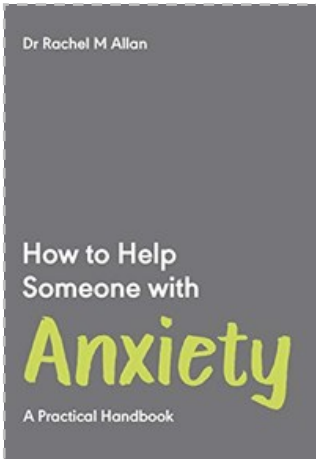
We will be offering Ash Wednesday worship services at both noon and 6 PM. These worship services will be on Ash Wednesday, February 14. A free will offering meal will be offered following the noon service and the usual Wednesday night Oasis meal will be served at 5 PM before the worship service at 6 PM. On Ash Wednesday there will be no Wednesday School or Confirmation, but we encourage all of our youth to attend the Ash Wednesday service.



### LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

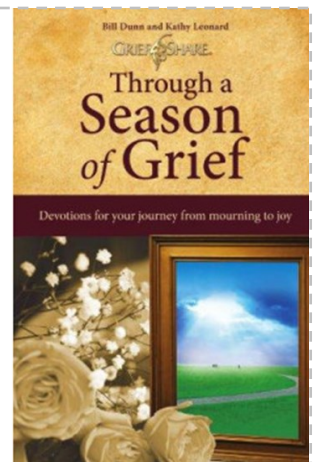
We will be offering Lenten worship services at noon. (6 PM Wednesday worship schedule will continue as usual) These worship services will begin on Wednesday, February 21 and continue each Wednesday through March 20. A free will offering meal will be offered following the noon service and the usual Wednesday night Oasis meal will be served at 5 PM before the worship service at 6 PM.

# LIBRARY UPDATE—Submitted by Patti Cummins

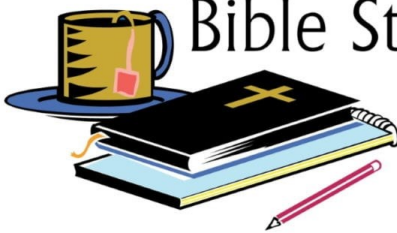


This guide provides practical advice for family and friends of those experiencing anxiety. Written by a psychologist with years of experience in helping clients live better with anxiety, it shows you how best to understand, help and support your loved one.

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've discovered that few people understand the deep hurt you feel. Where do you turn for daily comfort and help? Where do you find the tools to move forward? Through a Season of Grief is the first 365-day devotional designed to support and uplift you in the first, most difficult year of bereavement. These devotions offer biblical comfort and practical teaching that will enable you to take steps forward each day toward healing. You will better understand the grieving process and will receive needed encouragement along the way. More than thirty respected Christian professionals – including Kay Arthur, Jack Hayford, Elisabeth Elliot, Norman Wright, Barbara Johnson, and Luis Palau – share their insights on how to walk through the devastation of grief toward wholeness and hope. You will also hear from people like you who have lost a loved one and have found God's healing presence in the midst of despair. This unique devotional is based on GriefShare®, a national grief recovery support group program that has helped more than 100,000 families.

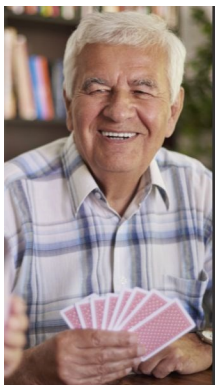


## Women's Bible Study



### BOOK/BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

Are you interested in growing and sharing your faith and Christian life practices with other women? We invite you to join a small group of women in a Bible/book study each Thursday morning from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM in the church library. We share prayer concerns and pray before joining in a discussion of a book of the Bible or a Bible-related book. Currently, we are studying the women of the Old Testament. For further information, text or call Phyllis Neuenfeldt at (218)770-4261.



### Morning Out Group Respite

Participants enjoy fun activities like playing cards or doing crafts. This is a great way for people age 60+ experiencing memory loss to make new friends in a safe environment with trained volunteers. During this time, Caregivers can run errands, visit with friends and family, or just take some time to relax. Fees for this service are based on a sliding fee scale.

**First Lutheran Church  
Tuesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Pre-registration required.  
218-220-7517



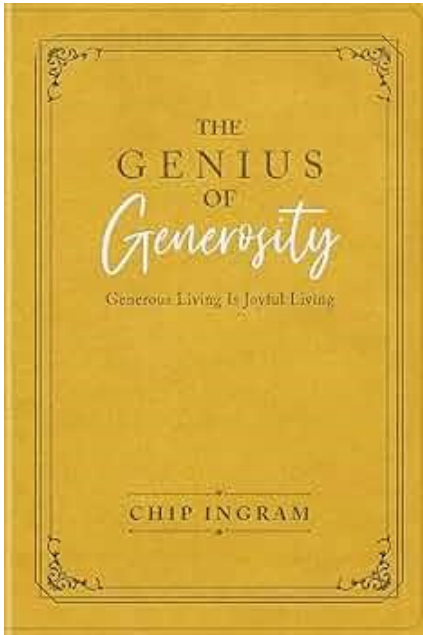
### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for an opportunity to make an impact in a family's life? Lutheran Social Services is in need of in-home respite volunteers in the FM Area. Our volunteers work with those who have chronic illnesses, providing non-medical, companionship for isolated individuals while giving the Caregiver a break. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule, mileage reimbursement, and training is provided.

Interested?  
Questions?

Cassi Walsh 218-220-7517





## Notes from The Genius of Generosity by Chip Ingram Submitted by Tom Klyve

Chip Ingram is a pastor, author, coach, teacher, and President of Living on the Edge -an international teaching and discipleship ministry. In his book, The Genius of Generosity – Lessons from a secret pact between two friends, he describes how an experience he had as a young pastor led him to rediscover God’s generosity to us and our capacity to be generous to others.

Prior to making the secret pact with his friend John, Chip thought generosity was a characteristic a person might try to develop someday when the chips fall their way and they have extra money to spread around. In other words, generosity was something reserved for “the few, the proud, the Marines” It might be a great thing to aspire to, but certainly not something within the faith experience of ordinary Christians. Then he teamed up with John and made a secret pact. John was an older member of the church Chip was serving. After John had “graduated” from the-school-of-hard-knocks, he was a successful businessman. Their secret pact was based on three points: 1-John had a desire to help poor and hurting people. 2-Chip was in daily contact with poor and hurting people. 3-John wanted Chip to be his eyes and ears to help poor and hurting people in whatever ways God led Chip. John gave Chip an initial amount of \$5,000 to start off the project. Periodically, Chip would meet with John to report the results of his investment. Then John would provide more funds to help Chip be his hands and feet to help others. As a result of this relationship, their friendship grew.

There is a spiritual correlation to this story. God invites us to be His representatives in the management of His resources. The more we use His resources to help those in need, God entrusts us with more to help more. We regularly get together with other faithful stewards to celebrate the work God is doing through us.

Giving is meant to be joyful and fulfilling. The word “genius” comes from the Latin word “to produce” and represents quality and natural ability. The word “generosity” in Hebrew means to literally saturate with water (a symbol of life). In Greek, the word “generosity” means ready to distribute. Spending and saving carefully are wise practices, but giving generously is genius. To be smart, spend carefully. To be wise, save regularly. To be genius, give extravagantly.

Ingram goes on to say that there are four reasons why generosity is an intelligent way to live. Generosity is genius because it changes our lives. First: Generous people find themselves blessed. (Refer to Acts 20:35 and Proverbs 11:25.) A stingy heart ends up empty. Second: Generosity connects us with others. Generous people create positive feelings in their relationships. Third: Generosity helps us invest in what matters. Everything we do is an investment. We pour our time, talent, and treasure into where our hearts are. Every act of kindness counts as an investment. Fourth: Generosity frees our hearts. Where your money goes, your heart flows. Your heart will always follow your investments.

The author of the book says money is only the beginning of being generous. Generosity always begins with God. God has infinite and incomprehensible love for us. (See James 1:17 and Ephesians 3:14-19.) Our generosity is the visible expression of our love for God. Genuine generosity is how we express our love for God, whether or not that expression matches our feelings at the moment. Generous living begins with money and possessions, but it applies to every area of our lives. Generous people offer their time, reputation, future, dreams, and everything else. (See Romans 12:1.) True generosity doesn’t stop with possessions. It starts with them. Real love and worship are accompanied by a desire to give. We tend to think that giving our money is a big deal, but it’s actually God’s training wheels for growing a generous heart. Giving to help others helps us develop our relationship with the Ultimate Giver.

[Jesus] *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:19-24)



# Making Connections

## The Bjorklund Family



Hello from the Bjorklund family! We are Ryan, Susan, Katelyn, Emily, and Mystic (the cat).

I (Ryan) was born and raised in Detroit Lakes and have lived here most of my life, graduated from D.L. High School in 1990 and M-State in 1996 from a three year Auto Service program. I work at the Nelson Auto Center in Fergus Falls as a Chrysler Auto Technician and have been in the same building for nearly 28 years. Some of my interests include running, biking, old cars, and of course family time. As I have been getting older and going through the ups and downs of life, seeking God has become very important to me.

Susan was born and raised in Perham, MN on a dairy farm, graduated from Perham High School in 1994 and M-State in 1996. She works at Midwest Bank in town as a Compliance Support Assistant. Her interests include knitting, summer-time cruises in her Mustang convertible, and spending time with family. Susan and I met in 1995 at M-State and were married in 1999 and will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary this spring! We have been blessed with two daughters, Katelyn and Emily. Both were baptized at FLC.

Katelyn is 12 years old and is in 6th grade at the D.L. Middle School. She has been in Just for Kix dance since 2015. She is also a great swimmer and has completed all levels of swim lessons. Last summer she completed training for Junior Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instructor Aide and is now a helper with swim lessons at the DLCCC! She has completed three 5K runs also. She enjoys school, likes to read, and is taking guitar lessons. Busy girl!

Emily is 8 years old and is in 3rd grade at Roosevelt Elementary School. She has been in Just for Kix dance since 2018. Emily also likes to swim and is currently working on level five swim lessons. She likes to ride her bike and has completed two 5K runs also! She too enjoys school, reading, and drawing. Emily often can be found perfecting her cartwheel, round off, and handstand in the middle of the living room floor! Another busy girl!

We all enjoy being a part of First Lutheran Church!

## The Erickson Family



Brad and I met and started dating in high school 33 years ago. In May, we will celebrate our 29th wedding anniversary.

We made our home in Detroit Lakes in 2001 following college and a brief residency in Hawley.

Brad attended NDSU for agricultural economics, and, I attended Concordia for nursing. For the past 25 years, Brad has worked at Ag Country Farm Credit Services here in Detroit Lakes. He is a loan officer and the branch manager. I have worked at Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital for almost 23 years. Currently, I work in the surgery department.

Since we were married, we always attended/belonged to a Lutheran Church. In 2011, when our children reached confirmation class age, we sought out a church with a larger congregation as the church to which we belonged (Augustana), had very few to no children the same age as ours. So, I met with the youth director at FLC to learn about their confirmation classes. Then, we attended an outdoor worship service. That's all it took! We knew FLC was a great fit for our family! The children's/youth program was/is stellar, and, the worship services were/are meaningful and filled with wonderful, live music! I feel so fortunate to be part of the worship team!

Brad and I enjoy traveling together, camping with friends/family, hiking the North Shore (chasing waterfalls), pontooning, and gardening. We usually have a pretty big garden that keeps us busy, so, I do a great deal of canning as well.

Our kids are grown now. Michael, our son, is 25 and is married to April. They live in South Fargo and work in Fargo as well.

Kynna, our daughter, will be 21 soon, and, she recently got engaged to her boyfriend of 5 years, Gabe. They live in West Fargo and both work in the Fargo area. They plan to get married in October of 2025.



**REBEKAH CIRCLE MEETING DATE CHANGE** - The Rebekah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, February 20 at 9 AM in the Conference Room. Please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month instead of the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



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

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING FUND**  
**In Memory of:** Ernie Mancini  
 Given by: Ed Darby

**YOUTH FUND**  
**In Memory of:** Dennis Totland  
 Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

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



Keep yourself safe when being asked to give money. No pastor or church staff member will ever email or text you to purchase gift cards. If a request seems suspicious, call the church office. When getting an unexpected text or email asking for something, think of SIN.

**Stop** – Wait for a little bit. Pause and think about what is being asked. Fraudsters try to make you think this is a dire or urgent request. It almost never is.

**Inquire** – Ask a friend or family member or even call the church office. “Why does Pastor Joe want me to buy iTunes gift cards?” Sometimes we just need the validation of a trusted friend when we have to make a decision. Fraudsters will try to limit who you can talk to.

**No** – When in doubt, just say no. If a request or message sounds strange or feels odd, it is always safest to just say no.

**BUILDING FINANCIALS**

In just the past six months, First Lutheran Church has made substantial investments into our facility. These investments are building a solid foundation from which our ministries will continue to grow. Here are the three major projects that have been completed:

- Paid for using Building Fund and General Fund
- Sanctuary HVAC Improvements: \$51,916.55
- Paid for using a loan from MMCDC
- Brickwork Repairs: \$64,687.21
- Parking Lot: \$108,438.00
- Total: \$225,041.76

As of 12/31/2023, the balance of our draws less regular payments is \$167,470.14.



# 'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

## February

### Leader: NEEDED

Benjamin Aastuen  
Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson  
Robert & Bonnie Bekkerus  
Cheryl Brehm  
Brady & Jennifer Burnside  
Chad & Kristen Carlblom  
Susan Christensen  
Michael & Gayle Damlo  
Dana & Julie Fagerlie  
Nathan & Joy Fetting  
Frederick Floan  
Sally Ziegler-Sletto

Eric & Barbara Floding  
Jon & Belinda Freeman  
Dick & Barb Groth  
Chad Hagen  
Haley & Mel Johnson  
Tallack & Janice Johnson  
Thomas & Joyce Klyve  
Michael & Diane Kuehne  
Brooks & Lisa Larson  
Mark & RoxAnn Lindquist  
Gayle Mostad  
Benjamin & Heidi Olson

Mason & Sara Pender  
Susan & Steven Quam  
Debra Rethwisch  
Paul & Jill Schramel  
Amanda Schrupp  
Brian & Sara Shepard  
Trevor & Gretchen Thilmony  
Mary Waalen  
Lowell Wenberg  
Joy Wheeler  
William & Holly Wheeler  
Warren & Kristen Whitworth

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!!



## March

### Leader: NEEDED

Hope & Darin Adams  
Brian & Kristin Bausman  
Nathan Bausman  
Gary & Ruth Bendewald  
Kathleen Blacknik  
Chris & Kari Borgmann  
Terrence Jay & Karen Buboltz  
Casey & Lisa Christensen  
Patricia Dahlin-Rouse  
John & Mary Erickson  
LeAnn Erickson

Bernard & Joyce Gilbertson  
Donald & Cherrilyn Haderly  
Bradley & Linda Hanson  
Ardys Horner  
Jason & Megan Huus  
Robert Jernberg  
Charlene Jernberg  
Wayne & Joan Lee  
Amber & Dave Lerud  
Gregory & Glenice Marxen  
Gary Myers & Pam Bergeson  
Sandra & Patrick Onstad

Jim & Laurie Ostrom  
Karla Peterick  
Robert & Sandra Roel  
Marjorie Schroeder  
James & Paula Schulz  
Ruth Seal  
Donald & Norma Smith  
Marlys Smith  
Timothy & Mary Sundby  
Bradley & Jennifer Wentz  
Sharron Wolf

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.

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>28</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Adult Forum, Library 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	<b>29</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>30</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 6:00p Stewardship Mtg, Conf Rm	<b>31</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 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	<b>1</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:00p Tai Ji Quan 5:30p Personnel Mtg, CR	<b>2</b> 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	<b>5</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>6</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, CR 7:00p Theology on Tap	<b>7</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project, Library 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.	<b>8</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:00p Tai Ji Quan 1:30p Ruth Circle, Din Rm	<b>9</b> 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	<b>12</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>13</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Cir, CR 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 4:00p Sons of Norway	<b>14</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:00p Ash Wed. Service 12:30p Ash Wed. Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Ash Wed. Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	<b>15</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	<b>16</b> 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Communion</i> <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Adult Forum, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	<b>19</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 	<b>20</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Circle, CR 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 7:00p Creation Care Tm Mtg 7:00p Theology on Tap	<b>21</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:00p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 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.	<b>22</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	<b>23</b> 12:00p AA, Library 4:00p UND Hockey Night 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Sunday Schedule</b> <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	<b>26</b> 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>27</b> 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm	<b>28</b> <b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:00p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 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.	<b>29</b> 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	<b>1</b> 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	<b>2</b>



## The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church  
912 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
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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:**

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### **Bell Choir Director:**

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### **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.**