



912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN

Phone: 218-847-5656

www.firstlutheranchurch.com



STEWARDSHIP

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

First Lutheran Church graciously accepts monetary gifts through several methods.

Online– You can give one-time or setup a recurring gift online at fcdl.org/give and clicking on the Give Now button. (There are fees associated with online giving that you can choose to cover.)



Text– Quickly and easily send your gift using your phone! Send a message to **218-228-3228** with the amount that you would like to give and follow the instructions to complete the setup. You can save this number as a contact to make future gifts quick and easy.

Cash or Check– Cash or checks can be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. (Please do not put cash in the US Mail)

Qualified Charitable Distributions– Are you over 72 and have an IRA? You can make your donation to the church through your IRA brokerage account and it will reduce your Required Minimum Distribution. Consult with your tax professional and financial advisor if this method of giving would work for you.

Marketable Securities– By working with our broker at Bremer Investments, you can easily transfer marketable securities (e.g., stocks) to First Lutheran Church. Contact the church office for the form to get this process started.

General Fund– By blessing the church with a donation free of restrictions, you allow the church to put your gifts to the most pressing need. The general fund supports the entire mission of First Lutheran Church—from faith formation to meeting space for community groups, from music and worship to supporting our neighbors in need—your gift goes furthest in the general fund.

Designated Funds– When there are specific projects or ministries that require support, the church creates a Designated Fund. A list is available online in the Gift Policy (fcdl.org/gift-policy) or from the church office. If there are specific purposes that you do not see in that list, contact the Business Manager.

All Family Communion information:

Here at FLC we practice All Family Communion. In short, we practice an open table where everyone is welcome to receive the Lord's Supper no matter their age, membership status, or educational threshold. The invitation to receive this sacrament is unconditional.

We practice *All Family Communion* because - relying on Scripture and our Lutheran tradition - we **neither** believe that sacraments like Holy Communion are a good work that we do to please God, **nor** do we believe that sacraments like Holy Communion are a reward for our good behavior. We believe that they are gifts from God who wants to offer us a physical expression of love, belonging, and grace – and grace, by definition, is *free* (e.g. Ephesians 2:8-9).

For instance, Martin Luther maintains in *The Large Catechism* that the sacraments are “not our work, but God’s work...not a work that we do but...is a treasure that God gives.”^[1]

Furthermore, when instituting Holy Communion, Jesus never imposed conditions on access to receiving it, and based on that biblical fact, Luther also wrote in *The Large Catechism* that “A sacrament is not rendered false because of an individual’s *unworthiness* or *unbelief*. Christ does not say, ‘If you believe...you have my body’...but rather, ‘Take, eat...Do this.’...whether you are worthy or unworthy, you have here his body and blood by the power of these words that are connected to the bread and wine.”^[2]

To be sure, we leave it up to individuals, families, parents, and children as to whether or not they’d like to receive Holy Communion, but the invitation is wide open.

The invitation is wide open because God’s grace is what every single one of us needs.
-Pastor Joe Skogmo

[1] LC 5:17-18, 22, in BC, 461.

[2] LC 5:17-18, 22, in BC, 468-469, 473

GOVERNING LEADERSHIP

See First Lutheran Church website or newsletters for current members of

Vision Council, Personnel Committee and Foundation Board

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

We are so glad that you are here. We are humbled and grateful that God has led you here.

One of the foundations of Lutheran belief is that we are freed, accepted, and saved not by our own work or purity, but by the grace and love of God—displayed most vividly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We believe that Christianity is not about what we have to do for God, but what God has already done for us in Christ Jesus. We are loved. We are enough. We are accepted. We are saved. We are set free. We are empowered. All of this through Christ’s unconquerable, inseparable love.

Therefore, we do not have to spend our lives and our energy trying to prove ourselves to God or earn our salvation. Again, the Bible tells us that Christ’s love is sufficient in sealing all of this. So, now what? Now we are called into authentic community and bold service to our neighbor.

We hope to be this authentic community and partners in ministry with you. We hope to be a place that cries tears with you in your suffering and celebrates with you in your joys. We pray that despite the ups and downs of community life that this is a place that stays committed to life together. We hope to be a place that reminds each other of God’s love. We pray to be a place that encourages you in your gifts, and joins you in service to our neighbor.

So, indeed, we thank God for YOU and for being joined together in this life of faith.

In this booklet you will see the many ways we seek to live into our freedom in Christ: through **Worship**, through **Service**, and through **Faith Formation**.

Worship is where God feeds us with grace through God’s Word, communion, baptism, prayer, and fellowship.

Fellowship and Service, both within FLC and to the community, is where we are called and where we join in God’s loving work in the world.

Learning / Faith Formation is going deeper to hear and experience God in your own life, to learn and mature in faith, and to connect your faith with your daily life.

There are many places to connect, depending on your gifts and interests. This booklet gives you an idea of what goes on here in the life of FLC, but please stop by, email, or call the office to get more information!

Be sure to check out bulletin announcements, monthly newsletters, the FLC website, and the FLC Facebook page for updates and general information on the life of your community.

Thank you and God’s peace,

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Friday summer hours 8:30-12:00)

Contact:

Phone: 218-847-5656
E-mail: flc@firstlutheranchurch.com
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CONGREGATIONAL STAFF

Lead Pastor:

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Music Director

Karen Bimberg

Alleluia Ringers Director

Carla Hanson

Jubilate Choir Director

Kathy Larson

Missionary Pastor:

Rev. Chandran Martin

Custodians:

Paul Heisler, Patty Walter

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTRIES

Children's Faith Formation Team - The team meets once a month to plan upcoming children events throughout the year.

Youth Faith Formation Team - The team meets once a month to plan upcoming youth events throughout the year.

Adult Faith Formation Team - This team meets periodically throughout the year to plan various adult faith formation activities.

Social Justice Team - Helps to oversee how First Lutheran Church serves our community by assessing where needs are, coming up with new ideas, and communicating these ideas to the congregation.

Creation Care Team - Meets monthly to study, provides education and service projects for congregation and community to learn and care for creation, and invites intentional stewardship of God's creation for future generations.

Hospitality Team - Meets to create and promote a welcome and inclusive environment in alignment with the mission of First Lutheran Church.

These descriptions are a glimpse of life at First Lutheran. If you are interested in getting involved, more information is available regarding any and all ministries listed. Various task forces and committees are also formed as needed for different purposes, projects and events.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

First Lutheran Quilters - Gathering once a week, this group has a great time making quilts and sharing refreshments! Their many lovely and colorful quilts are then sold, donated and/or gifted to Lutheran World Relief.

Abundant Grace Garden - From a plot of land donated for this outreach mission, vegetables are sown, tended, harvested and donated to the local food pantry.

Christmas at Our House - On Christmas day, volunteers serve a free Christmas meal in the church dining room or deliver one to anyone in the community.

Angel Tree Ministry - A member of the Detroit Lakes community provides names of individuals who, due to challenging circumstances, would be extremely blessed by gifts at Christmastime. Anonymous angel ornaments representing these individuals are hung on a tree at First Lutheran. People then take an angel from the tree, buy a gift for them, wrap the gift and put it under the tree. Shortly before Christmas, the gifts are distributed anonymously to the angel they were purchased for.

Children's Christmas Store - Children from our community are able to purchase donated gifts for a dollar or less to gift as Christmas presents to their family members. Volunteers help them shop and wrap their gifts while their parents relax and snack!

Tai Ji Quan Class - Tai Ji Quan will improve balance, strengthen muscles, and reduce the risk of falls. Check the bulletins to find out when classes begin.

Agape Fund & Ministerial Fund— Funds used to help those in need with assistance during various times of emergency.

WORSHIP

We receive Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month (and on their subsequent Wednesdays during the school-year). See page 12 for additional explanation.

A Healing Service is offered every 4th Sunday & Wednesday.

During the school year, Labor Day through Memorial Day

Sunday Morning

- 8:30 - 9:30 Traditional style worship primarily utilizing the hymnal
- 9:30 - 10:30 Faith Formation Hour for children, youth and adults
Fellowship time with coffee & treats in the dining room
- 10:45 - 11:45 Contemporary style worship with worship band

Wednesday Evenings

- 5:15 - 6:00 Oasis Meal: (Free will offering) is provided in the Dining Room
- 6:00 - 6:30 Worship
- 6:30 - 7:30 Faith Formation Hour for all ages

During the Summer, Memorial Day through Labor Day

Sunday Morning

- 8:30 - 9:30 Traditional style worship service indoors
- 9:30 -10:30 Fellowship time with coffee & treats in the dining room
- 10:30-11:30 Contemporary style worship outdoors

We do not currently offer a Wednesday worship service during the summer.

Radio Broadcast - the 8:30 Sunday service is broadcast at 10:00 a.m. on KDLM - 1340 AM radio.

Television - watch the previous Sunday's worship service on Arvig cable channel 14, Saturdays at 9:00 AM

Webcast - Worship services are video recorded and available live-streamed on YouTube and on Facebook on Sunday mornings. Services are archived on our website at www.firstlutheranchurch.com.

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION - Pre-School through 5th Grade

Our children's ministry is Christ-Centered and Child-Focused. Our volunteers are caring, nurturing, fun teens and adults who have a love for kids and a passion for sharing Jesus.

Sunday/Wednesday School - A Bible-centered, fun, interactive hour on Sunday mornings, 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m. and Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. from the second Sunday of September through Mother's Day. *(in December the Sunday School Children lead a worship service with Christmas music and message of Christ's birth)*

Vacation Bible School - A fun-filled week for children pre-school through 5th grade put on by Luther Crest staff, typically in June (See church calendar for exact dates). This high-energy week is filled with awesome music, exciting games, drama, crafts, snacks, and FUN—all while learning and growing in faith.

Bible Camp - FLC promotes a week at Luther Crest Bible Camp on Lake Carlos, Camp Emmaus on Lake Morgan near Park Rapids, or Camp Cherith in Vergas, MN for children through 6th grade. At camp, children can experience God in the outdoors and camping setting!

The **Children's Ministry Team** aids in visioning and planning ministry for children and their families at First Lutheran.

All Family Communion: Through our Youth and Family ministry programs (Sunday School, Wednesday School, and Confirmation), our children will receive basic instruction on the Sacrament of Holy Communion (and Baptism), but are all the while welcomed to the Lord's Table to receive the Lord's Supper. SEE page 12 for additional explanation.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Funeral Servers - A list of people willing to bring cookies and bars or work at funerals. They are used to complement the monthly Action Corps list.

Wedding Coordinator - oversees and coordinates the church usage with the wedding party including equipment, planning, rehearsal, and the ceremony.

Kitchen Team - oversees the day-to-day usage and care of the kitchen, its equipment and supplies.

Oasis Team - prepares a meal each Wednesday evening throughout the programmatic year.

Office Assistants - help the church office staff when a little extra office coverage is needed. Duties primarily include answering telephones and reception.

WFLC - Women of First Lutheran Church - All women who worship at First Lutheran are part of this ministry. It's leadership, however, and circles are always in the thick of activity. Whether it's events focused on missions, fund-raising, education, faith building or social opportunities, this group provide a forum for it! Various kits are put together for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) throughout the year.

Visitation Team - offers care as a "*caring presence*" to anyone experiencing grief, loss, transition, or other concerns. Those visiting receive training and participate in regular small group meetings with supervision of the Parish Nurse.

Parish Health Ministry - Integrates faith and health practices, provides health education, becomes a personal health counselor, is a referral agent, telephones, and makes home, hospital, and nursing home visits. Blood pressure screening is done once per month at the church and at a parishioner's request.

Prayer Chain - provides prayer support whenever needed. Anonymity is honored!

Grounds Beautification Team - this "green thumbbed" group keeps the church grounds colorful, fresh and inviting!

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Flower Committee - In charge of altar flowers and decorations of the sanctuary appropriate for the different seasons of the church (poinsettias, Christmas decorations, palms, and Easter flowers). This group also cares for the plants throughout the building. Members rotate monthly.

Sanctuary Shepherds - Tend to the upkeep of the worship area including the pews and narthex. They keep the area orderly and well supplied.

Outdoor Worship Set-Up Team - Sets up the sound system, instruments and all other technical equipment for use at the summer outdoor worship service.

Music Ministries:

Jubilate Adult Choir - meets September through May on Wednesday evenings and usually offers the musical message at Worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. Directed by Kathryn Larson.

Alleluia Ringers Adult Bell Choir - meets Wednesday evenings from September through May generally playing for Worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. Directed by Carla Hanson.

Contemporary Worship Team - This group is the music leadership at the 10:30/10:45 AM Contemporary Worship service. Meets year round in the evenings once a week for practice and fellowship.

Special Music - Special music in our worship is provided by a multitude of individuals from within and/or outside our congregation. From vocal solos and ensembles, instrumental solos and ensembles, piano, keyboard, and guitar. If you have a musical gift to share, please let us know!

Giving - Financial donations through offering envelopes, qualified charitable distributions from IRAs, online or via text.

Action Corp - The term used for First Lutheran's monthly service group that provides treats and staffing for Sunday morning fellowship time and other congregational events. Each family in the congregation is assigned one month per year in the season of their choice.

Action Corp Team Leaders - contact members of the monthly service group to arrange for the necessary workers and food items for fellowship.

FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION - 6th through 12th Grade

Confirmation— 7th & 8th grade youth have confirmation on Wednesday nights 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. during the school year. There are tough questions that God calls us to enter into. Confirmation is a safe place for youth and their adult guides to gather in groups and work their way into the amazing truths of God's love for us. 6th grade youth focus their Wednesday night Groups on faithful fellowship in preparation for Confirmation.

High School Youth Group - Meets for fellowship, service projects, and deeper faith study.

Synod Youth Gatherings - Each Fall and Spring, the Northwestern Minnesota Synod sponsors a Middle and High School Youth Gathering. It's a weekend of worship, music, dancing, and fun!

ELCA National Youth Gatherings - Every three years the ELCA hosts a MASSIVE youth gathering for all ELCA youth across the country. Youth travel and do service together as well as hear awesome speakers and musicians, too. This is for high school students and is one of the most fulfilling things you get to experience in youth group.

Mission Trip - The summers the youth do not attend a National Youth Gathering, they travel to different cities through organizations such as, YouthWorks, to do mission trips.

Summer Bible Camps - Just because you're not a kid doesn't mean that Bible Camp isn't for you! Youth are encouraged to head out into the wild each summer for a week of amazing experience at Luther Crest, Pathways, or Camp Cherith in Minnesota. It's a blast for all!

The **Youth Ministry Team** aids in visioning and planning ministry for youth and their families at First Lutheran.

FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Short-Term Faith Exploration Opportunities - Watch the bulletin, website and newsletter for details!

Friday Noon Prayer in Chapel - This is a time to come together and be very intentional about prayer. A time to pray for the church, each other, family and friends, our nation, and any other things that are weighing heavy on our hearts. All are welcomed.

Adult Forum - Topics on various issues are offered Sunday mornings between services.

Men's "DayBreak" - Breakfast, Bible study, good conversation, and prayer. Meets Wednesdays, 6:30 AM at the Holiday Inn. Bring your Bible and join us any Wednesday.

Women of First Lutheran Church (WFLC) Circles - Any woman who becomes a member of First Lutheran Church is automatically a member of WELCA. There are many opportunities for fellowship, friendship, service, and growth; including circles, Bible studies, Altar Guild and various other activities and events.

Men's Bible Study - Check in with the church office on the current date and times for this Bible Study.

Women's Bible Study - Check in with the church office on the current date and times for this Bible Study.

Retreats and Family Events - These opportunities vary with interest and availability. They include couple's retreats, family camping . . .

Guest Presenters - Knowledgeable speakers are invited to present topics of interest on a time-to-time basis.

Resources are also available on the website & FLC Library.

(Check with the office for specific dates and times)

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Fellowship: Fellowship time with coffee & treats in the dining room.

Worship Assistants:

Ushers - Prepare the sanctuary and tend to the elements of worship including, but not limited to, lighting and extinguishing candles, distribution of bulletins, collection of the offering and directing congregants for seating and communion.

Greeters - Provide a warm and welcoming greeting to all who gather for worship.

Lesson Reader - From the lectern, the reader reads the lesson from scripture aloud to the congregation.

Communion Servers - Distribute the elements of Holy Communion.

Sound Technician - Manages the sound system for optimal sound quality for both the worship service in the building, radio broadcast, and online.

Video Technician - creates live streams of worship services and special events.

Slide Tech - Runs the overhead screen projector and advances the slides that are used during worship.

Worship Assistant Leaders - There is a leader or team of leaders for each service time. These individuals will call and schedule ushers, greeters, communion servers and a reader for that service.

Altar Guild - Maintains the worship elements of the sanctuary, including paraments, furnishings, and communion service. They keep all things in good repair and set according to the season of the church calendar. This group also prepares the elements for Holy Communion and supports the Communion Servers.

Banner Team - Envisions, creates and maintains beautiful and relevant banners used to supplement the heart of worship in the sanctuary of our church home.