



# The First Messenger



## **NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

Turkey Dinner & Bingo .....November 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Give to the Max Day .....November 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Church Office Closed .....November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Volume 32

November 2023

Issue 11

## **NOISY OFFERING TOTALS**

The total Noisy Offering collected in September was \$502.76 and was donated to FLC Youth & Family Ministry Program!

In October, the total Noisy Offering collected was \$528.67 (as of 10/23/23) and was donated to the "Hope for the Holidays" program, led by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. WOW and THANK YOU, FLC.



Check back next month as we celebrate the November Noisy Offering totals, going to "Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC) organization. Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes (pneumonia, diarrhea, etc.), yet hunger/undernutrition is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under age 5. Heartbreaking. The FMSC is a Christian nonprofit, believing that hope starts with food. Donations from FLC will help to fund highly researched meal ingredients.

Through the power of volunteer energy, the ingredients are eventually donated as "MannaPacks" to food partners across the world. Jesus Christ has called us to feed the hungry and serve those in need; we are grateful that FLC will follow His calling in this November initiative.



## What's Inside?

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Action Corps         | Page 18 |
| Calendar             | Page 19 |
| Library Update       | Page 15 |
| Making Connections 1 | Page 13 |
| Making Connections 2 | Page 14 |
| Memorials            | Page 17 |
| Parish Health        | Page 5  |
| Pastor Joe's Update  | Page 2  |
| Pastor Lauryl's Word | Page 3  |
| President's Post     | Page 4  |



## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Thursday, November 23  
 Friday, November 24

*In recognition of the Thanksgiving Holiday.*

# PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

## **Pastoral Transition: Grief & the Road Ahead**

As a community we will continue to grieve Pr. Lauryl's departure into retirement, as well as celebrate her many dynamic years of ordained ministry. We will grieve because of the love she shared and because of the love with which she led – she deeply impacted so many of us with her pastoral presence, and that such a chapter of FLC has ended necessitates quite the grieving process, even if we also celebrate her achievement of retired life.

Amid our grief and gratitude, we also look to the logistical side of transition. The next steps for our community include the formation of a **Call Committee**. This committee helps us find and discern the calling of our next Associate Pastor

According to our Constitution our Call Committee is to be made up of six to 10 voting members of the congregation, and they are elected by the Vision Council (**C13.05**). This committee has a structured and critical road ahead – so first things first, pray for them and support them with love, grace, and encouragement as they take on this vital role.

After their formation and authorization, the Call Committee works with the Northwestern Minnesota Synod to map out the path ahead. They will undergo orientation by synodical leadership in at least their first couple meetings. Then, their next task is to do some congregational self-study, to gain more clarity about who we are, whom God is calling us to be, and therefore gain a better idea of what type of pastor we're looking for.

Advantageously, we've recently done self-study work in '19/'20 as you worked to call Pr. Lauryl and myself, and we've done this quite extensively through our recent strategic planning in '21/'22 where we gathered data through Cottage Meetings. Our analysis of your feedback revealed four core areas of investment to emphasize at FLC: worship, fellowship/discipleship, staff empowerment, and building & grounds. This is all to say, a lot of self-study groundwork has already been laid for the Call Committee. Hopefully this empowers them to move efficiently. Still, as my dad would tell me before every single basketball game, "Be quick, but don't hurry." We can be urgent, but still must be thorough and not rushed.

After the self-study is complete, the committee passes their paperwork to the Synod. The Synod will start matching our paperwork with viable and compatible candidates. Along the way, the committee can also receive names from the congregation to consider. This will be the stage of 'receiving names and interviewing candidates.' Once we get to this point, we're about 70% of the way to welcoming our next Associate Pastor. \*NOTE: during this time, the Call Committee must adhere to strict confidentiality since, for many pastoral candidates, their livelihoods, and the health of the parishes they might be currently serving are at stake. As much as the committee might want to give you specific information about a candidate, they cannot.

Eventually, the Call Committee will discern a candidate that best fits; at that point, they'll recommend the "candidate for call...In consultation with the [candidate], the call committee presents a summary of their recommendation to the [Vision Council] for their approval. Confidentiality needs to remain a top priority"<sup>1</sup> at this stage.

From there, proper negotiations would take place, a background check would be conducted, and upon Vision Council approval, a congregational meeting would be called to vote upon the recommended candidate for Associate Pastor!

This road ahead could be reasonably quick, and we could possibly be welcoming someone in March or April. The discernment process could also hit any number of variables: pastor shortage, a struggle to find the right fit, last-minute variables could cause one party to back out in the late stages of the process, etc. In other words, the Synod also cautioned that this could take as long as 18 months or more. I don't anticipate that, but we need to be ready for anything.

*(Article continues on Page 11)*

---

<sup>1</sup>Quotations here are from the NWMN Synod's Call Process Handbook: A 10-step guide...

# LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

Dear First Lutheran Family,

Thank you all so very much for the many beautiful cards, and heartfelt messages, and very generous gifts!!! I do feel, and will treasure, the love that accompanied all of these, and I'll hold on to that when I'm missing you all in the days ahead. I believe it was a sacred gift from God that we came together in a "Kairos" time, a time set apart by God, for good, even though it didn't feel like it at the moment. When you asked me to come and serve with you as your pastor, it was a time of hurting, grieving, and soul searching for First Lutheran. We traversed that valley of the shadow together and found the truth of the real strengths and hope in our congregation. Today, it is such a blessing to see how that healing hope, and that working together in God's mission here, has grown not only our membership, but the joy, faithfulness, hospitality and care we share with each other, and show our community and our world.

It has been my great privilege to walk with you and your loved ones, to follow Jesus with you in great worship, singing, teaching, learning, playing, planning, praying, watching our young ones grow in faith, eating delicious food, serving our community, and caring for the blessing of our creation..... I love you all my family in Christ! As the apostle writes, I thank God for you and will pray for you. I'm confident that the One who's been working among you all along, will continue to guide you to all that God has planned for the families and friends who are First Lutheran Church.

This is a **good** bye,

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Lauryl



## PIECEMAKERS

This month's quilt measuring 58 inches x 77 inches is a colorful one and is available for purchase. The three layers are tied (held together with yarn). A pieced top that is tied, is often called a comforter.

What was the quiltmaker thinking as she pieced the squares? Was she remembering where each fabric bit started? Is the red and white stripe extra fabric from making a Raggedy Ann doll for a grandchild? Are the gingham from a child's dress, or leftover from making kitchen curtains? Some of the small squares are pieced. Are they extra blocks from an earlier project? Were the blocks the wrong size, or did the maker accidentally piece too many?

Did she make the quilt simply because she enjoyed each step in the process? Did she have help? Or was she thinking about the person who would eventually receive the quilt?

Each fabric, block and quilt has a story. We don't usually know what the story is, but we can appreciate how the individual fabrics work together to create a colorful quilt. And so it is with us. Most people belong to a group or groups who meet together for a purpose. It may be to make quilts, or to work with wood. It may be to teach children, or serve a meal. We don't know everyone's story, but we can join together to provide meals and quilts and comfort to each other – those we know and those we don't know.

# PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Gail Colby

Hello First Lutheran Church!

Fall is here and daylight savings time is ending. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep! We can soon look forward to the holidays.

Thanksgiving makes us reflect on all the things we are thankful for. Reflecting on your blessings every day is even better. Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends gradually change through the years as you grow up, get married, have families. Then gradually you lose family members because of death, divorces and your own children growing up and getting married. Or sometimes your families get bigger and bigger! I think some of the best Thanksgivings are when the little grandchildren start eating solid food and get to taste their first pumpkin pie or lefse! I've had some Thanksgivings alone, which I actually did enjoy. I got to sleep in. I prepared just the favorite things I wanted like pie and cranberries. I laid on the couch watching movies in yoga pants, which can be a little dangerous when I'm left alone with an entire pie to myself!

One of the most important things I'm thankful for is good health. I think it is because I work in healthcare and see people who are not healthy. There is really no price on that. I am fortunate to have the security of a great job and coworkers. I am grateful for my family, friends, great neighbors and nice, safe home. As I think about all the violence in Israel, I feel we take a lot for granted here in America. I can't imagine not knowing where my family members are and if they are safe. Please continue your prayers for the people in Israel.

First Lutheran Church has a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for my church, our wonderful staff, our new Family and Youth Director, Olivia. Please welcome her and help out in any way you can as she begins orientating to her new role. I am grateful for those who are willing to serve on our Call Committee as we start that process. Although we have said our farewells to Pastor Lauryl, please remember that she asked us to care for each other. With the holidays coming up there will be many needs. Like Pastor Joe said in his recent sermon; "Look out for the person to the left of you, and look out to the person to the right of you."

The most important thing that we can all be grateful for is God's love and forgiveness we have received through Jesus Christ. Happy Thanksgiving First Lutheran Church!

*Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:13*



"I'm not sure what religion my family is. It's the one that forbids running with scissors. And eating before dinner is the worst sin."



**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Women of FLC will be hosting their

**Sweet Treat Sale**  
**Sunday, December 17**

Bakers can donate treats to be sold between services as a fundraiser for the WFLC program. More details will be in the bulletins. Thank you all for participating!



The WFLC are collecting items to make blessing bags for the homeless. A list of needed items can be found on the volunteer table. Any donations can be placed in the designated collection bin.



# Parish Health

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

## Visitation Ministry

**Share a smile and a hug with a friend and you will both be blessed!**

Would you be willing to spend a little time each month easing someone's loneliness?  
Are you able to read scripture with someone or just provide a listening ear?  
Would your children enjoy a visit to one of our homebound members?

If you answered yes to any of these questions or are feeling called to be a visitor of one of our FLC members who no longer can make it to church, then you can become a member of our visitation team!

### TEAM MEMBER ATTRIBUTES

- A loving and kind spirit.
- A servant heart.
- A desire to work with older adults.

### EXAMPLES OF TEAM MEMBER DUTIES/ACTIVITIES WITH MEMBERS

- Visit congregation members who are unable to attend church.
- Make regular visits (length and frequency of visits can vary).
- You may read scripture or other materials that interest them.
- Do a puzzle or play a game.
- Listen and prayer.
- Deliver easter lilies, Christmas poinsettias, and other items from the church during the year.
- Remember their birthday with a card.

We have at least 50 members who are no longer able to attend church as they did before. To get started as a Visitation Team member contact me (Denise) and tell me you are interested in joining the team. I then find a member on our list for you to visit. There is just a little preparatory paper work for you to do before you start visiting. You then start visiting according to your schedule and the schedule of the person you are visiting.

I have heard many good comments from both the team member and the congregation member who is receiving the visit. These visits help the congregation member feel that they are still a part of the church. If you are interested or have questions regarding the visitation ministry, please give me a call at 218-847-5656.

If you know of any adult who has difficulty getting out and about and would be interested in having regular visits from a member of the Visitation Ministry team, please let me know.

*By God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. — Romans 15:32*

## **Please let us know!**

**Need a Pastor or the Parish Nurse to visit? Have you been hospitalized?**

**Need spiritual or health support?**

**Please let us know.**

**Call 218-847-5656. If no one answers, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.**



# Youth & Family Ministry

By Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director

Hello FLC!

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself. I am Olivia Sauer, the new Youth and Family Ministry Director. I come from the shores of Manitowoc, WI located right on Lake Michigan. I grew up and was baptized and confirmed in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Now you may be wondering how I ended up here. I knew that working with children and youth along with being connected to the church was of importance to me; so I attended and graduated this past spring from Northland College in Ashland, WI with a Bachelors in Outdoor Education and a minor in Religious Studies. One of my biggest passions is Outdoor Ministry and for all of college I had the opportunity to work at summer camps serving in three different denominations. This past summer I was at Pathways, Camp Emmaus in Menahga, and fell in love with Minnesota.

Some fun facts about me,

- I played soccer for 15 years (goalie for 10 years) and would love to play again
- I have been playing drums for 13 years and love music
- Was involved in school band and musicals, prep and marching band, church praise band and other local groups
- I love being outside and all things camp and camping

I cannot wait to meet and connect with all of you and thank you for an already warm welcome during this time of transition.

A few notes to have on your radar as we dive into the rest of the year.

- November 8<sup>th</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup> grade service fair with Alissa, 6:30 PM
- November 15<sup>th</sup>—Turkey Bingo, 5 PM
- December 9<sup>th</sup>—Last Christmas Program Rehearsal, Time-TBD
- December 10<sup>th</sup>—Children’s Christmas Program, 10:45 AM

My door is always open if you have any concerns, questions or just want to chat. My office hours are Mon.-Thru. 8:30-4 but can be flexible.

Peace and Love,

Olivia Sauer  
Youth and Family Ministry Director  
Cell: 218-325-3953 olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com



## PREK & KINDERGARTEN SERVICE PROJECT

The PreK and Kindergarten classes did their service project this past month. They made stuffed animals to give to first responders in our area to hand out to kids in crisis. They were also able to meet local EMTs and tour an ambulance.



Our next service project will be with the 3rd Graders on Wednesday, November 8 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Chapel. They will be creating “Warm Heart Kits” with cold weather gear and specially mixed snacks for those experiencing homelessness in our community. Please consider donating to our kits! Things that will be needed are hygiene items: Chapstick, lotions, shower supplies, etc., mittens, hats and warm socks.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Youth & Family Ministry's*

# **GOBBLE-UP TURKEY DINNER AND BINGO FUNDRAISER**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**DINNER 5 PM - 6 PM**

**BINGO - 6 PM TO 7:30 PM**

Dinner will be Gobble Up Turkey sandwiches and sides.  
During dinner there will be a free will donation bucket.

Bingo will have 10 rounds.

Bingo cards will be sold at the door.

All proceeds will go towards the FLC youth program to help pay for future mission trips and church activities.



# give

TO THE  
**MAX**



**Nov. 16, 2023**



First  
Lutheran  
Church

Please consider giving to First Lutheran Church on Give to the Max Day to help curb the expenses from our building improvement projects! More information about our campaign can be found on [page 8](#).

[www.givemn.org/organization/FLCDL](http://www.givemn.org/organization/FLCDL)

Give via the link above OR place cash & check offerings in the designated box in the church Narthex. Please put "Give MN" in the check memo line.

  
**give**  
TO THE  
**MAX**  
Celebrating 15 Years

## Sanctuary HVAC Project



## Brickwork & Patio Repair



## Repaved Parking Lot





# give TO THE MAX

Nov. 16, 2023

The building of First Lutheran Church is one of our greatest assets and tools for participating in God's work in the world. Just take a moment to see why:

Our diverse and intergenerational ministries take place here: our space enables the faith formation of hundreds of kids in our Youth and Family Ministry programs every week, as well as the myriad of Adult Faith Formation opportunities. Our spaces house four different types of worship services from Sunday services to Wednesday worship, to summer outdoors. Our spaces provide for small group bible studies, quilting, parish health events, meal making ministries, social assistance, Creation Care, and SO MUCH MORE!

Not only that, our building also empowers us to be active community partners for our neighbors: we host local functions from public elections to Sons of Norway. We host and have hosted everything from low-income dental health services to community blood drives. We also regularly host a whole range of support groups from LSS Respite Care to grief support. Our building houses community music events, private lessons, Tae Kwon Do classes, and even provides kitchen space to multiple small businesses amid a commercial kitchen shortage. We also host five-day-a-week childcare amid a massive childcare deficit in our community. Our parking lot provides space not only for all the above, but community partners and community events from the Street Faire to Crazy Days!

Again, our building is one of our greatest assets for forming and nourishing our vibrant congregation, and also for impactfully serving our neighbor - and it is YOUR generosity that sustains all of this. Non of the above exists without your gifts.

For part of November, and especially on November 16th (Give to the Max Day in Minnesota) we are inviting you all into a campaign that will help us service the recent and crucial investments we've made in our building and property - investments that help us be and serve community.

These investments include critical repairs to our patio on the south lawn that provides shelter to our offices, but also provides for outdoor worship; we've also invested in a new, safer, and more serviceable parking lot; finally, we've overhauled our HVAC system for the sanctuary. These projects have required a \$225k loan which we hope to payback with our general fund, but also with campaigns like Give to the Max.

With that, my friends, on or before Give to the Max Day, we invite you into considering a gift to this campaign, to these investments to one of our greatest tools for being community with one another, and serving the community around us, to helping us open doors into life in Christ.

-Pr. Joe

*(See Page 8 for link!)*



Yes, it is already here! The First Lutheran Decorating Team invites you to help us get ready for the advent season. We especially need help and manpower in getting up the big tree. We plan to start decorating at 12 PM on Sunday, November 26. We will have a hot sandwich for you in the dining room before we start. We appreciate all who can come. If you have questions, feel free to contact Shan Manke (218-234-0312) or Jeannie Gilbertson (218-841-5780).



## Quarterly Financial Stewardship Report: General Fund Giving and Expenses

Thank you for the many ways you have supported the ministry of First Lutheran Church in the last three months through your financial gifts and your gifts of time and talent. Our faith community would not be as healthy as we are without good stewards like you. We are a financially healthy congregation.

When you look back through the giving records of the last five years, you will discover that the “summer months” (July through September) have seen the lowest giving totals. The giving totals for the past three months this year support that historical trend. In our budget, we estimated the income for the quarter would be \$164,124.00. The actual income total for July 1 through September 30, 2023 is \$150,224.82. This is \$13,899.18 less than what we expected in our budget estimates for the quarter.

In the estimates we established in our budget, we planned to spend \$176,818.00 to support the [ministry of First Lutheran Church](#) in this first quarter of our fiscal year. The actual expenses totaled \$159,688.44 during the quarter. The difference between the budgeted expense total for the quarter and the actual expenses for the quarter is \$17,129.56.

The difference between actual giving and actual expenses for the quarter is **-\$9,463.62**.

Some of the notable investments we made during the quarter include upgrading computer hardware, software, and phone systems, resolution of plumbing issues, and dry-testing our fire-suppression system.

There are two points of good news to consider as we move forward. First, we started this fiscal year with a balance of \$102,811.03 in the General Fund. Second, historically December giving has exceeded all estimates. Last year, 16 percent of our yearly total was given in December. We anticipate that this December’s giving will again exceed expectations.

*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 Stewardship Team



# Advent Mini-Concerts 2023

## First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN

### Concerts are Wednesdays from 12:05 PM to 12:35 PM

*Concerts are free of charge and open to the public.*

## Mini-Concert Lineup

# WEDNESDAYS

### December 6

Peggy Hammerling—Flute Soloist  
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

Kathryn Larson – Vocal Soloist  
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

### December 13

Rich Johnson—Saxophone  
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

Emma Duncan—Vocal Soloist  
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

### December 20

Tim Eggebraaten  
Soloist & Inspirational Speaker

***(Pastor Joe's Article continued from Page 2)***

The good news is that you've been made ready to a large degree. FLC's recent history has been one full of staff transitions, and prior to that, a significant period where there was no pastor at all and only pulpit supply. In other words, you and the staff have the muscle for this.

With that, here are the members of your Call Committee, called and formed to find our next Associate Pastor. Again, please hold these folks in prayer as they embark on this work:

- Emma Duncan
- Carla Hansen
- Catharine Weisenburger
- Barry Fewson
- McKenzie Olson
- Emily Olson
- Belinda Freeman
- Aron Badurek
- Gordon Henrikson
- Nathan Olson (**Call Committee Chair - Ex Officio, non-voting**)

**Now, what do we do in the *interim*?** This can go several directions, and possibly will. Before our next Associate Pastor, we could bring on a full-time interim pastor. An interim often (but not always) becomes quite fully a part of the life of the congregation – office presence, present at all worship services, staff meetings, Vision Council meetings, etc. It can be an intensive onboarding, but a helpful investment especially for a long-term period without a pastor.

Now, there are at least two challenges to note: 1) there's an extreme shortage of interim pastors, and 2) finding and onboarding an interim would require a lot of time and energy in the near-term. Meanwhile, we'll also be welcoming Olivia (our new YFM Director), navigating Call Committee work, and entering seasonally busy church life.

Therefore, because of the interim shortage and the logistical challenge that is seeking, interviewing, and onboarding a full-time interim pastor, we're going to wait until after the new year to consider pursuing a full-time interim – and, thankfully, we can pursue a different type of supplement to pastoral leadership for the near-term, at least between now and the start of the new year.

With the Synod's help, we are pursuing a **Vice Pastor** – a vice pastor doesn't integrate fully into the life of the congregation the same way an interim pastor does. A vice pastor is basically contracted for specific pastoral services. They do not attend staff meetings, they don't attend leadership and ministry meetings like Vision Council or Personnel or Stewardship, etc. They basically meet the existing pastor and staff where they are at and fill very specific gaps.

Currently, we have a possible candidate, and the Synod and I are working with them on their availability and comfortability with supplementing my pastoral leadership in likely three areas: occasional pulpit supply (preaching & leading worship), routine visitation ministry, and back up funeral assistance (especially if I am on vacation).

I know this is A LOT! More than anything, I want to say that I am confident in FLC navigating through this moment. As usual, we ask for your grace, flexibility, and encouragement as we do so together. God bless you all.

-Pr. Joe



BECKER COUNTY  
**Food Pantry**  
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
SINCE 1983

**FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

FLC is responsible for finding volunteers for the Becker County Food Pantry in the month of November. Volunteers are needed every Tuesday and Thursday of November from 11:30 PM to 3 PM. The sign up form is on the volunteer table at the church, or you can also sign up by calling the church office.



## Mentoring You, Mentoring Me

Written by Patti Cummins

*And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia. Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. Cretans and Arabs – we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God. Acts 2:8-11*

There is so much to be grateful for in our lives every day, but this is the month we try to be more intentional about expressing our gratitude. I loved the beautiful frost and snow-covered trees last winter. The joy and hopefulness of spring arrived with the first crocuses, leaf buds, and yes – even dandelions. Summer’s sun warmed us, and along with late arriving rain, coaxed our huge variety of flowers (cultivated and wild) to pop across our landscape. And now our thankfulness extends to the array of fall colors. Two red, three orange, two yellow, and two green trees clumped together breathtakingly along the highway – one of so many settings along the road. With God’s help, I hope I continue getting better at also appreciating the uniqueness of each person in my life’s path.

I spent a two and one-half years mentoring a beautiful young Somali mom on her journey to learn more English, get through a divorce, and become a US citizen. She had been a lab technician in her native land with only a smattering of conversational English, which had to improve before she could go to college and realize her deepest dream – to become a nurse or doctor. Her young son’s chronic illness was the only thing that took her eyes off those goals. As her use of English expanded, her job at the turkey plant changed to include communicating company policies and information to other Somali employees. Islam was her faith tradition.

I entered the mentoring program very prayerfully – asking God to help me move forward with love. Those prayers continued with each mentoring session, which expanded from once a week to twice a week at her request – she was so focused and determined. Divorce and citizenship are both very costly in immigration court, and each step in the process required a trip to Minneapolis/St. Paul, for which she had to find a ride. We met late afternoon or early evening depending on her work schedule.

Our very first session fell during her prayer time. I could see how anxious she was because she didn’t want to keep me waiting, but also wanted to do her prayers. I told her I was okay waiting the few minutes she practiced her prayers, and she was visibly relieved. I have heard various motivations assigned to strict adherence to Islamic prayer time, but what I witnessed was a level of devotion to God that made mine seem somewhat paltry. In the book “Love Without Limits”, author Jacqueline Bussie states many Islamic people plan their lives around their faith, while we tend to plan our faith practices around our lives. It was certainly true for my mentee.

We ordered a Somali-English dictionary and went to the library so she could get a card and check out a tape player, tapes, and a book that had the translations. She studied every available minute that wasn’t taken up by her job or her son and she progressed rapidly. I helped her order the citizenship study book which she memorized, giving her a more thorough understanding of our history and laws than many people who have lived here all their lives.

Her wonderful and supportive parents moved to the cities. The deadline was approaching to finalize the divorce in immigration court. If she didn’t get it done before citizenship was granted, she had to start all over in the US court system. She felt her English improved enough so she could enroll in the bilingual anatomy and biology classes offered in the cities. It was time for her to move.

I feel I learned as much as she did in our sessions. The hijab cleared away societal expectations based on appearance and allowed me to see the strong, faithful, intelligent woman she was. Her level of devotion to her Islamic faith traditions was to be envied and led me to be a more devoted Christian. Their menu includes lots of fish, chicken, goat, and camel, and she was shocked to discover one of her favorite meats at Larry’s Supermarket was from pig (instantly eliminated from her diet). We still have so much prejudice in our communities and institutions (driver’s license test). We had so much to laugh about together. Caring for our children was paramount for both of us. We did very well eating eggs together – she likes the yolks and I prefer the whites. She worked so hard for things we either take for granted or don’t recognize for the gifts they are. When we listened with our hearts and souls, lovingkindness flowed. I am so grateful for the time we had together.

# Making Connections

## The Wickum Family



**Bill & Deb Wickum**

Who knew that the marriage of two Scandinavians from life-long Lutheran families would disappoint the groom's grandmother so much? The problem was Bill's heritage is Norwegian and Deb's is Swedish. Luckily grandmother Fredrickson soon embraced the groom's choice and Bill and I celebrated our 50th anniversary with an Alaskan cruise this summer.

Bill grew up in Richfield, MN and attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. After graduation, he learned how bad his hearing was when he was declared "4F" in the military draft during the Vietnam Era. His mother's prayers were answered!

Bill and I met at the YMCA in west St. Paul where I was the Aquatic Director. I hired him as a weekend lifeguard and a year and a half later we were married. We lived and worked around the Midwest (17 homes) until we found Detroit Lakes 35 years ago. We started out on Long Lake near the airport and then downsized to Dead Shot Bay on Big Detroit when the kids graduated.

We have two sons. Ryan is a Jumbo Learn Manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Minneapolis. He and his wife, Amy, have 6 year old twins (Claire & Alex). Tyler is in the U.S. Marine Corps. He will retire next year after 21 years of service and 8 deployments. He lives in Wilmington, NC near Camp LeJeune with his wife, Kayci and their 3 children (Florence, Charlotte and Bridger)

Bill retired from Johnson and Johnson Orthopedic sales 9 years ago. He is an avid biker, hunter, horse lover and small foreign car enthusiast.

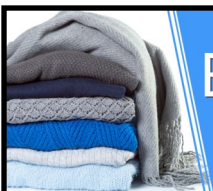
I grew up in Nebraska (GO CORNHUSKERS!) and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. I am a former Phy Ed and Health instructor and veteran substitute teacher. Interesting fact: I had Pastor Joe as a student quite often in my classes when I substitute taught! I love biking, reading, pickleball and playing any kind of game or cards.

Bill and I are snowbirds. We winter in Rotonda, Florida, but we have kept our First Lutheran Church membership. You won't find us at church in the winter, but look for us at the outdoor services in the summer. We love to worship in the sunshine and fresh air - so inspiring.



### **BELL RINGERS NEEDED**

First Lutheran is looking for volunteers to ring the bell for the Salvation Army! We have 1 hour slots from 8 AM to 10 PM on Saturday, November 25 at Central Market. The sign up form is on the volunteer table at the church, or you can also sign up by calling the church office.



### **BLANKET DRIVE**

### **BLANKET DRIVE FOR LOCAL NEEDS**

The WFLC are conducting their Annual Blanket Drive for local needs. This can be any size good, used clean bedding. There is a large box for donations in the lower narthex. These will be given locally to the food shelf, fire victims, crisis shelter and others.

# Making Connections

## The Barker Family



**The Barker Family Left to Right:  
Preslee, Andrew, Dillon & Meg**

Hello we are the Barkers! We have been members here at FLC since 2009. Our very first and amazing neighbors here in DL, Don & Jan Engen were why we joined. We have loved being a part of this community.

We moved to DL in 2006 just a few years after getting married. We both grew up on farms in ND and spent our summers coming to our family cabins in the DL area. We both love this area and always knew we wanted to live here, but didn't expect to move when we did. We are so happy that we are raising our family here in Detroit Lakes.

We have two kids. (11 chickens and 3 cats)

Dillon is 14, a 9th grader and involved in all things sports and outdoors. He can be found on a baseball field all summer, the football field in the fall and in a hunting stand the rest of the year. He loves being at the high school and is

so excited about getting his license soon. We are excited too but I will admit a little nervous. DIY runs in the family and he is starting his first big project and is building his own ice house. I am so excited to get to do it with him.

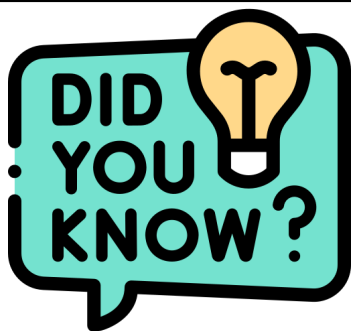
Preslee is 13 and in 7th grade. She is our dancer and is at the studio practicing or competing all year long. She dances for Center Stage Dance Academy and is on the HS Laker Dance Team. She also plays soccer and was on the JV team this past season and had so much fun. If she is not on the dance floor, she loves being with her friends, being on the lake, listening to music and is very creative.

Andrew my husband is a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual. He has been in practice for 21 years. He has an office in Fargo and 5 years ago added an office here in the Graystone Building. He loves spending time on the lake, cooking (thank goodness because I can't) being in the outdoors, hunting and cheering for the kids at their respective activities.

My name is Meg and I am a stay at home mom who spends a lot of time in my car packed with stadium seats, blankets, snacks and water bottles running the kids around. When I am not being a kid taxi, I love to spend time in my garden and have just added chicken farmer to my list of duties. I also love to DIY, volunteer, sew and scrapbook.

This time of our lives is busy, but we wouldn't have it any other way. We all love to spend time together taking trips, seeing live music, surfing in the summer and spending time with both of our extended families.

We feel blessed to be a part of the FLC community and have met so many wonderful people here. We cannot wait to get to know more of you.



If you are about to or currently are taking distributions from your IRA, you can directly give your offering from your retirement account and possibly receive a tax benefit. Talk to your financial advisor about sending FLC a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. This amount counts towards your RMD but you are not taxed on it! Discuss this with your tax and/or finance professional and then talk to Paul in the office about how to get started.

**Mark your  
Calendar!**

End-of-year gifts must be received at the church office by Wednesday, December 27 to be recorded in your 2023 generosity statement. Online gifts may be made until December 31. If you have questions, please contact Paul at the church office.

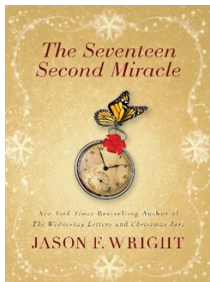
## LIBRARY UPDATE

Submitted by Patti Cummins

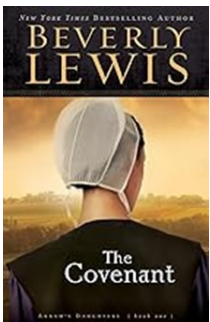
New reads for cooler days. Should be available in the library by Thanksgiving.



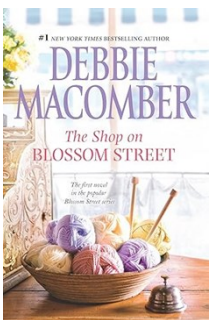
This is another way of saying that some people smell the roses, while others just complain about the thorns. In his warm, conversational style, popular author James W. Moore explores the reasons why some people are able to see our time on earth as a gracious gift from God rather than as an agonizing endurance test, and, simply put, why some people have the ability to celebrate life with an abundance of gratitude. Each chapter in this book includes a reference to an important passage of Scripture, powerful stories and examples from the lives of others, and practical suggestions for better daily living. Also included is a sixteen-page study guide for both individual and group use with questions related to each chapter.



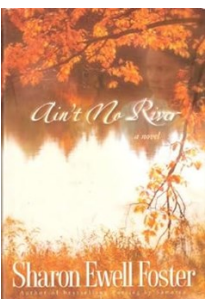
Cole Connor has become a patient teacher, and now he has invited three struggling teenagers to visit him on his front porch to learn about Rex Connor—and the Seventeen Second Miracle. Together they will learn how Rex Connor could have allowed seventeen seconds to destroy him, but instead he chose to live every day believing the smallest of acts could change the world for good. And the students, each with their own secrets and private pains, will begin to understand that even tragedy brings lessons. Even pain brings comfort. Even death brings miracles. A seventeen second miracle can change a life—if you let it.



Abram's Daughters is the powerful saga of four sisters, their family and community, whose way of life and faith in God are as enduring as their signature horse and buggy. Or so it seems...Book One, The Covenant, unveils the layers of deeply rooted Amish tradition as seen through the eyes of Leah and Sadie Ebersol, the two oldest, courting-age sisters. The Amish community of Gobbler's Knob holds everything Leah Ebersol has ever desired until a pact with her sister Sadie, lured by the outside world, leaves Leah clinging to God's promises.



There's a little yarn store in Seattle called A Good Yarn. It's owned by Lydia Hoffman, and it represents her dream of a new beginning, a life free from cancer. A life that offers a chance at love... Lydia teaches knitting to beginners, and the first class is How to Make a Baby Blanket. Three women join. Jacqueline Donovan disapproves of the woman married to her only son, but knitting a baby blanket would be a gesture of reconciliation. For Carol Girard, the baby blanket brings a message of hope as she and her husband make a final attempt to conceive. And tough-looking Alix Townsend (that's Alix with an i) is learning to knit her blanket for a court-ordered community service project. These four very different women, brought together by the age-old craft of knitting, make unexpected discoveries—about themselves and each other. Discoveries that lead to friendship and acceptance, to laughter and dreams. Discoveries only women can share...



Penned in the same poetic voice introduced in her bestselling debut novel, *Passing* by Samaria, Sharon Ewell Foster's *Ain't No River* is a contemporary tale where the angst of modern life is seasoned with wisdom, humor, and a dash of African-American history. Meemaw has been a doting mother, grandmother, and church mother to her community. Suddenly she's become a slimmed-down, silver-haired, seventy-something fox with a new attitude. And all fingers are pointing at a much younger ex-pro football player, GoGo Walker. When D.C. lawyer Garvin Daniels -- Meemaw's granddaughter -- gets wind of what's happening, she heads back to her hometown determined to help her Meemaw get it together before she goes too far.

# Theology On Tap

**The 1st and 3rd Tuesday  
of the month at 7 PM!**

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



**Located at the New  
Bucks Mill Brewing  
824 Washington Ave  
Detroit Lakes**

**Area churches leading study:  
First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes  
St. Peter's Lutheran, Audubon  
Eskjo Lutheran, Lake Park  
First Lutheran, Audubon**







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

**BUILDING FUND**

**In Memory of:** Doug Coen  
Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson

**GENERAL FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

**KITCHEN FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: The Family of Jim Buchholz

**MUSIC FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Henrietta Malchow  
Given by: Kevin & Carol Shipley  
Given by: Jeannine & David Eisland  
Given by: Sharon Wesbrook  
Given by: Ardis Hegna  
Given by: Tallack & Janice Johnson  
Given by: LaVerne & Judy Maxwell  
Given by: Cliff & Karen Bimberg

**RADIO FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Marlys Douglas  
Given by: Gail Colby  
Given by: Tom & Joyce Klyve  
Given by: Don & Norma Smith  
Given by: Gloria Dahlen  
Given by: Cheryl & Rick Melby  
Given by: Dergh & Beth Funkhouser

**SOUND & TECH FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Betty Fischer

**UNDESIGNATED FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Anonymous

**YOUTH FUND**

**In Memory of:** Jim Buchholz  
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

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



# Christmas Poinsettias



The Advent and Christmas season is made more beautiful when the church is filled with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to share flowers please complete this form and return it to the church office by Friday, December 15. Cost is \$12.00 per plant.

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Attached is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the total order above. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Flower Fund.*

# 'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

## November

### Leader: Les & Glenette Olson

Lisa & Douglas Anderson  
Charlotte Bergeron  
James & Susan Biewer  
Stefan & Michelle Bischof  
Patricia Bollig  
Steven & Linda Bollig  
Scott & Susan Busker  
Mark & Janel Christen  
Matthew & Teaira Christen  
Theodore & Lynn Cihak  
Arlen & Brenda Cummings  
Julie Dalen  
Russell & Mavis Davis  
Grace Dunham

Barry & Judy Fewson  
Samuel & Shelly Foster  
Steven Fuhs  
Louanne Gerdes  
Daniel & Serena Gigstead  
Robert & Kaitlin Guetter  
Robin Hilde  
Sharon Hill  
Darin & Becky Itzen  
Luke & Christine Karlgaard  
Shawn & Candice King  
Dave & Diane Knopf  
Justin & Amy Knopf  
Brian Kotschevar

Sharon Syvertson  
Alan Lunde  
Henrietta Malchow  
Brandon & Krystal Meyer  
Brant & LeAnn Mouw  
Nicholas Omberg  
Diana Pearson  
Edna Mae Pearson  
Joseph & Krista Pihlaja  
Travis & Lindsay Romine  
Rodney & Shirley Searls  
Mark & Carla Solem  
Charles & Joanne Thompson  
Matthew & Mindy Wilson

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!!



## December

### Leader: Sue Harper

Kurt & Debra Anderson  
Linda Atkins  
Daniel & Sandra Berg  
Rodney & Carolyn Boyer  
Marlys Brahmaer  
Delores Buck  
Gail Colby  
David & Doreen Faller  
Robb & Laura Flint  
Connie Goff  
Naomi Goral  
Gary & Jonna Goreham  
Connie Graber  
Terry & Lisa Hamar  
Thomas & Susan Harper  
Dorothy Haverkamp

Mark & Linda Haverkamp  
Ardis Hegna  
Dan & Donna Holm  
Matthew & Angela Horner  
Janice Jarboe  
Jessica Jensen  
Mark Jensen  
Wayne & Candace Johnson  
Matt & Jodie Johnson  
Michael & Darcy Johnson  
Richard Johnson & Jodi Thompson  
Paul Kellerhuis  
Bradley & Virginia Klein  
Lynnea Linquist  
Donna Miller  
Nathan & Alissa Mork

Edward & Amanda Musielewicz  
Nathan & McKenzie Olson  
Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson  
Judy Risberg  
Sharon Schanilec  
Jeffrey & Michele Sliper  
Madalyn Sukke  
Amanda Swanson  
Kristin Swenson  
Judd Syverson  
Theresa & Gary Thunstrom  
Lorraine Tyberg  
Jay & Erin Volden  
William Wegscheid  
Cheri Willette  
Kent & Kellie 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.

# November

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                               |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>29</b><br><b>Sunday Schedule</b><br><i>Reformation Sunday</i><br><i>Pr. Lauryl's Farewell</i><br>8:30a Traditional Worship<br>9:30a Sunday School<br>9:30a Pr. Lauryl's Farewell Brfst<br>10:45a Contemporary Worship | <b>30</b><br>5:00p Al Anon, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm<br>6:30p Calm the Chaos, CR | <b>31</b><br>8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm<br>9:00a Office Staff Mtg<br>10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec. Rm.<br> | <b>1</b><br><b>Wednesday Schedule</b><br>6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In.<br>11:00a YFM Meeting<br>4:00p Father's Project<br>5:00p Worship Tm Reh.<br>5:00p Oasis Meal<br>6:00p Worship<br>6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac.<br>6:30p Wednesday School<br>6:30p Confirmation<br>7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.   | <b>2</b><br>8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib<br>10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec Rm.                                      | <b>3</b><br>12:00p AA, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm                                 | <b>4</b>                          |
| <b>5</b><br><b>Sunday Schedule</b><br><i>All Saint's Sunday</i><br><i>Communion</i><br><i>No Sunday School</i><br>8:30a Traditional Worship<br>9:30a Book Study, Library<br>10:45a Contemporary Worship                  | <b>6</b><br>5:00p Al Anon, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm<br>6:30p Calm the Chaos, CR  | <b>7</b><br>8:30a Quilters, Rec Room<br>9:00a Office Staff Mtg<br>10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec. Rm.<br>2:00p Rachel Circle, Con. Rm.  | <b>8</b><br><b>Wednesday Schedule</b><br><i>All Saint's Wednesday</i><br><i>Communion</i><br>6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In.<br>11:00a YFM Meeting<br>4:00p Father's Project<br>5:00p Worship Tm Reh.<br>5:00p Oasis Meal<br>6:00p Worship<br>6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac.<br>6:30p Wednesday School<br>6:30p Confirmation<br>7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.                     | <b>9</b><br>8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib<br>10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec Rm<br>1:30p Ruth Circle, Din Rm          | <b>10</b><br><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>12:00p AA, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm | <b>11</b><br><b>VETERAN'S DAY</b> |
| <b>12</b><br><b>Sunday Schedule</b><br><i>Baptism: Blane Huus</i><br>8:30a Traditional Worship<br>9:30a Sunday School<br>10:45a Contemporary Worship   | <b>13</b><br>5:00p Al Anon, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm<br>6:30p Calm the Chaos, CR | <b>14</b><br>8:30a Quilters, Rec Room<br>9:00a Office Staff Mtg<br>9:00a Rebekah Cir., Conf Rm<br>10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan<br>4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm                               | <b>15</b><br><b>Wednesday Schedule</b><br><b>TURKEY DINNER &amp; BINGO</b><br><b>See page 7 for more info!</b><br>6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In.<br>9:30a Co-Council, Con. Rm<br>10:00a Ecumen Worship<br>11:00a YFM Meeting<br>4:00p Father's Project<br>5:00p Worship Tm Reh.<br>5:00p Turkey Dinner & Meal<br>6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac.<br>7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac. | <b>16</b><br>8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib<br>10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan  | <b>17</b><br>12:00p AA, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm                                | <b>18</b>                         |
| <b>19</b><br><b>Sunday Schedule</b><br><i>Communion</i><br>8:30a Traditional Worship<br>9:30a Book Study—FLC Library<br>9:30a Sunday School<br>10:45a Contemporary Worship   | <b>20</b><br>5:00p Al Anon, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm<br>6:30p Calm the Chaos, CR | <b>21</b><br>8:30a Quilters, Rec Room<br>9:00a Office Staff Mtg<br>10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan.<br>7:00p Creation Care Team, Mtg  | <b>22</b><br><b>Wednesday Schedule</b><br><b>NO OASIS</b><br><b>NO CONFIRMATION</b><br><b>NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL</b><br>6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In.<br>11:00a YFM Meeting<br>4:00p Father's Project<br>5:00p Worship Tm Reh.<br>6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac.<br>7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.  | <br><b>Church office closed Thursday &amp; Friday</b> |   | <b>25</b>                         |
| <b>26</b><br><b>Sunday Schedule</b><br><i>Healing Sunday</i><br><b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b><br>8:30a Traditional Worship<br>10:45a Contemporary Worship<br>12:00p FLC Xmas Decorating  | <b>27</b><br>5:00p Al Anon, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm<br>6:30p Calm the Chaos, CR | <b>28</b><br>8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm<br>9:00a Office Staff Mtg<br>10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec. Rm.<br>5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm  | <b>29</b><br><b>Wednesday Schedule</b><br>6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In.<br>11:00a YFM Meeting<br>4:00p Father's Project<br>5:00p Worship Tm Reh.<br>5:00p Oasis Meal<br>6:00p Worship<br>6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac.<br>6:30p Wednesday School<br>6:30p Confirmation<br>7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.  | <b>30</b><br>8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib<br>10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.<br>1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec Rm.                                     | <b>1</b><br>12:00p AA, Library<br>5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm                                 | <b>2</b>                          |



## **The First Messenger**

First Lutheran Church  
912 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Volume 32 Issue 8  
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

### **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

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

Cory Oswald     cory@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.**