

APRIL 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

the first messenger ●

R*H***I***E***S***I***E***S***N**

April Calendar

Watch our Friday email and the bulletins for the latest updates

-worship together-

Sundays 9:30am & Wednesdays 6pm

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday | April 2, services @ noon & 6pm

Good Friday | April 3, services @ noon & 6pm

Easter Sunday

April 5 | Services at 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30am

April 1 & 5 | *Easter Break, no Oasis or Kids Fellowship*

April 6 | *church office closed, Easter Monday*

April 7, 14, 21 & 28 | *The Chosen Bible Study @ 1pm*

April 7 | *Rebekah Circle @ 9am*

April 9 | *Ruth Circle @ 1:30pm*

April 12 | *Join the Discussion @ 10:30am in the library*

April 14 | *WELCA Spring Gathering*

April 16 & 30 | *Theology on Tap @ 7pm at Bucks Mill Brewing*

April 23 | *High School FREE Lunch @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch*

April 26 | *Senior Recognition Sunday*

April 28 | *Vision Council @ 5:30pm*

Weekly

Kids Fellowship | Sunday @ 10:30am

Quilters | Tuesdays @ 8:30am

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

Oasis Meal | Wednesday @ 5pm

Worship Tm Rehearsal | Wed @ 5pm

Wednesday School, Confirmation & Youth Group | Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Jubilate Choir pr | Wed @ 7:15pm

Women's Bible Study | Thurs @ 8am

join us this

EASTER

Holy Week | March 29 - April 3

Maundy Thursday Services @ 12 & 6pm

Good Friday Services @ 12 & 6pm

Easter Sunday | April 5

Worship Services @ 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30am

Volunteers needed at First Lutheran!

There are many easy and meaningful ways to serve at FLC, and we would love your help. Whether you volunteer occasionally or more regularly, there's a place for you. Consider signing up for something new — training is quick and easy, and we'll support you along the way. To volunteer, sign up at the volunteer table by the office or contact Sonny in the office for more information.

Worship assistants on Sundays:

- Greeters
- Ushers
- Scripture Readers
- Communion Servers
- Communion set-up & clean up (Altar Guild)
- Communion bread bakers
- Fellowship Hour coffee hosts

Help with the meals we share:

- Wednesday night Oasis dinner (Sept—May)
- Agape frozen meals
- Funeral lunches
- Advent & Lent lunches

Volunteers, your voice has been heard!

Volunteering for Sunday Fellowship Hour just got a whole lot easier! In March, we started using paper cups, paper plates and disposable utensils during our Sunday Fellowship Hour. No more lifting, no more washing, making clean up a breeze! Now our Sunday Fellowship Hour hosts just sign up, show up, and serve. (And did we mention that the paper products are all compostable — it's a win-win all the way!)

Happy April!

It is that time of year again to orient ourselves to some of most poignant observances in our faith as we conclude the season of Lent and enter Holy Week. Our services in Holy Week are deeply intentional and offer different and unique worship experiences (so, if you've never attended one of these services, we highly encourage you to come, and bring a friend or two!), all to lead us into some of the most dramatic moments of Jesus' ministry and his story.

On that note here is some commentary to draw you into the week itself, which also includes some of the upcoming Holy Week worship opportunities:

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of praise and hosanna! A dramatic start to a dramatic week. The people under Roman occupation and religious corruption in Jerusalem hail Jesus' political and religious theater in the Palm Sunday procession. They sense that Jesus will be their champion, and he will be...but not in the way that they expect.

HOLY MONDAY - HOLY WEDNESDAY

* There are **NO** worship services on these days, and we invite you into solemn reflection on these days in Jesus' life.

From a political-historical perspective, Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week – I tell our confirmation students – are the days that get Jesus killed. These days are filled with tension.

During these days Jesus gets into his most memorable debates, tells his most incendiary parables, and engages his most rebellious activities. In these days Jesus flips over its furniture at the Temple, calls out religious corruption with a variety of parables like *The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*, protests in the streets by lamenting the fate of Jerusalem, predicts his own suffering, questions and challenges those in political and religious power, stands up for the vulnerable, and more.

For a Monday through Wednesday Holy Week practice, I invite you to read **Luke 19:28 through Luke 21:38** and **Matthew 21 – Matthew 26:16** as a lead up to the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2nd @ 12:00pm and 6:00pm

In observance of Jesus' Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion, we will gather around a meal in the dining room for each of these services. Our worship will be intertwined with the meal and communion, and conclude in the sanctuary for the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3rd @ 12:00pm and 6:00pm

This service, liturgically and biblically, is one of the most solemn and emotional services of the church year. The liturgy works to draw us into confronting the suffering of Jesus and the suffering of our neighbor, and it is rooted in the staggering story of the crucifixion. We intend a visceral service on the seven last words of Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5th @ 8:30am, 9:30am, and 10:30am

All for which Jesus fought, taught, lived, and died, all of God's promises of mercy and steadfast love are fully affirmed and sealed in his resurrection over death. God's love wins. Not sin, not suffering, not even death can keep God's love from being ultimately victorious. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!!

We sincerely hope you can make one or all of these services. It is a privilege to worship with you, especially on such sacred occasions.

Holy Week Blessings, and Happy Easter to you and yours!

-Pastor Joe

Evangelism

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
-Matthew 28:18-20

Evangelism is a derivative of the Greek word evangelist which is most often used to refer to someone who preaches and proclaims the Gospel. Evangelist is the title. Evangelism is the function or act. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, it begs the question: Who is responsible for evangelism?

The Vision Statement of First Lutheran Church in its entirety reads: *"We are God's children opening doors, inviting **all** people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, equipping them through growth in faith, and sending them out to serve **all** of God's creations."* Seems pretty clear to me that we are responsible for evangelism in this time and space.

To some this evangelism thing is daunting. Have we ever had conversations with others about faith and church? Have we ever been asked why we seem to be happier in life? Have we ever thought about those people who don't seem to have a connection to a faith community and how they function in their lives without this kind of connection? Have we ever asked someone to come to worship with us?

These questions encourage us to reflect on our own discipleship journey. When we hear or read Matthew 28: 18-20 (aka the Great Commission), it prompts us to consider the role we play as evangelists. I think to most of us this is a big challenge as we evaluate the ways in which we are fulfilling our calling as disciples of Jesus.

How do we do this work? It calls for us to be active in our faith. For many of us, we preach the Gospel by the way we live (thank you, St. Francis). It may prompt us to work faith into an everyday conversation. This work may push us out of our comfort zones. We may need to look for opportunities in our community to share the Gospel and foster meaningful connections.

Recently, the Vision Council approved an evangelism effort by the Adult Faith Formation Team. First Lutheran Church will have a table/booth at the upcoming DL Pride event. People in DL and the surrounding area should be aware that FLC is inviting **all** people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Other faith communities will have representation at this event as well.

Like the use of any tool, the more we practice evangelism in our lives, the more natural it will become. The good news in the Great Commission is that we are not going to be alone in this endeavor. Jesus promises to be with us always, guiding and sustaining us.

A member of FLC recently told me she was serving as a greeter before worship when a person asked her what First Lutheran is like, and she simply said, "Come and see." What a great way to be an evangelist!

See you in Church!

Tom Neuenfeldt, Vision Council President

Join in the Discussion

Sunday, April 12 @ 10:30am in the library

Pastor Joe, Pastor Matthew and the confirmation students have been sharing questions with the congregation on Sunday mornings. Now you have an opportunity to **join in the discussion**. On **Sunday, April 12**, there will be that opportunity join the discussion in an informal, relaxed, and fun environment! Refreshments served. See you there, it will be fun!

Annual Meeting Agenda Notice

In accordance with bylaw C10.01.B24 of the Congregation Constitution, only submissions received in writing by the church office no later than April 17, 2026 will be considered for inclusion on the Annual Meeting agenda. No additional agenda items will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.



Hands Helping Paws

On March 18, our 2nd grade class learned about shelter animals from FLC member Erin Volden & her sweet dog Nina. Erin is a volunteer & board member at the Marshmallow Animal Shelter in Detroit Lakes. Following the presentation, the students had the time of their lives learning and creating dog and cat toys for the shelter. **The puppy kisses were an added bonus!**



February Agape Numbers

Over **80** guests assisted

85 frozen meals given

36 visits to the Blessing Closet

7 bill pay assistance, including one car repair and bus tickets.

ALL of the gloves & mittens donated over the winter have been given out! (good job FLC)

We Are the Chosen

Since January, approximately 25 FLC family and friends have been viewing and discussing the Season 1 of

acclaimed video series, "The Chosen". This video series is about Jesus and his "chosen" disciples. This study has provided insight into the adult life of Jesus and his disciples as well as stimulating discussion after viewing the video.

Join us as we continue through Season 2 meeting **every Tuesday from 1-3pm on the FLC library through May 5.**

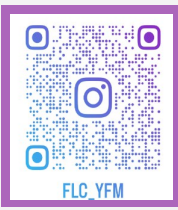
This is truly an opportunity to gather with friends, learn, laugh, cry,and eat popcorn!



Did you miss Season 1? Not a problem! Ask a friend who attended the viewing, or watch it online anytime at: **Home Page/The Chosen**. Remember that each video stands on its own, so easy to catch up.

This is a faith formation opportunity sponsored by the AFF team.

Mark your calendar and plan to join the fun!



Youth & Family

Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director | 920-860-4655
olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com | Typically in office M-Th 8:30am-4pm

Pie and Baked Goods Auction

With over 40 pies and baked goods lining the tables, congregants and guests armed with bidding numbers circled like well-trained dessert hawks, mentally tagging their favorite treats to bring home.

One of the highlights? A pastor-versus-confirmation-student showdown that turned into an epic bidding battle. The student, with nerves of steel and a sweet tooth to match, ultimately walked away with the coveted pie. And speaking of friendly rivalry—Joyce Klyve and Holly Heisserer, we saw you. Those collegial friends, turned temporary bidding enemies, fought valiantly over a magnificent, mouth-watering, melt-in-your-mouth key lime pie... only to be overtaken by a 19-year-old who swooped in with his bidding paddle blazing and snagged the prize.

The Manke kids came ready to win and likely took home the highest number of baked goods. And young Walter? He may be the next great auctioneer in the making, thanks to some top-notch mentoring from Tom Klyve.

A total of 52 pies and baked goods were lovingly made and donated. One special "pie" even advertised zero calories and infinite shelf life. Thank you to Deb Anderson for sharing your artistic gift and painting a beautiful, one-of-a-kind piece of pie.

Cheers, applause, and good-natured ribbing filled the room, but none louder or more joyful than from Sue Quam, who heard her name announced more than once as the winner of several silent auction items!

To all who donated your baking expertise: from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. A special shout-out to Ava Susag, a high school senior, for donating her very first pies to the auction. What a gift!

Additional Thank-Yous:

Tom Klyve, who once again delivered an energetic, entertaining, and highly competitive bidding atmosphere.

The YFM Fundraising team for creating such a fun and festive event.

The bidders, whose generosity was truly AMAZING, enjoy every delicious bite.

Carter and Morgan Mouw, our very own "Vanna Whites" of baked goods.

Thanks for keeping your sibling rivalry fun (but competitive). From your mom's perspective, it was a tie!

In all, the 5th Annual Pie Auction once again reminded us what makes First Lutheran so special: generosity, laughter, friendly competition, and a whole lot of love (and sugar). Thank you to everyone who baked, bid, cheered, and celebrated with us. Because of you, this sweet tradition continues to bless our church and community in the most delicious way. **We were able to raise \$3,000 for our upcoming youth trip to Wolf Ridge.** Until next year, keep those ovens warm!



High School FREE Lunch | April 23 @ 11:30am

FLC high school students who are able to leave campus during lunch are invited to join Pr. Joe and Pr. Matt at **Pizza Ranch** for lunch!

Service Project | April 22

The last Service Project of the year is: 1st Grade - Helping our Planet w/ Becker Co. Soil and Water

Senior Recognition Sunday | April 26

Join us as we recognize our graduating high school seniors and pray a special blessing on them as they prepare to embark on their new journey. Senior Recognition Sunday will take place on April 26 at the Sunday 9:30am worship service with a special fellowship time to follow. *If you would like to take part in this special day, we are looking for people to carry on the tradition of creating a homemade blanket to gift to a graduating senior. Sign up for blankets is at the volunteer table.*



Confirmation Sunday May 3

We invite you to attend this special service to congratulate our confirmands on the work and dedication they put into their faith journey. Our Confirmation Service will take place on Sunday, May 3 in the sanctuary at 12pm. Photos and light refreshments to follow.

Last Day of YMF Programing for '25/'26

Sunday May 3 & Wed May 6

Middle School Lock-in

On March 7-8, we had our annual middle school lock-in. We had 27 fantastic youth from both FLC and our community come together for a night to remember. We played many games all over the church, had the biggest Nerf war you can imagine, filled our tummies with pizza, had a small communion centered worship, and finished out the night with great conversations and movies. Thank you to our volunteers, Sara, Sonny, Paul, Pr. Matthew and Olivia for proving that even though we've aged a bit, we can still stay up all night! I cant wait till next year!



High School Summer Trip July 19-23

This summer, we will be taking current 9th-12th graders to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. While there, we will explore how our environment and nature connect and intertwine with our faith. A sign-up for this trip is in your email or on the church website and will close on May 11. Cost is \$300 *Scholarships and/or financial help are available; reach out to Olivia-YFM Dir.



"At Wolf Ridge, nearly all of our activities and classes take place outdoors, embracing an experiential learning model that engages participants through direct interaction with the natural world. We cover a wide range of subjects, including environmental science, cultural history, contemporary environmental issues, personal growth, team building, and outdoor recreation. Wolf Ridge is more than just a learning destination; it's a place where curiosity is sparked, and minds are opened to the joy and wonder of nature." (Wolf Ridge Website - <https://wolf-ridge.org/>)

Piecemakers

Notes from the FLC Quilters

This quilt is for sale. We don't know who originally pieced this vintage quilt top. The pattern is the 8-pointed star. The pieced quilt top was donated to the church quilters. The maker may have been a gardener as evidenced by the sunny yellow background, green sashing and border, and the many floral prints. We have to assume the maker enjoyed choosing the fabric, cutting the pieces and sewing them together over time. The time spent making the top was appreciated by the church quilters as we gazed at the top and spent a few moments determining its best use. Did the maker donate the top to us? Or was it an heir? Maybe it was purchased at an estate sale, but good intentions aside, never finished?

Our general practice is to pair a backing and batting with a pieced top and using yarn, tie the three layers together. This top deserved more. It touched the heart of a long-arm quilter who sews with us each week. She felt the quilt top deserved to be quilted, not tied. She volunteered her time and talent, and the quilt went home with her. When the quilt returned to the church, normal procedure would be to turn the edges into each other and stitch them down. The now quilted top spoke to another volunteer who felt it deserved a traditional quilt binding. She volunteered to bind the quilt and the quilt left for a visit to her home. Now that it is finished, the quilt would like to travel one more time, to a new home.

Once again, we looked at the quilt and this time, pondered how to price it. We don't know the original cost of the fabric, or the time spent piecing the top. We have an idea what a pieced top of this era might fetch in the market. We also know what someone would pay a long arm quilter to quilt the quilt, and the going market rate for someone who binds a quilt for others. Vintage top, long-arm quilting, binding, not to mention the cost of the quilt batting and backing fabric easily indicated a value of (gasp) over \$500. Due to the number of quilts mass produced overseas and sold in big box stores at very low prices, many of us do not realize the expenses involved in making a quilt.

We are not asking \$500 for this quilt top, but we are hoping to sell it for \$250.00. With \$250.00 we can purchase 2 rolls of quilt batting. Each roll of batting fills 23 quilts in the size we make to donate locally and internationally. Yes, the quilt top was donated, the long arm quilting and binding processes were donated and some may argue at the price. We are hoping the quilt will find a home where it is loved, and through that transaction, the chain of donations will continue, giving the quilters the ability to fill and donate 46 quilts to people and families in need.



ITEMS COLLECTED ALL YEAR

- ▶ We Care Receipts (*from Central Market*)
- ▶ Children's Christmas Store (*gifts, boxes, etc.*)
- ▶ Blessing Closet Supplies (*clothing, blankets, toiletries, etc.*)

Bring your donations to the church office. Thanks!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER WELCOME
MAY 3 & 6



Scan for QR code for
membership information.



After the Wedding

Submitted by Patti Cummings

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Each Christmas Oaklyn's skepticism about Santa's existence grew. Santa presents were wrapped in the same paper as presents from her Mom. Santa left presents she wanted but had only told her Mom about. No matter how hard she tried, she could not catch Santa in the act.

They grow up so fast. Grandma attempted to keep some of that Christmas magic alive by proposing we watch "Miracle on 34th Street", "Why do you want me to watch that movie, Grandma? What's it about?" Something in my voice made her question my motives.

I told her it was a movie about Christmas that I loved as a child – the one with Natalie Wood.

Her hand settled on her hip that was jutting out and she queried me, "Does it end in a wedding?" Her continued suspicion evidenced by her tone of voice and puckered lips skewed off center.

I assured her it did not. We have not watched "wedding - happily ever after" movies at my house, so I do not know where she got that idea. Unfortunately, she has seen enough of people's life experiences to know that "happily ever after" is more a hope than a reality. Eventually kids become aware of the struggles that all people go through. It is part of maturing and can help teach them understanding and compassion.

Paul's letter to the Philippians encouraged them, "*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.*"

Mature relationships are what we hope for. A girl in one of my high school classes talked of nothing but the wedding she was planning for after graduation. It was going to be so spectacular people would talk about it for years. Unfortunately, the *marriage* did not fare as well and lasted just long enough to produce a beautiful, bright baby daughter.

My friend Howard said it so well. He was asked why he came to visit his wife in the nursing center every day, when her advanced Alzheimer's did not allow her to respond or even seem to know who he was. Softly and sweetly, he responded, "But I know who she is." God knows who we are. We always seek to know Him better.

We build mature relationships over time, through celebratory and discouraging times and everything in between. Working, worrying, sharing, and caring to create what we call life together. It is the same for our relationship with God. We know His love and wisdom are always there for us, helping our relationships with Him and others become mature.

Psalms tells us *His love endures forever* forty-three times, twenty-six times in Psalm 136 alone. And it is that assurance of God's unending love that leads us forward.



Vacation Bible School
June 22nd-25th



MOUNTAIN MOVERS

Registration Opens April 8th	Open to kids completing K-5th	Free to all campers!
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

May 24 -
Aug 30

 **Worship with us on Sundays**
@ 8:30am (inside) &
10:30am *outside* on the lawn (bring a lawnchair!)

We Are Worthy Women

Contact: Gretchen Henrikson,
WFLC Coordinating Council President

Spring is here. Halleluia!

We praise God for the budding foliage and we are busy planning many events! Please join us!!

Rebecca Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00am
Ruth Circle meets the 2nd Thursday at 1:30pm
Circles study the lessons in the *Gather Magazine*, enjoy treats, and work on service projects including *Baby Kits, School Kits, Fabric Kits and Personal Care Kits*.

FLC Quilters meet Tuesdays at, 8:30am in the recreation room! They are doing an incredible work and welcome newcomers!

The **Conference 6 Spring Gathering** will be April 14, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. The program is **A Tour of the Holy Land** by Pr. Lauryl Ivers. We will carpool from FLC parking lot!

The FLC **Spring Brunch** will be on a Saturday, May 2. Watch for more details!

The 38th **NWMN Synod Women's Convention** will be in Crookston on Sept. 18-19, 2026. Our **National Triennial Convention** (every 3 years) will be in Des Moines, IA July 16-17-18, 2026. The theme is **I AM Worthy!**

We Need Your Help to Make Personal Care Kits



PERSONAL CARE KITS

The Circles are collecting items to make Personal Care Kits through the end of May. Items needed are: *nail clippers, adult toothbrushes, combs, lightweight, dark colored bath towels & bath sized, bar soap.*

A collection box is available outside of the church office.

Noisy Offering Totals

February | to Lutheran Social Services: \$783.39

March | the Becker County Food Pantry

April | Goes to: Laker Area YES Network

February Financial Snapshot

YTD Actual Revenue: \$462,751.16

YTD Budget Revenue: \$492,170.00

Favorable/(Unfavorable) (\$29,418.84)

* *Unaudited*

MEMORIALS

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

Agape

*In memory of Mary Lou Anderson,
given by Betty Fischer*

*In memory of Dick Dahlin
given by Adrienne Buboltz*

Broadcast

*In memory of Dick Dahlin
Given by Patti Cummins*

Dream Big

*In memory of Gene & Marge Prechel,
given by Ardys Horner*

Foundation

*In memory of Dick Dahlin
Given by, Family of Dick Dahlin, Curtis Cleveland,
Daniel & Christy Althoff, John & Ardu Cleveland,
Constance Carlson, Connie Cleveland, David &
Margaret Schiller*

Kitchen

*In memory of Gene & Marge Prechel
Given by, Jean & Wayne Benson*

Undesignated

*In memory of Dick Dahlin
given by friends & family of Dick Dahlin, Mark &
DeVonna DeShaw, Dennis & Karen Cleveland, John
& Ardu Cleveland*

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

Thank you

Dear People of First,
Thank you for your longstanding commitment to loving our neighbors around the world.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership.
Grace & Peace
Brian Scott
Lutheran World Relief

The Women of FLC are ongoing supporters of Lutheran World Relief



A warm Wednesday night allows for the youth to go outside and create works of art which were highlighted by an amazing sunset!



Congregational Staff

Lead Pastor:

Pastor Joe Skogmo

Associate Pastor:

Pastor Matthew Rossler

Director of Operations:

Paul Haarstick

Community Relations Director:

Sara Peterson

Youth & Family Ministry

Director: Olivia Sauer

Office & Volunteer Coordinator:

Sonny Thomas

Worship Music Coordinator:

Karen Bimberg

Adult Choir Director:

Kathy Larson

Bell Choir Director:

Carla Hansen

Vision Council

President: Tom Neuenfeldt

President-Elect: Kari Stattelmann

Secretary: Beth Tinjum

Treasurer: Kevin Shipley

DeAnne Udby, Jon Freeman,
Catharine Weisenburger, Jeff
Sliper, Sue Quam, Ryan Bjorklund

Foundation Board

President: Ryan Manke

President-Elect: Les Perry

Secretary: Patti Cummins

Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Alex Hagedorn,
Pam Orth, LeAnn Mouw,
Chad Carlblom

Our worship services can be found on:

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

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

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



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH DETROIT LAKES, MN

