

# First Things

*Living the unconditional Grace & Love of Jesus Christ in the World*

October 2025



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 Peace Ridge  
Lake City, MN 55041

651-345-5003  
info@firstlc.org  
www.firstlc.org

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

### Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday at 9am  
Wednesday at 6:30pm

Watch online at [firstlc.org](http://firstlc.org) or LIVE on YouTube on Sundays.

### STAFF

Paul Miller, *Pastor*  
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Loren Prigge, *Custodian*

## Reformation Sunday: October 26

### 20th Anniversary of First Lutheran Building

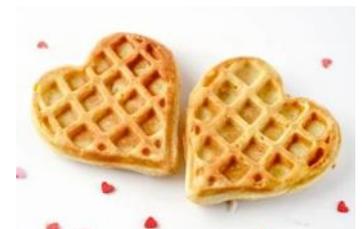


Join us for a special Reformation Sunday on October 26. We reflect on our Lutheranism and reforms in the church of the 16th Century by Martin Luther, and we will also celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the dedication of our current building and place of worship

here at 100 Peace Ridge. Join us for worship, bell and choir anthems, reflection, and celebration with a Scandinavian Brunch after worship!

## Scandinavian Brunch & Bake Sale

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** for the Annual Scandinavian Brunch and Bake Sale after the 9am service. Norwegian waffles will be served along with Scandinavian almond cake after the Sunday Service. A freewill offering will be collected for the brunch.



A bake sale will be held with many Scandinavian treats for sale including almond cake, spritz, krumkake, as well as other home bakes cookies and desserts.

Funds raised during this event will support the First Lutheran ELCA Scholarship Fund which provides support to ELCA colleges (Luther, Wartburg, Gustavus, St. Olaf, Augsburg, Concordia, Augustana) through matching fund scholarships to congregational members who are attending ELCA Lutheran Colleges. Any student who attends an ELCA college is invited to apply for the scholarship. Deadline for applications for the 2026-27 academic year is May 1, 2026. Contact the church office for application requirements.

## Do the Parables Make You Uneasy? Me too!

Over the past weeks, the gospel lessons have featured Jesus telling stories. We call them parables and some of those stories have been hard pills to swallow. As we hear them, we often try to figure out who is God in the story and who might we be. We heard the story of the shepherd who leaves his 99 sheep to look for one lost sheep. This story is combined with the one about the woman who loses one of her 10 coins and then upon finding it, blows it all on a party. We heard the particularly difficult story of the manager who squanders his boss' worth. He is fired, but before he leaves his position, he cuts the debt of many of his boss' customers. With most of Jesus' stories, we ponder. Perhaps the manager does this not for spite but to make friends with these debtors. Perhaps he hopes they will look kindly on him when he is unemployed and perhaps destitute. However, the kicker to this story is that his boss commends him for his behavior even though it most certainly cuts into the boss's profits.

My point is this. When pondering these stories, they can seem truly odd and sometimes can leave us with an uneasy feeling. They can lead us to wonder about themes of the righteous and sinners, the poor and the wealthy, so there is reason for us, living fairly comfortable lives, to feel a little squirmy.

Robert Farrar Capon wrote a trilogy about the parables. (Capon was an Episcopal priest who is no longer with us.) He wrote, "The classic parables of grace always involve the flaunting of some immorality, some inequity, some gratuitously offensive detail." Maybe some of us miss the immorality and offense of the parables because we have heard them so often. But think of the outlandish, over the top welcome of the prodigal son back into the family and the party thrown for him, not for his hardworking brother, but for the son who squandered his inheritance on wine, woman and song. (What? As someone who sees herself as the hardworking brother, I'm offended!) Think about the workers in the field who labored all day only to discover they were paid the same wage as those who were just hired and worked only an hour or so. (Where's the fairness there??) Jesus' stories were filled with inequality and details that would be offensive to those who heard them as well as hearers of the stories today.

When I hear these parables, I struggle feeling resentful that the outcome does not seem fair. Or I worry that I am in trouble with Jesus because I see myself in the characters that don't reflect well in the story. But the friend who shared this quote from Capon reminded me that in all Jesus' stories, grace is what saves the day. The moral of the story is always, grace wins. The good news is that Jesus says our bad behavior does not condemn us. That's good. But, on the other hand, Jesus also seems to be saying our good behavior does not earn us star stickers and divine brownie points. Grace comes to us when we least expect it and always when we certainly don't deserve it. Grace is possible for us all because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. So, now the question is...how will we live our lives in joy and gratitude to this immeasurable grace we have been given?

Pastor Kary

# Quilters Donate to Local Groups



The First Lutheran quilting group recently donated over 30 quilts to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester, the Hope Coalition in Red Wing, and the South Troy Wesleyan Church. Sixteen graduating seniors were recipients of quilts earlier this summer. The quilting group meets the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at First Lutheran Church.

Pictured here: Claudia Howard, LaDonna Severson, Jo Ann Thompson, Audry Plote, Pauline Samuelson, Lorraine Heitmann, Marlys Johnson, Sandy Bendickson, LuAnn Otto, Marcia Holst, and Judy Bremer.

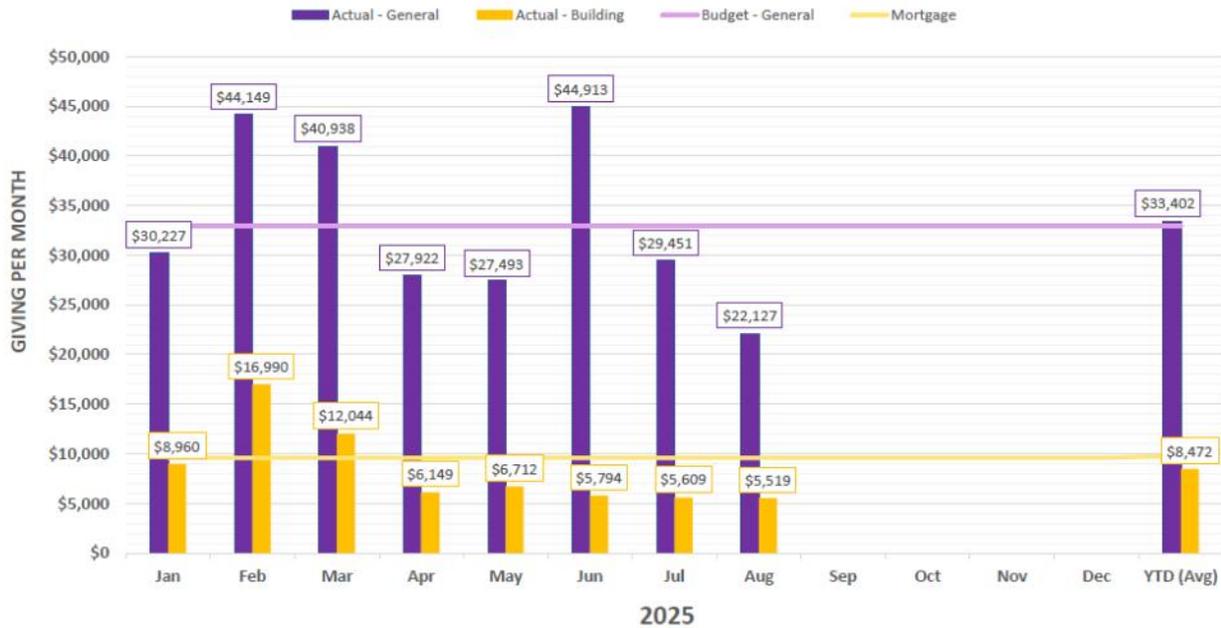
# Hispanic Inclusion Awarded SEMN Synod Grant



Hispanic Inclusion Lake City was recently awarded a Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Food Ministry Grant to support a food pantry located at Lincoln High School in Lake City. The food is available to students who work before and/or after school to help support their families. The Lake City Food Shelf also provides fresh produce for the students.

Hispanic Inclusion Lake City is a local organization advocates for the rights and safety of Hispanic residents in our community. They are supported by Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County and they meet monthly at First Lutheran Church.

2025 Giving - First Lutheran Church



New Fall Décor!



Thank you to Nancy Gabbert for sharing her talents providing new festive, fall centerpieces for our tables. Take a moment to appreciate the details in these creations, including lights!



Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Thursday, November 27, 2025

Make plans to help at this annual community event by serving and packaging desserts. Watch for a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk!



*Pastor Robert (Bob) Munneke, age 90, died at home on Sept. 19, 2025, surrounded by family. Bob was ordained as a Lutheran pastor on June 18, 1961. He married Darlene Hatling in Yakima, Wa., just a week later, on June 25, 1961. Together, Bob and Darlene embarked on a 56-year journey of ministry. Leading by faith, connecting and supporting congregations and communities, and advocating for vulnerable people were hallmarks of his ministry. Bob served at First Lutheran Church from 1978-1988.*

This is an excerpt from the obituary. Read the full obituary [here](#).

Darlene's address: 3903 E 15th St Apt 243 | Loveland, CO 80538



## Book Group

Fireside Room

Monday, October 6, 2025 8:30am

We will be discussing *The Welcome Committee of Butternut Creek* by Jane Myers Perrine.

Please note the change in time/date for this new year of book reading. Coffee and a sweet will be served.

November's book: "Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding God's Love Everywhere" by Savannah Guthrie (Monday, November 3, 8:30 am.)

## Adult Forum: October 19

Paster Peter Jonas will lead the discussion for the next Adult Forum. The topic will be what we believe about eternal life and why it matters. Join us in the Fireside Room following worship on October 19.



## Save the Date! November 30

Advent by Candlelight is planned for Sunday, November 30 at 5:30 pm at First Lutheran. This is an evening of fellowship, music and prayer as we begin a new church year, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

We are looking for more women who are willing to host a table. As a hostess, you are asked to decorate an 8-place table in a Christmas theme with a candle centerpiece. However, as hostess, you are NOT required to be overly fancy (paper plates are accepted!) You are also not responsible for finding 7 other women to sit at your table. (If you have 7 or less guests great, but if not, guests will be assigned to your table.) You are not responsible for bringing food.

If you are willing to be a hostess, please call Mavis Hawkins 651-428-9201. She will be willing to answer any questions you may have.

Please join women of this congregation (as well as any guests) for this evening of fun and fellowship as we prepare for the Christmas season!

## Bible Study: Book of Ruth



The Book of Ruth Bible Study continues on **Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30pm** with Pastor Kary. The second session asks, *Where Does Loyalty Pull Us?* (Ruth 1:19-2:23)

Study guides have arrived. Stop by the office to pickup a copy if you'd like.

Inside Story 1999  
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# Children's Ministry Happenings

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:**

October 19 - NO Sunday School

October 26 - Singing during 9am Worship Service

**KFC HAPPENINGS...**

October 15 - NO KFC



## Butter Braid Youth Fundraiser

Sunday School students are selling Butter Braids (sweet treat pastries) through October 22.

Purchase from any of our K-6th students or look for the general order form at the Welcome Desk.

Samples will be available for tasting after worship on October 5th.

Orders will be delivered on November 6.

Contact Sara Thompson with questions.

[sara.thompson@firstlc.org](mailto:sara.thompson@firstlc.org).



# Youth Ministry Happenings

**October 6** - Blessing of Car Keys—during worship

**October 15** - No Confirmation Class (MEA)

**October 29** - Senior High Youth Night

**October 31** - Trick or Treating for the Food Shelf

## Blessing of Car Keys

Blessing of Car Keys is one of the Milestone Ministries at First Lutheran. We invite all **sophomores to worship on Sunday, October 5th** for a special blessing as they turn sixteen and have the opportunity to receive a driver's license. We ask God to watch over these youth and guide them in their new freedom. And we provide a small cross to add to their key chain as a reminder that God is with them wherever they go.



Friday, October 31st:

**TRICK  
TREAT**

For the Food Shelf

Confirmation Students! Let's dress up, have some fun, and do some good for our neighbors. Watch your email for details.

## Senior High Youth!

**Who:** 10-12th Grade

**What:** FLC Youth Group

**When:** Wed. Oct. 29 @ 8-9 pm

**Where:** Youth Room @ FLC

Come join us for FLC Youth Group on the final Wednesday evening of each month. Your faith journey doesn't end with confirmation - hang with your classmates and explore what it means to walk with Jesus in every day life!

**Oct. 1:** Sam Fitterer, Savannah Klein, Ayonna Nadeau

**Oct. 2:** Asher Bee, Bruce Carlson, Reid Lundell,  
Joshua Roach, Luke Skifton

*Dwain & Gwen Lambert*

**Oct. 3:** Mavis Hawkins, Carol Iverson, Ben Klipfel

**Oct. 4:** Bree McCoy, Kris Pichelman

*Andy & Dena Huettl*

**Oct. 5:** Jordan Dick

**Oct. 6:** Melissa Eichelberger, Kannon Hartzell, Joyce  
Hegseth, Stephanie Larsen, Kristie Stolzenberg,  
Cameron Thieren

*Eric & Deb Hanson*

**Oct. 7:** Matthew Alitz, John Earle, Stephanie Foss

**Oct. 8:** Faye Conway, Joseph Kozlowski

*Bruce & Georgia Nygren*

**Oct. 9:** Carol Hoyt, Cheryl Luettinger, Ann Nelson

**Oct. 10:** Josh Kohrs, Peg Mattke, Loren Prigge

*Mark & Sarah Krage*

**Oct. 11:** Gerald Kari, Paul Miller, Edie Sward

*Steven & Jean Johnson*

**Oct. 12:** Jenson Foss

*Dennis & Marlys Johnson*

**Oct. 13:** Randy Foss, Mitchell Mund, Ric Wallace

*Brad & Beth Krehbiel*

**Oct. 14:** Owen Meyers, Meta Rigelman, Ed Towey

*Jarid & Taylor Groth, Joseph & Jennifer White*

**Oct. 15:** Lori Meincke, Ava Rolbiecki

**Oct. 16:** Tyler Blim, Bruce Nygren

*Bruce & Lori Lichtblau*

**Oct. 17:** Courtney Fick, Justin Harkins

**Oct. 18:** Donna Oeltjen, Justin Ratz

*Craig & Deb Harteneck*

**Oct. 19:** Bill King

*Lonnie & Paula West*

**Oct. 20:** Mason Eggenberger

*John & Lori Mortenson, Dick & LaDonna Severson, Neil  
& Kristie Stolzenberg*

**Oct. 21:** Olivia Bailey, Ashley Emerson, Deb Massey,  
Stacy Nelson, Collin Rigelman, Tim Thompson,  
Morgan Wurst

*Aaron & Tiffany Nelson, Dean & Darlene Saby*

**Oct. 22:** Eloise Blattner, Haley Dollar, James Kranz,  
Cindy Patton

*Juliane & Terry Dennis*

**Oct. 23:** Easton Bremer, Jo Ender, Bennett Kittelson,  
Carl Kittelson, Kerri Reese

*James & Cherie Kranz*

**Oct. 24:** James Fuchs

*David & Trudy Roach*

**Oct. 25:** Bob Majerus, Lauren Porisch

**Oct. 26:** Rich Alitz, Kim Bobb

*Justin & Kassie Campbell*

**Oct. 27:** Emily Albright, Lori Morgan

*Darin & Jodi Lundell*

**Oct. 28:** Kayla Berg, Erika Blim, Andy Huettl,  
Kristi Jensen, Jessica Schmidt

**Oct. 29:** Mallorie Carlson, Brigitte Rol

*Mitchell & Debra Drenckhahn*

**Oct. 30:** Garret Rigelman, Ernie Thompson, Jordy  
Thompson

*Carl & Elizabeth Kittelson*

**Oct. 31:** Jason Bee, Jad Erickson, Ryzen Suckow,  
Anzley Suckow

**Keep in prayer:** LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski; Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe); Wally and Susan Dailey, Loren Walters (brother of Diane Keyport), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Kathy Walstrom (daughter of Eloise Blattner), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Mary & Bob Johnson, Dave & Kay Harms, Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Chuck Bremer, Tom Rassmussen.

Would you like your name or a loved one added to FLC's prayer list? Please contact the FLC Prayer Connection at [firstlutheranprayerconnection@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranprayerconnection@gmail.com) or the FLC office.

# Worship Role Volunteers

Date Duty	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26
<b>LECTOR</b>	9th Grade Confirmation Student	9th Grade Confirmation Student	9th Grade Confirmation Student	needed
<b>GREETERS</b>	Jaxon Porisch & Family	Ohlhaber/Krage Families	Lincoln Grothe & Family	McKenzie McCoy & Family
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Allie Langhans	Gauge Johnson	needed	Ellie Kohrs
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	Camryn Porisch Carter Keim	Lilly Miller Klara Schmidt	Camryn Porisch Carter Keim	Camryn Porisch Klara Schmidt
<b>USHERS</b>	Klara Schmidt Macie Carlson	Reid Meyer Brody Fick	Ariana Talbert Paige Luhman	Alexis McCoy Avery Ohlhaber
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Kim Ask-Carlson Janet Chestnut Student: Claire Gnotke	Marlys Johnson Karyn Moechnig	Marlys Johnson Karyn Moechnig Students: Clarie Gnotke Macie Carlson	Milly Gagnon Becky Schultze
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	needed	needed	needed	Scandinavian Breakfast
<b>AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT</b>	Mason Eggenberger	Page Luhman	Miranda Koehler	Miranda Koehler

Thank you to those who share their time and talents! Your service is a gift to our congregation!

You'll notice that many of our Confirmation students are assisting with Worship Roles during the school year. Please offer encouragement as they try new roles in our worship.

We will need assistance with Coffee Fellowship. Please see the sign up sheet on the kiosk.

# October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	2	3	4 No Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat (@Eagle Bluff)
5 Worship 9am Baptism Kennedy Webb Blessing of Car Keys Flowers in honor of Joyce Hegseth's 95th Birthday Sunday School 10am Council Retreat 10:30	6 Book Group, 8:30am  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	7  Scouts Committee Mtg 6pm	8 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm  Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	9  Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	10	11 7th Grade Confirmation Retreat (@FLC) No Iglesia Rehearsal
12 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	13  Crafters 1-3pm, Fireside Rm  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	14 FLC Quilters 8:30am  Visitation Team, 5:15pm Hispanic Inclusion 6pm Bible Study: Book of Ruth, 6:30pm	15 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm No 6:30 Worship No KFC No Bells No Confirmation No Senior Choir	16	17	18 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
19 Worship 9am NO Sunday School Adult Forum, 10am	20  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	21	22 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm  Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	23  Church Council 6:30pm	24 Nov First Things Articles Due	25 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship 9am SS Singers, Choir, Bells 20th Anniversary Celebration of FLC Building Sunday School 10am Scandinavian Brunch & Bake Sale Fall Family Event, 3-4:30pm	27  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	28 FLC Quilters 8:30am	29 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth Group 8pm	30	31 Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf	