

Firs* Things

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

November 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 or LIVE on YouTube on Sundays.

STAFF

Paul Miller, *Pastor*
paul.miller@firstlc.org

Kary Jonas
Associate Pastor
kary.jonas@firstlc.org

Sara Thompson
Coord. of Children's Ministry
sara.thompson@firstlc.org

Kerstin Suby
Music Administrator & Organist
kerstin.suby@firstlc.org

Jennifer White
Congregational Administrator
jennifer.white@firstlc.org

Loren Prigge, *Custodian*



All Saints Sunday: November 2

This is the Sunday in the church year where we remember those who have died, placing our hope in Jesus' promise of resurrection and new life. This is our day to remember and give thanks for all the saints in our lives, who have provided an example of faith. First Lutheran will remember specially the following dear ones from our church who have died in the past year:

Marian Lea Dittfach

Barbara Jean Follstad

Thomas J. Harris

Kathryn June Hollman

Carol Ann Iverson

Janet Moe

Diane Helen Murray

Arland M. Nelson

Cheryl Louise Oelkers

Judy Scheller

Ronald Stoerzinger

Cindy Marie Reichert Whitcomb

This is the list of members who have died or whose funeral we have held. There will be opportunities to remember and give thanks to God for others who are in your hearts—in prayer, or by the lighting of a candle.



Welcome – and Welcoming – in Jesus' Name

Our program year begins in the fall, and at FLC this is a time for increased attendance in worship, and an increase in visitors to our congregation. We will receive new members this month. All this has me thinking about hospitality.

Jesus calls us to show hospitality to all who are bold enough to give our fellowship a try. Do you remember how vulnerable it feels to venture into new territory? Can you remember how good it feels to be accepted? Make an effort to welcome all newcomers as you would welcome Jesus. Consider his words from Matthew 10:40-42:

“Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Hearing Jesus’ words today makes me want to say, “thank you,” because you have received me as one sent by Jesus, and welcomed me and loved me in his name. Thank you. The acts of gracious hospitality have been many. God is at work in such hospitality. You were ready to welcome me as one *sent* to you.

Most of you have joined a congregation at some point as a new member, and the welcome should be similar to what I received. We make a big deal of this fellowship we have: members together of the body of Christ, and members of one another. But we don’t ask for a resume. And we don’t ask for references. Because, when it happens the right way, we aren’t receiving you for what you’ve done, or for what the world says of you – we are receiving you in Jesus’ name. So we offer a welcome as he taught us, we offer our service to you as one of his little ones, and we even trust, if we really think about it, that he sent you to us, and that in receiving *you*, we might in some way receive *him*, and through him receive the one who sent him.

When this welcome happens the right way, those who are already a part of things trust that the new people were sent by Jesus, and act accordingly.

It is even more remarkable knowing that these comforting words of Jesus come at the end of a long teaching that he has given to his disciples about how hard it is going to be: how hard it is going to be to do the mission he gives us to do, and how hard it is going to be to simply live as Christ’s people in a world that doesn’t know him and doesn’t understand him. And at the end of all that, he speaks of hospitality, as if to say, “It will be hard, but there will be those who welcome you, and in doing that, they will receive me as well,” and “It will be hard, but I will send others to go with you, and in doing that, I will go with you.”

Let this be a season of renewed hospitality among us. In and through our welcome in Jesus’ name, we ourselves are welcomed, and we receive Jesus in our midst.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Paul

Dine, Don't Dash Update

The Fall season of Dine/Don't Dash (Dine Around was concluded in October with 24 people enjoying dining with other couples from our congregation. The program will resume with a Spring season in March-May, 2026. All those involved in the Fall season will receive a new schedule in February. Anyone who missed out of this fun dining experience should contact Mavis Hawkins (651-428-9201) before the end of the year so you can be included in the Spring season.



Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- Luke 6:31

Worship Flowers



If you'd like to give flowers for our worship services, please sign-up at the kiosk. Let us know your name and if they are in memory or honor of someone. We will order the flowers from Lake City Floral and make delivery arrangements. Checks should be made to First Lutheran Church for \$40 and placed in the locked drawer at the Welcome Center.

You are welcome to take the flowers home after the worship service. Please bring a container from home and leave the altar vases and black floral liners. If you are unable to attend worship, we can hold them for a later pick-up.



Thank You from the Pastors

Thank you for the wonderful messages we received from you all for Pastor Appreciation Day. We are blessed with an amazingly supportive congregation family and we greatly appreciate the kind words you shared with us.

Thank You from Darlene Munneke

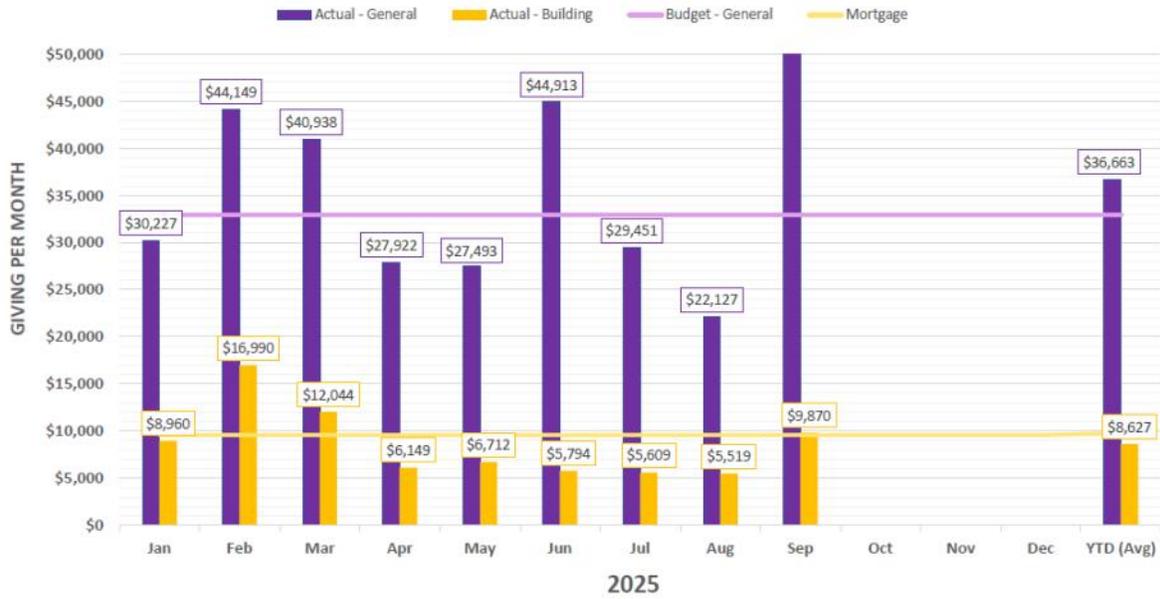


*Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the flowers placed on the altar in memory of Pastor Bob Munneke. It is such a beautiful way to remember the life and ministry that he was privileged to be part of during the 1980s. I have so many fond memories as I know Bob often talked about also.*

I am very appreciative of the many cards, notes and memorials that members have sent. It means the world to recall those times and the impact left.

*With love and gratitude,
Darlene and Family*

2025 Giving - First Lutheran Church



Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner

Bethany Lutheran Church
Thursday, November 27, 2025

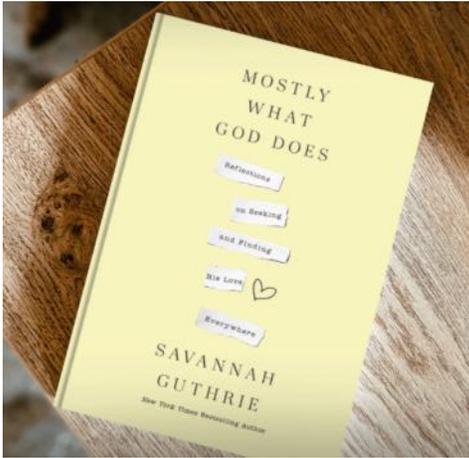
First Lutheran will be contributing food to the Thanksgiving Community Dinner at Bethany Lutheran Church. We are also seeking volunteers to help support the annual community dinner by serving and packaging desserts. Contact Susan Daley with questions. Sign up at the Welcome Center at First Lutheran!

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due Nov. 12, 2025

First Lutheran will provide six large red poinsettia plants for Christmas services this year. Members can purchase a medium red poinsettia plant for \$25 or donate toward the large plants.

Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church, with "Christmas Poinsettias" in the memo line. Questions can be directed to Becky Schultze 651-380-2700 or schultze.becky@gmail.com. Order forms at the kiosk at church or download one [here](#).





Book Group

Fireside Room

Monday, November 3, 2025 9am

Book Group will be meeting on Nov. 3 at 9am (note new time) in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing “*Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding God’s Love Everywhere*” by Savannah Guthrie. We invite everyone to locate your own copy of the book. Treats will be provided. Bring your morning beverage of choice. Please [sign-up here](#) or at the kiosk at church.

Advent by Candlelight

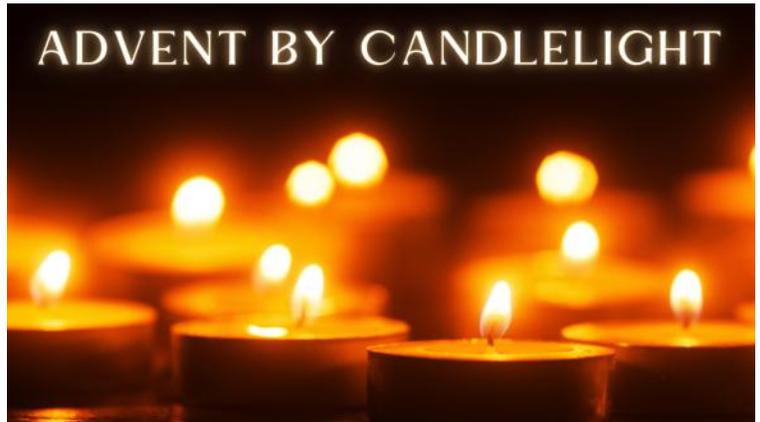
Nov 30 at 5:30pm

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 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. As hostess, you are NOT required to be overly fancy (paper plates are accepted!) You are also not responsible for finding seven 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. Watch for a signup sheet at the Welcome Center.

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 third session of the Book of Ruth Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, Nov 18 at 6:30pm** with Pastor Kary. This session asks, *Where Does Risk Take Us?* (Ruth 3:1-18)

Illustration to Book of Ruth, Vladimir Andreevich Favorsky (1886-1964)
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Adult Forum: Nov 9

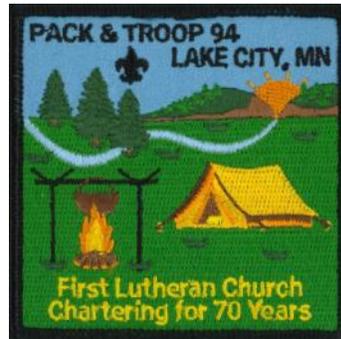
The celebration of our building’s 20th Anniversary continues on Nov. 9 after worship, when Bruce Carlstrom leads us through Symbolism in the Sanctuary.



Thank you Scouts! (There's a patch for that!)

Thank you to the Scouts and leaders who help refresh our Gaga ball pit! A team of volunteers, led by Jeremy Wolf, replaced boards and added a fresh coat of stain.

The project was in honor of 70 years of partnership between First Lutheran and Pack & Troop 94 of Scouting America.



New Member Sunday

We're excited to welcome new members during worship on **Sunday, Nov. 16**, followed by a coffee fellowship to celebrate and connect. Before then, we invite anyone new to First Lutheran or those who have recently transferred membership, to join one of our welcome events. This fall we are having two sessions:

- **Sunday, Nov. 2 at 10am**
- **Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6:30pm.**

Please RSVP for one of the sessions [here](#).

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Paul Miller at paul.miller@firstlc.org or reach out to the church office. If you can't be part of this group but would like to join in the future, just let us know and we will put you on the list for the spring.

Interested in
Joining
First Lutheran?

**NEW MEMBER
WELCOME SESSIONS**

Please RSVP for one of the sessions.

Session 1 - Nov. 2 @ 10am
Session 2 - Nov. 11 @ 6:30pm



Nov. 23 - KFC Children's Choir Sings at 9am worship
 Nov. 23 - Family Advent Event (3-4:30pm)
 Nov. 26 - No KFC (Happy Thanksgiving!)
 Nov. 30 - No Sunday School (Happy Thanksgiving)

Butter Braid Pick-up Reminder



Thank you to everyone who ordered Butter Braids as part of a First Lutheran youth fundraiser! Delivery & pick-up is scheduled for **Thur., Nov. 6**. Please pick-up your orders in the afternoon by 5pm.

Pumpkin Carving Fun!

Thank you to all the families who joined us on a beautiful fall afternoon to carve pumpkins at our Fall Family Event in October. Watch for more details for our Advent Family Event.



Advent Family Event

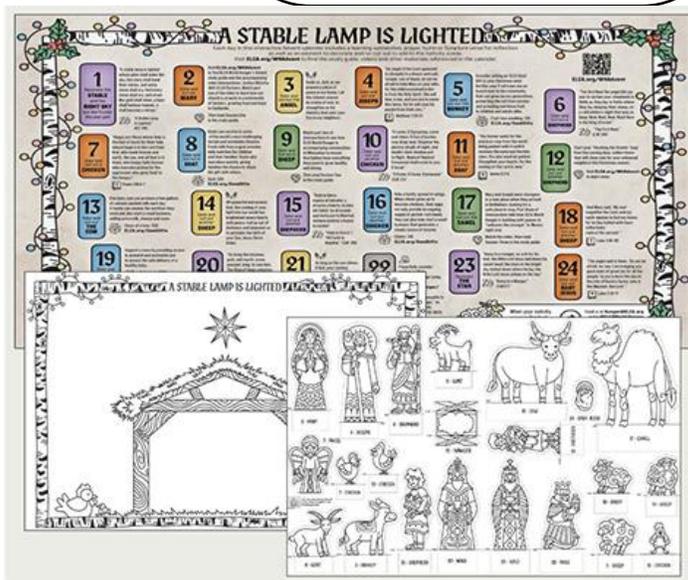
Save the date for an Advent Family Event on **Nov. 23** from **3-4:30pm**.



ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendar

We have ordered ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendars this year. They will be available for pick-up at the Welcome Center.

The activities start with a standing nativity scene, ready to be colored throughout the season. Alongside each day's craft activity is a hymn, Bible verse, learning opportunity or piece of information about how ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.



Nov. 1: Traci Green, Ellie Kohrs

Bob & Mary Johnson, Richard & Gwendolyn Schafer

Nov. 2: Lisa Carlson, Carson Fick

Scott & Robin Bignell, Josh & Carrie Kohrs

Nov. 3: Rand Conway

Nov. 4: Logan Cole, Debra Dose, Jessica Holst, Patrick Lynch

Nov. 5: Rayna Meyer

Nov. 6: Aaron Ferguson, Shyra Golding, Travis Kopp, Royce Meyer, Padraig Scanlon, Hayden Talbert

Nov. 7: Felix Larson, Lesley McCoy

Nov. 8: Aubrey Gates, Ryder Heisler, Todd Plote, Terri Schumacher, Margaret Selleseth

Nov. 9: Delane Krier

Nov. 10: Susan Dailey, Dena Huettl, Laura Miller

Nov. 11: Lori Fritz

Nov. 12: Morgan Matanich, Ashley Kennedy

Roger & Nancy Brooks

Nov. 13: Eric Anderson, Greg Sievers

Nov. 14: Austin Ebert, Anne Towey, Kathy Zweiner

Nov. 15:

Mike & Sara Kohrs

Nov. 16: Clara Carlson, Landon Peters-Wiemann

Nov. 18: Jody Carlson, Brody Fick, Sean Gnotke, Marie Miller, Georgia Nygren

Nov. 19: Jennifer White

Brad & Wanda Pederson

Nov. 20: Tracy Graner, Matt Grimley, Sylvia Hoffman, Tanner Porisch, Camryn Porisch, Dylann Porisch, Ryan Sullivan

Lee & Randi Kirchner

Nov. 21: Julie LeCaptain, Becky Sievers, Valerie Smith

Randy & Kim Vander Laan

Nov. 22: Heather Beck, Steven Dickson, Weston Holst, Julia Huettl

Nov. 23: Matthew Bignell, Dustin Meyer, Jenna Sommer

Steven & Rosie Dickson

Nov. 24: Darren Brunn, Cora Foss

Nov. 25: Autumn Holland

Nov. 26: Neil Stolzenberg

Nov. 27: Carrie Kohrs, Michael Tiedeman

Nov. 28: Gwen Lambert, Luke Narum

Nov. 29: Damian Fitterer, Marcie Padilla, Dennie Pahl, Paul Tackmann

Nov. 30: Jessica Bruske, Jackie Dunn, Lincoln Grothe, Emma Narum, Alexander Porisch

Russell & Janice Johnson

Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski, Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Kathy Walstrom (daughter of Eloise Blattner), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Mary & Bob Johnson, Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Joyce Hegseth.

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 or the FLC office, 651-345-5003.

Worship Role Volunteers

Date \ Duty	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
LECTOR	Savannah Klein	Lily Miller Ariana Talbert	Carter Keim	Carter Keim	9th Grade Confirmation Student
GREETERS	Macie Carlson & Family	Evan Olson & Family	Grace Dunn & Family	Ella Kohrs & Family	Atticus Alkire & Family
ACOLYTE	Maddy Kohrs	Ava Olson	Nora Bonde	Hayden Talbert	Ramsey Meyer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Camryn Porisch Mason Eggenberger	Macie Carlson Alexis McCoy Avery Ohlhaber	Brody Fick Savannah Klein	Klara Schmidt Ariana Talbert	Reid Meyer Bennett Kohrs
USHERS	Bennett Kohrs Carter Keim	Carter Keim Klara Schmidt	Reid Meyer Macie Carlson	Krystal Krage Avery Ohlhaber	Miranda Koehler Brody Fick
ALTAR GUILD	Milly Gagnon Becky Schultze	Bruce & Liz Carlstrom	Bruce & Liz Carlstrom	Sandy Bendickson Kathie Majerus	Sandy Bendickson Kathie Majerus
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Dean & Darlene Saby	needed	needed	needed	needed
AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT	Miranda Koehler	Bennett Kohrs	Paige Luhman	Mason Eggenberger	needed

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.

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
2 All Saints - Worship 9am Sunday School 10am New Member Welcome Mtg	3 Book Group 9am Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	4 Scouts Committee Mtg 6:30pm	5 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	6 Butler Braid Delivery	7	8 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
9 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Adult Forum 10:15am (Bruce Carlstrom - Symbolism in the Sanctuary) Sea Scouts: 6:30-8pm	10 Crafters: 9:30-11:30am Fireside Rm Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	11 FLC Quilters 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 6pm New Member Welcome Mtg, 6:30	12 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Worship Planning, 4pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	13 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	14	15 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
16 Worship 9am New Member Sunday Sunday School 10am	17 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	18 Bible Study: Book of Ruth, 6:30pm	19 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm	20 Dec First Things Articles Due Church Council 6:30pm	21	22 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
23 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am KFC Choirs Sing Family Advent Event 3-4:30 Sea Scouts: 6:30-8pm	24 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	25 FLC Quilters 8:30am	26 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm NO KFC NO Confirmation NO Worship NO Choirs	27 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 ADVENT 1 Worship 9am No Sunday School Advent by Candlelight 5:30pm						