

Firs* Things

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

December 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*



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Christmas Worship Services



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14 during 9am worship service

Christmas Eve — Wednesday, December 24

3pm and 5pm services

Christmas Day — Thursday, December 25

9:00am service

There will be NO Wednesday worship in between Christmas and New Years.



Sharing the Harvest

“Go in peace; share the harvest.” So our worship service has ended these last several weeks. I’ve enjoyed watching the harvest come in. Such abundance! The land has provided for us again. Whether we are engaged in farming or not, the harvest becomes a powerful metaphor for all the ways God has provided for us this year.

Since I first encountered Deuteronomy chapter 26, I have been moved by it. I commend it to you. In it, there is a liturgy for the harvest: bringing the first fruits before God and speaking aloud how God has provided the land and its produce, to our ancestors and now to us. And then the first fruits are shared with anyone who doesn’t have their own share in the harvest, namely the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows.

It is good to ask how we might share the harvest. In the spirit of Deuteronomy 26, how can we honor God’s commands and show our gratitude?

I recently had the opportunity with our local clergy group to learn more about our excellent Lake City Food Pantry. Demand is up, and meeting the need is difficult. The short answer as to “why” is because food is expensive – that’s why demand is up, and why meeting the demand is difficult. Dig a little deeper, and we might find other causes: housing expenses are putting pressure on food budgets. Wholesale and government sources for food banks aren’t providing what they once did.

The result is that the simple act of donating food will make a difference, no matter how much. We have collection bins at the church. Can this be a part of your holiday preparations? As we move into December, you can also look for a “mitten tree,” a chance to share simple Christmas gifts with neighbors in need.

As we share the harvest locally, we cannot forget our neighbors around the world. Many of the same economic pressures that we face are also affecting areas of the world with vastly fewer resources. Church partners can be a powerfully effective way to meet those needs and stretch whatever resources we can share. Congregations in those countries are embedded in their communities and know their needs. They often become hubs, not just of distribution, but of education and organization around better agricultural methods, new markets, and cooperative ventures.

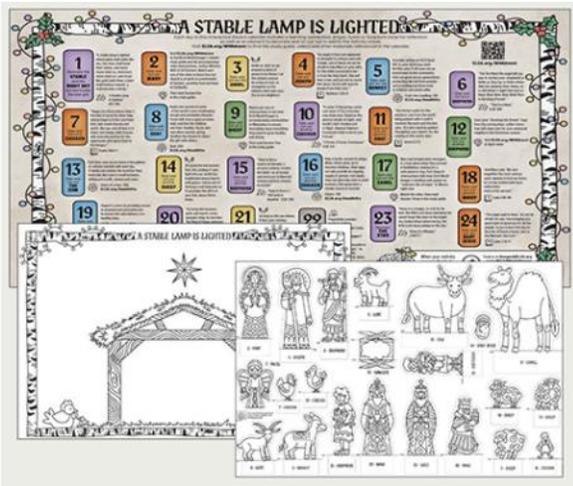
This Advent and Christmas season, First Lutheran will be inviting you to explore “Good Gifts,” a program of ELCA World Hunger. You will be invited, as you do your gift shopping, to consider gifts that could be shared through global church partnerships. Would someone in your life enjoy a “Good Gift” in their honor this year? My family has enjoyed giving each other pigs, bees, goats, and chicks – understanding that the livestock in question are actually being shared with small farm operations around the globe. I think you will enjoy it too, learning about creative solutions in the face of great need, and becoming part of them.

“Every generous act of giving, and every good gift, comes from above...” –James 1:17

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Paul

ELCA World Hunger

Pick up a copy of the ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendars 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 ow ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.



ELCA Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs & Cards are available for your family to give to life sustaining gifts to families and villages throughout the world in honor of a friend of loved one.

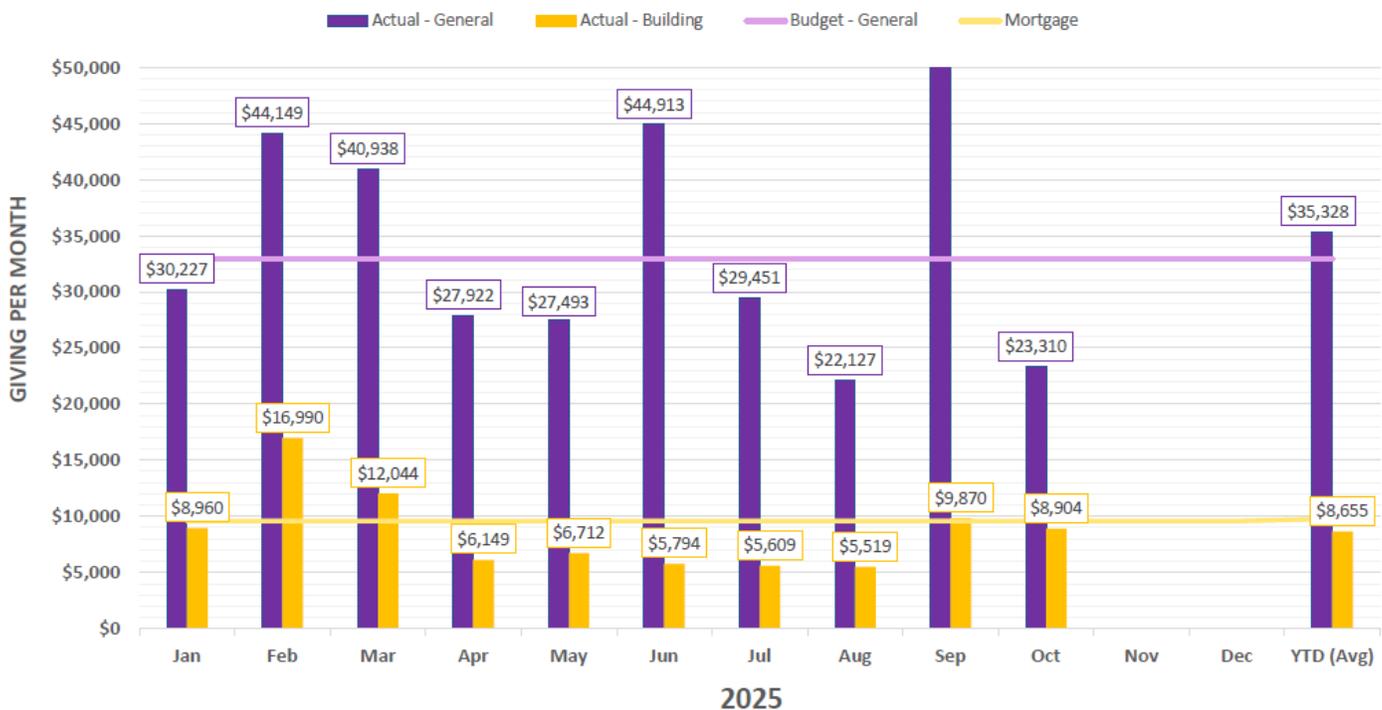
Donate a flock of chicks, goat, piglet, honeybees, or a cow. Give a village clean water with water filters, an irrigation system, or even a latrine (ask Pastor

Paul about this one). Send a girl to school or stock a backpack with food.

Ask Pastor Paul or Jennifer for an ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs & Cards for more information.



2025 Giving - First Lutheran Church



End of year giving date is Tuesday, December 30, 2025

First Lutheran App & Member Directory

Did you know that First Lutheran Church has an App? There are lots of great resources available in this online tool, including the following:

- First Lutheran YouTube Channel
- Send an Email to First Lutheran Staff
- Call the Church Office from the App
- Calendar of Events (needs to be updated)
- Online Giving (Direct link to Vanco)
- Online Bible App
- First Lutheran Membership Directory

How do I get the App?

- 1) Download the App from the App Store or Google Play. Search "Universal Church Directory." The App is called *myUCD*
- 2) Enter your family's Unique Identifier (Check your email - We are resending everyone their Unique Identifier. Click on the gray "Download My Church Directory" button. (If you did not receive an email, ask Jen White to resend it. (jennifer.white@firstlc.org)
- 3) Begin using our First Lutheran App!

Desktop Directory is an Option

1. Go to directory.ucdir.com.
2. Enter unique identifier and hit GO.
3. Follow the prompts to create your own Username & Password.
4. Click on "Create Account".

Missing a Directory Photo or Want a New One?

Dave Ender can help with that. He will be taking photos on a few Sundays in December. You may also send one into us. It needs to be a vertical 3:4 aspect ratio to display correctly.

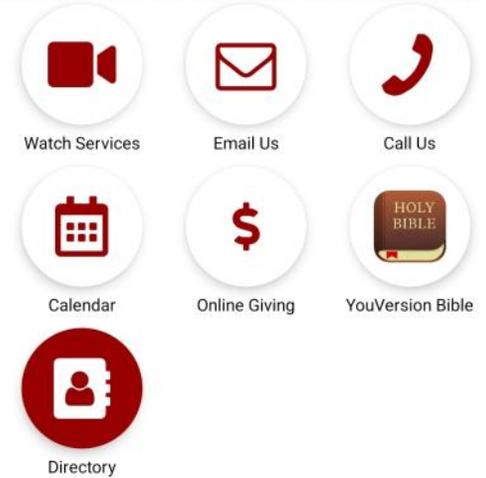
Need to make a Change?

Contact the church office to request the update. New members will be loaded into the directory in December.

App Icon will look like this:



Front page looks like this:



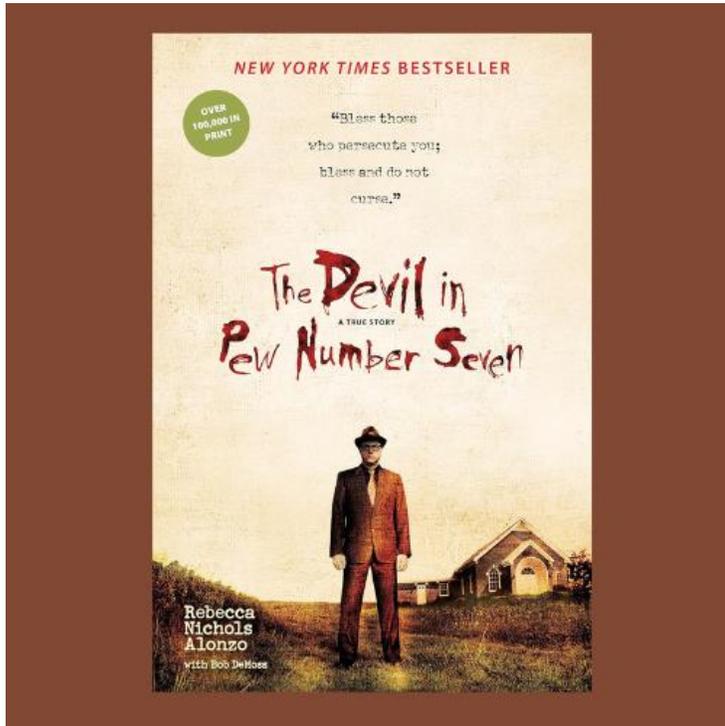
Mitten Tree Project

First Lutheran Church is partnering with the Lake City Kiwanis Toy Project. Participating families have indicated clothing needs for each child in their family. Watch for the mitten tree by Sunday Dec. 7. Gifts will need to be wrapped and returned to First Lutheran no later than Wednesday, Dec. 17.



Christmas Tree & Decorating

Thank you to Tim & Jenny Schlagenhaft for donating a real Christmas tree again this year and to the 9th grade Confirmation students and families for decorating the tree and our church in preparation for Jesus' birth.

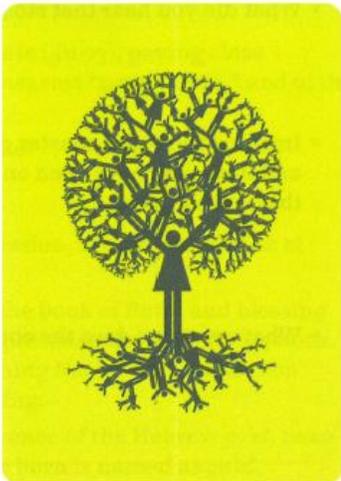


Book Group

**Fireside Room
Monday, Dec. 1, 2025 9am**

Book Group will be meeting on Dec. 1 at 9am in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing “The Devil in Pew Number Seven” by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo. 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.

Bible Study: Book of Ruth



The fourth and final session of the Book of Ruth Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room** with Pastor Kary. This session asks, *Where Does Hope Lead Us?* (Ruth 4:1-22)

Crafting Group Fellowship

Join us for two hours of fellowship with other crafters. Bring any portable project you are working on like knitting, crocheting, macramé, embroidery, card-making, scrapbooking, or anything else you enjoy. We meet 9:30-11:30am in the Fireside Room on the second Monday of each month. Contact Esther Gullixson via text if you have any questions, 651-380-2502.



Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.



Family Advent Calendar Event

Several First Lutheran Families dressed in Holiday sweaters and jammies enjoyed an afternoon of cookies and Christmas music as they created Family Advent Calendars. They filled the 25 dates with acts of kindness, good deeds, and family traditions to be completed each day leading up to Christmas.



Dec. 14 - Sunday School Christmas Program at 9am
 Dec. 24 & 31 No KFC (Merry Christmas & Happy New Year)
 Dec. 21, 28 & Jan. 4 - No Sunday School (Enjoy the Holiday Break!)
 Jan. 7 - KFC Resumes

Dec. 1: Misty Drenckhahn, Eric Hanson

Dec. 2: Mike Bobb, Steve Hegseth, Jane Simonton

Dec. 3: Andrea Berkeland, AnnElise Ender, LuAnn Otto, Kim Vander Laan

Ross & Peg Mattke

Dec. 4: Gauge Johnson

Dec. 5: Kaden Ferguson, Sara Kohrs, Cole Kriett

Dec. 6: Kevin Frank, Easton Jackson, Ray Tiedeman

Dec. 7: Gail Jungclaus, Carol Zabel

Dec. 8: Lola Dick, David Murray, Harvey Nelson, Harrison Nelson, Megan Sullivan, Katherine Yotter

Dec. 9: Nancy Albright, Stephanie Eggenberger, Brad Pederson, Lidia Wallerich

Dec. 10: Courtney Brunn, Paula West

Jason & Jessica Holst

Dec. 11: Janee Klipfel, Madelyn Kohrs, Brady Kuchinka, Edison Sullivan, Colby Warneke

Dec. 12: Paulette Clare, Sydnee Stolzenberg

Dec. 13: Susan Davis, Allison Hanson, Gabrielle Harteneck, Ariana Talbert

Dec. 14: Adam Fuchs, Ethan Heitman, Ella Matzke

Robert & Lisa Carlson

Dec. 15: Klara Schmidt, Kathy Wigern

Dec. 16: Ashley Harkins, Jenna Kells

Dec. 17: Mack Dudley, Steven Heise, Peter Jonas, Carl Rol, Mason West, Morgan West, Abigail Ziebell

Scott & Beth Knudsen

Dec. 18: Carson Keim, Eric Skifton

Dec. 19: Dale Adler, Dave Schutlize, Brooke Tracy

Dec. 20: Sherri Engelbrekt

Dec. 21: Jim Fritz, Jerry Jenson, Caroline Johnson, Dale Nelson

Dec. 22: Jordan Ebert, Leafblad, Alison Moechnig, Henry Nelson, Molly Nelson, Jim Rodester

Dec. 23: Priscilla Converse, MacKenzie Randall, Jamie Suflow, Nicholas Ziebell

Dec. 24: Ross Mattke

Dec. 26: Jim Anderson, Cole Erickson, Jodi Lundell, Logan McCarthy

Troy & Heide Emerson

Dec. 27: Jeff Chestnut, Carson Matzke, Holly Prebe, Pauline Samuelson, Nickolas Sievers

Jerry & Susan Jensen, Bill & LuAnn Otto

Dec. 28: Kevin Gunhus

Dec. 29: Wanda Myers

Thoren & Naomi Mangold

Dec. 30: Alexandra Bonde, Joey Nafe, Jordana Windhorst-Knudsen

Dec. 31: Alexandra Berlin, Jade Koehler, Cherie Kranz

Tanner & Cory Porisch

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. McMahan (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), the McGovern family, Jake Suckow.

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 \ Role	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
LECTOR	Christopher Ahrens	Klara Schmidt	Lily Miller	Ariana Talbert
GREETERS	Jack Narum & Family	Bennett Kittelson & Family	Claire Gnotke & Family	Claire Gnotke & Family
ACOLYTE	Maggie Thieren	Lucas Roberson	Liam Roberson	Addy Meyer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Carter Keim Ariana Talbert	Reid Meyer Savannah Klein	Parker Atkinson Brody Fick	Macie Carlson Ariana Talbert
USHERS	Mason Eggenberger Klara Schmidt	Carter Keim Miranda Koehler	Krystal Krage Avery Ohlhaber	Parker Atkinson Paige Luhman
ALTAR GUILD	Susan Dailey Karen Heise	Susan Dailey Karen Heise	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Mary Santelman & Friends	Shef & Deb Massey	needed	needed
AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT	Avery Ohlhaber	Paige Luhman	Miranda Koehler	Savannah Klein

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.

Christmas Worship Services - Confirmation students will be signing up for worship roles the first week of December. If additional help is needed, we will post any openings on the Kiosk or ask via the Connections email.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Book Group 9am	2 Staff Synod Advent Event 8:30-1:30	3 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm	4	5 Hispanic Inclusion Event 5pm	6 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
7 ADVENT 2 Worship 9am Jamason Carroll Baptism Sunday School, 10am	8 Crafters 9:30-11:30a, Fireside Rm Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	9 FLC Quilters 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	10 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm	11 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	12	13 No Iglesia Rehearsal Ender Christmas, 4-8pm
Sea Scouts, 6:30-8pm	Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm			
14 ADVENT 3 Worship 9am SS Christmas Program Sunday School, 10am	15 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	16 Ecumenical Service at Care Center Bible Study: Book of Ruth, 6:30pm	17 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm	18 Jan First Things Articles Due	19	20 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
	Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	Bible Study: Book of Ruth, 6:30pm	Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	Church Council 6:30pm		
21 ADVENT 4 Worship 9am NO SS	22 No Scouts Troop 94 7-8:30pm	23 FLC Quilters 8:30am	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 3pm Worship 5pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 9am	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
Sea Scouts, 6:30-8pm	No Scouts Troop 94 7-8:30pm		Worship 3pm Worship 5pm			
28 Worship 9am NO SS	29 Send Jan First Things Out	30 END OF YEAR GIVING-2025	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED			