

Firs* Things

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

February 2026

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

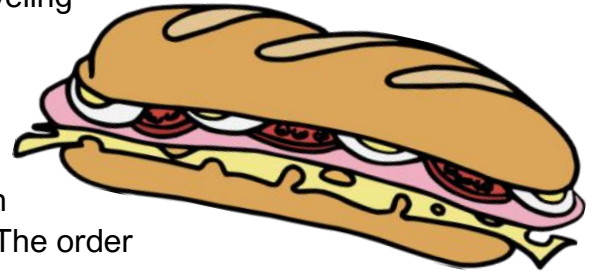
Jennifer White
Congregational Administrator
jennifer.white@firstlc.org

Loren Prigge, Custodian



Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser is Back!

Several high school youth will be traveling to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp this summer and this is their main fundraiser. **Orders are due Feb. 1 with pick-up on Feb. 8.** See more information and the sub order form in this newsletter and worship bulletin. The order form is also available [online here](#).



Annual Meeting Important Dates

Feb. 1 - Annual Report Presentation - This is an opportunity for discussion of the annual report and 2026 proposed budget and allow time for questions and answers with council president, Kjell Alkire and treasurer, Andrew Ahrens.

Feb 8 - Annual Meeting @ 10am in the Sanctuary. This is the formal meeting where we will approve the 2026 budget, make nominations, and elect new Church Council members, representatives to the SEMN Synod and, various partner organization annual meetings throughout the region.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Imposition of Ashes

February 18, 2026

5:30pm



Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers



Join us for worship and soup suppers during the Lenten Season on Wednesdays February 25 through March 25.

Lenten Worship Services: 5:30pm
Lenten Soup Suppers: 6:15pm

If you'd like to serve soup one of the Wednesdays, please contact Jen in the church office. jennifer.white@firstlc.org

Lent – A Season for Storytelling

We all love stories. They draw us in. If we meet a stranger, all it takes is a few stories shared and we often feel we know each other. It's not an accident that the Bible is mostly stories. If we talk about what we think "should" be in the Bible, we'll often lean toward rules, or at least good advice. There is quite a bit of both, but God is smarter than that. Stories are what stick. Stories are what connect.

In our Lent worship this year, both Sundays and Wednesdays, we will gather around stories.

On Sunday mornings, our gospel readings will shift mostly to the Gospel of John. As some of us discussed recently in an adult forum, John is the Gospel writer who "did not get the memo" about writing the short 6-to-8 verse stories and teachings that we read most Sundays from the other Gospel writers. John lets the story take as long as it takes, with twists and turns - so some of these Gospel readings will be on the long side! But John's different "take" on Jesus is for our benefit.

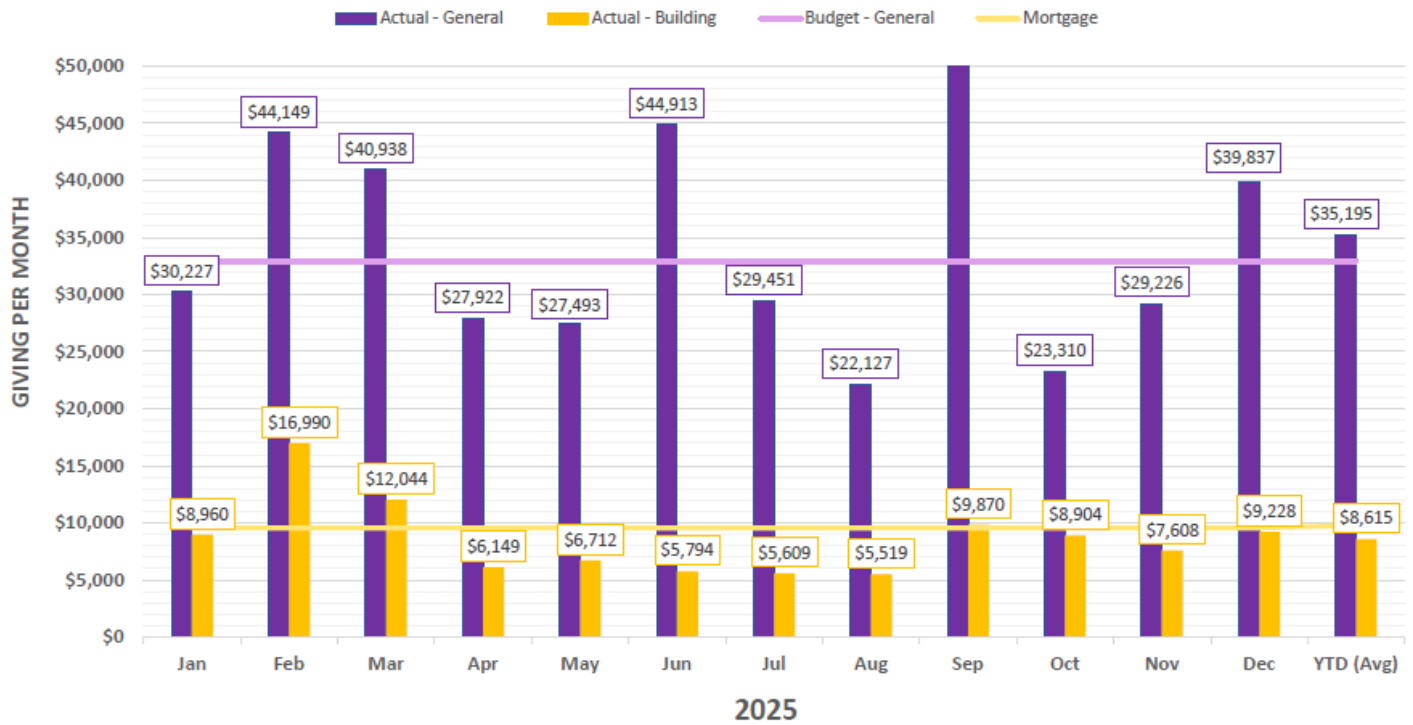
Taking his time with the storytelling lets John include more dialogue. With Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the focus is always on a healing, miracle, or key teaching, and they get to the point quickly. John knows that sometimes the conversation is the point, and Jesus does some of his best work in letting the conversation unfold naturally. Maybe John was just before his time: the popularity of podcasts attests to how much we can learn about a subject or a person from overhearing a conversation. You might think of our Lenten Gospels as a podcast series of Jesus interacting with different conversation partners: first the devil (!) in Matthew 4, then religious leader Nicodemus in John 3, an unnamed Samaritan woman by a well in John 4 (the longest recorded conversation Jesus had with anybody), and then broader conversations with a blind man and his community in John 9, and a bereaved family in John 11. We may find ourselves relating to Jesus' conversation partners, and alongside them, gaining insight into Jesus that we wouldn't get other ways.

In our 5:30 Wednesday evening services, we will use a series called "Broken and Beloved," produced and shared by St. Olaf College in the last year. We'll connect or reconnect to several Old and New Testament ancestors in the faith: David, Naomi, Elijah, the Syro-Phoenician woman, Mary Magdalene, and Peter. "Broken and beloved" will be our lens: each one has a different way of experiencing "brokenness," whether that is in suffering, failure, regret or flaws, and God meets each with a unique experience of being healed, chosen, saved, and loved.

A final call to those who may enjoy helping present these stories: some of the Sunday morning Gospel conversations should be presented as conversations. There is potential for some first-person storytelling on the Wednesdays as well. Please reach out to me if you would be willing take a part!

Peace in Christ
Pastor Paul

2025 Giving - First Lutheran Church



How Can I Give to First Lutheran Church?

It is the generosity of your time, talents, and financial giving that helps make First Lutheran a vibrant place of community and worship. Several fellowship and outreach opportunities are mentioned in the Annual Report. You can also find more detailed information on our 2025 spending and 2026 budget. There are several ways you can financially support the ministry at First Lutheran Church.

Offering Plate - The traditional passing of the offering plate is available weekly. **Pew envelopes** are available if you'd like to notate your name and designate it to an account (i.e. General Fund, Building Fund, etc.) if desired, and we will track your giving throughout the year. And, of course, feel free to give anonymously.

Numbered Envelopes - We update our envelope mailing list quarterly, so if you want envelopes OR if you want to stop receiving envelopes, let Jen White know in the office, jennifer.white@firstlc.org.

Bank Account Check - You can request that your financial institution send a check to First Lutheran via mail. These can be set up as a one-time or recurring contributions

IRA Contributions - At a certain age, you may be required to take withdrawals from your IRA accounts. Consider First Lutheran for a tax-free contribution anytime throughout the year.



Online Giving - We use Vanco for our online giving service. You can choose a one-time payment or set up recurring giving. Bookmarks with a QR code are in the pews. Here is the link to First Lutheran giving through Vanco: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YQ6G/home>. Or scan the QR code here for direct access.

If you would like a recurring payment stopped, please contact FLC Treasurer, Andrew Ahrens at treasurer@firstlc.org.

Thank you for supporting the various projects and fundraisers throughout the year as well!

Thank You during Pipe Burst Recovery



Thank you to everyone involved with the clean-up process from the burst pipe in the Sacristy. From our custodian, Loren Prigge, who discovered it; our property manager Randy Meineke, who was immediately on the scene and members like Mary Berg-Prigge, Dean Saby, and Larry Wigern who helped move items out of harms way and back again.

Thank you to Service Master and our reliable local vendors who prioritized our recovery the week before Christmas: Ed's Plumbing, Banks Heating, and Willers Construction.

Thank you to Jerry Benson for the finishing coat of paint and to Duane and Marcia Holst who reorganized the sacristy back in working order!

Building Homes, Building Hope

Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity is excited to share a current building project in Lake City. **First Lutheran member Beth Plank and her family have been selected to receive a new home.** The home has been built in partnership with the Goodhue School District and will be moved to its permanent lot in Lake City this spring.

We are **seeking individual and group volunteers** to help bring this project to completion. A variety of opportunities are available, including one-time volunteer options for those with busy schedules, as well as ongoing opportunities for those who would like to make a regular commitment.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, please contact Joe White at (651) 927-9070 or jwhite@acrotechinc.com. You may also [SIGN UP HERE](#) to be added to our contact list for follow-up.

Seeking to put God's love into action, with your help we bring people together to build homes, build hope, and build community.



Joyful Aging Meet Up

All are invited to attend a discussion and education session on fall prevention on **Thursday Feb 12 at 4 PM in the Fireside Room.**

Patty Svien will lead the session identifying behaviors and environments that increase the risk of falling. Exercises and ideas to reduce fall risks in your home will also be shared. The session will provide "An ounce of prevention that is worth more than a pound of cure."

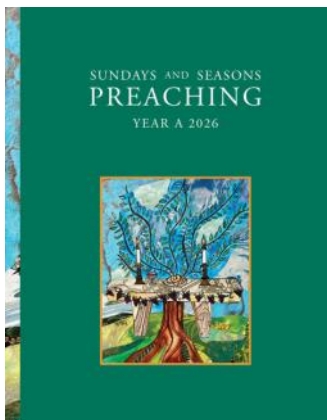
Attendees are invited to attend the 5:30 pm Fellowship Potluck after the session and bring a dish to pass.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**Fireside Room
Wednesdays at 8:30am**

Each Wednesday morning Pastor Paul or Pastor Kary lead a bible study with focus on the gospel and lessons for the upcoming week. Following the lectionary each week creates thoughtful discussion and insight for the upcoming sermon during Sunday worship. This year is following the Year A Lectionary.

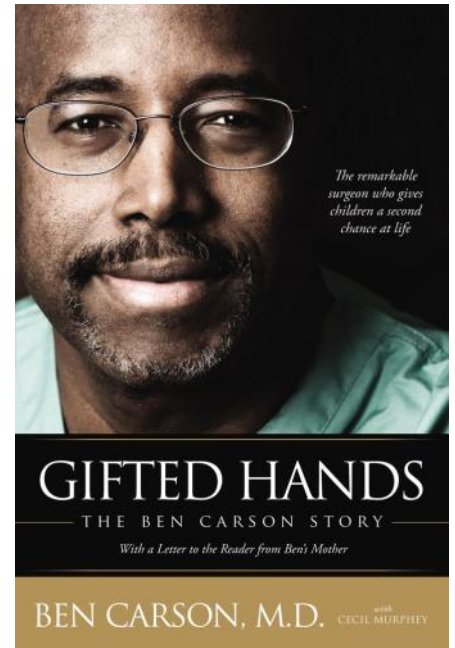


Book Group

**Fireside Room
Mon., Feb. 2, 9am**

Book Group will be meeting on Feb. 2 at 9am in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing "Gifted Hands" by Ben Carson.

We invite everyone to locate your own copy of the book. Treats will be provided. Bring your morning beverage of choice. The group will select a new book for the February Book Group.



Adult Forum: Lenten Hymns

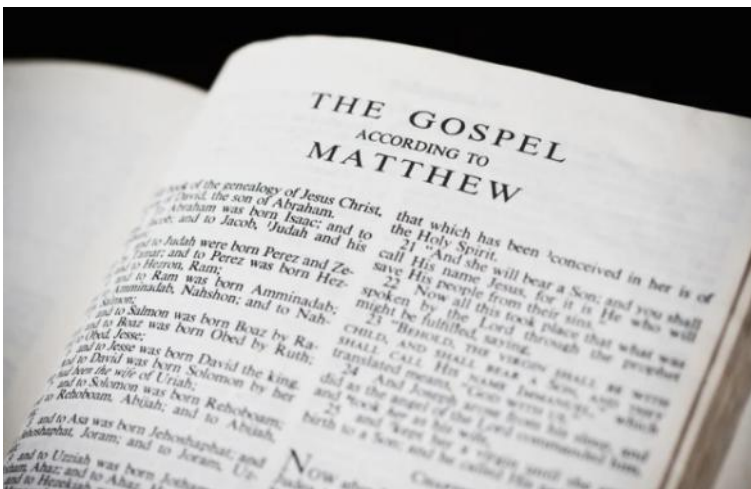
**Choir Room
Sun. Feb. 15, 10am**



Adult Forum in February will feature the stories of some of the Lutheran hymns we sing during the Lenten season. Hear the stories and then sing (or listen to) the hymns with Pastor Kary and Kerstin Suby.

Lenten Bible Study: Gospel of Matthew

**Fireside Room
11am Wednesdays Feb. 18-Mar. 25**



Pastor Kary will be leading a weekly study on the Gospel of Matthew on Wednesdays starting February 18 for six weeks. Gatherings will begin at 11am in the Fireside Room. The last gathering will be March 25.

Throughout history Matthew's gospel has played a prominent role in Christian worship and practice, and to this day it retains a central place in most people's experiences of the New Testament and the Christian faith. Matthew's gospel speaks well to church communities today, identifying the church as founded by

Jesus (16:18) and issuing practical instructions for practicing community (18:1-35). Matthew envisions the church as made up of sinners and doubters who struggle with faith, temptation, and forgiveness, but ultimately reflect the ministry and presence of Jesus.

- Feb. 4 - No KFC
- Feb. 12, 19, & Mar. 5 - First Communion Classes (4th-6th grades)
- Feb. 8 - Sunday School Sings at 9am worship (preK-6th grades)
- Feb. 15 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday, 5:30pm
- Feb. 22 - Winter Family Event: Sledding at Frontenac State Park

Family Event: Sledding

Frontenac State Park

February 22, 2026

2:30-4:30pm

Cost: FREE | [Sign-up here](#)

Our First Lutheran Family Event is Sledding at Frontenac State Park on Sunday, February 22. Sledding hill is located just past the ranger station. Bring sled(s) if you have them. There are a few extra sleds on site. There is a small warming shelter in the parking lot with wood provided for wood stove.

You will need a state parks vehicle permit. We will purchase day passes for anyone who needs one and get these to you as you arrive.

Event is weather permitting. This event is FREE. Email Sara with questions at sara.thompson@firstlc.org



First Communion Classes

Feb. 12, 19, & Mar. 5

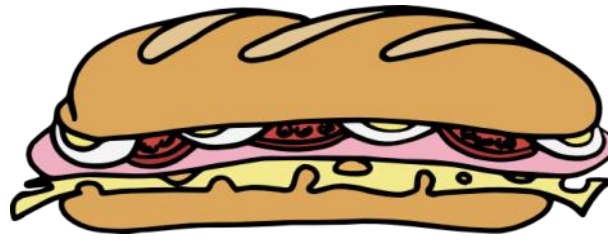
4th Grade: 4:30-5:30pm

5th & 6th Grade: 5:30-6:30pm

Any 4th - 6th grader who has not been through First Communion classes are invited to participate in an upcoming three week class. It has been a tradition at First Lutheran to gather the kids around this age during the season of Lent to learn more about the sacraments and to welcome them to the Lord's Table as Easter approaches.

The three week session will be held on **Thursdays Feb. 12, 19, and Mar. 5**. Fourth graders will meet 4:30-5:30pm and any fifth or sixth grader that has not taken First Communion Classes will meet from 5:30-6:30pm.

Parents should watch for a letter with more information coming in early February.



Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale

The popular Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale is back! Whether you are hosting a Super Bowl Party, relaxing at home and don't want to cook, or maybe you would like a tasty lunch ready for you when you leave church, we've got you covered! Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser supports the First Lutheran Youth Fund and summer trip to **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp!**

Made with delicious Huettl's meats and fresh rolls from Hanisch Bakery, subs will be assembled by youth and parents and ready for pickup after church on Sunday, Feb. 8th.

1. Fill out order form with sub options. Also [online here](#).
2. Turn in orders to Paul Miller or at the **Welcome Center**.
3. Attach payment to order form or pay upon pickup on Super Bowl Sunday!

Order Deadline: Sunday, February 1st
Pick-Up: February 8th (10-11am)

NAME: _____

CONTACT PHONE: _____

***PICK UP DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th BETWEEN 10-11 AM**

| | COST | NUMBER OF SUBS ORDERED | # WITH LETTUCE (on the side) | # WITH TOMATO (on the side) | # WITH ONION (on the side) |
|---|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>SAMPLE ORDER</i> | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| HAM w/ AMERICAN CHEESE | \$14 each | | | | |
| TURKEY w/ AMERICAN CHEESE | \$14 each | | | | |
| ITALIAN: HAM, SALAMI, AMERICAN CHEESE | \$14 each | | | | |
| GARLIC BREAD w/ MOZARELLA CHEESE (take and bake) | \$10 each | | | | |

PLEASE CHECK ONE: PAYMENT INCLUDED PAYMENT AT PICK UP

Feb. 1: Riley Dittfach, Riley Fitz, Elizabeth Kittelson, Elizabeth Meyer

Feb. 2: Grace Ackermann, Lee Eggenberger, Conrad Meyer,

Feb. 3: Donna Kari, Carter Kranz, David Oeltjen

Feb. 4: Josie Campbell, David Dittfach, Summit Henderson, Duane Howard, Evelyn Rogness

Feb. 5: Becky Schutlze

Feb. 6: Benjamin Ackermann, Lydia Hess, Melanie Johnson

Feb. 7: Greg Gilman

Feb. 8: Jon Featherstone, Jeff Rogness, Emily Ziebell

Feb. 9: Kris Baird, Aubrey Fick, Meredith Logsdon, Marie Mangold

Feb. 10: Roger Brooks, Connor Burgeson, Heidi Burgeson, Jacob Griebenow, Garry Harteneck, Cari Kohrs, Rowan Larson, Nola Nilsson

Feb. 11: Jordan Bremer, Zachary Johnson

Feb. 12: Brody Kennedy

Feb. 13: Isabelle Langhans

Jason & Emily Banks, Gary & Katherine Yotter

Feb. 14: Boyd Olson, Linda Pavlak, Orion Pretzer, William Thompson

Jeffrey & Laureen Swiggum

Feb. 15: Robin Bignell, Tom Hallaway, Briton Johnson, Evie Johnson, Orie Kehren, Emily Moechnig, Ashley Olson,

Feb. 16: Mark Bailey, Avery Ohlhaber, Betty Stori

Feb. 17: Larry Holmgren, Tiffanie Hoops, Barb Roe
Devin & Jessica Bruske, Kevin & Kathleen Gunhus

Feb. 18: Joseph Boehlke, Ryan Hanson

Feb. 19: Julie Dammann, Lonny Moechnig, Jeremy Reese

Feb. 20:

Feb. 21: Kim Adler, Lily Dittfach, Loa Olson, Keston Reese, Isaiah Weinrich

Feb. 22: Brooks Holst, Nathan Klipfel, Lisa Koehler, Marie Severson, Bailey Skifton, Grace Weinrich, Tom West

Mike & Melissa Ackermann

Feb. 23: Mary Santelman, Brody Otterson

Feb. 24:

Feb. 25: Sophia Hess, Duane Holst, Darin Lundell, Randy Vander Laan

Feb. 26: Lori Mortenson, Bob Nafe

Robert & Nola Nilsson

Feb. 27: Sara Bonde, Emilia Foss, Nancy Gabbert, Susan Jensen, Jeffrey Mund, Jack Rol

Bradley & Nancy Rigelman

Feb. 28: Katie Bee, Kashlyn Kiecker, Jordan Miller

Keep in prayer: Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski, Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Ross Bendickson, Audrey Watson, Tom Gerken, Mary Lou Buss (Barb Gifford's sister).

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 | Feb. 1 | Feb. 8 | Feb. 15 | Feb.22 (Scout Sunday) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| LECTOR | Randi Kirchner | Christopher Ahrens | Confirmation Student | Carter Keim |
| GREETERS | Jack Narum & Family | Weston Holst & Family | Will Stolzenberg & Family | Grace Dunn & Family |
| ACOLYTE | Gauge Johnson | Brooks Holst | Rose Plank | Lucas Roberson |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Reid Meyer Frank Plank | Parker Atkinson Bennett Kohrs | Mason Eggenberger Confirmation Student | Camryn Porisch Scout Member |
| USHERS | Confirmation Student Confirmation Student | Confirmation Student Confirmation Student | Miranda Koehler Confirmation Student | Scout Members |
| ALTAR GUILD | Sandy Bendickson Karen Heise | Sandy Bendickson Karen Heise | Mary Santelman Jane Simonton | Mary Santelman Jane Simonton |
| COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | Bill & LuAnn Otto | Larry & Kathy Wigern | needed | Scouts |
| AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT | Miranda Koehler | Claire Gnotke | Frank Plank | Confirmation Student |

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.

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

February 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Worship Sunday School 10am Annual Report Presentation 10am | 2 9am Book Group Cub Scouts:6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm | 3 | 4 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm No KFC Worship Team Meeting, 4pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm | 5 | 6 | 7 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm |
| 8 Worship, 9am Sunday School, 10am Annual Meeting, 10am Super Bowl Sub Pick-up, 10am | 9 Crafters 9:30, Fireside Rm Cub Scouts:6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm | 10 FLC Quilters 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 6pm | 11 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm | 12 First Communion Classes 4th Grade - 4:30-5:30pm 5th/6th Grade - 5:30-6:30pm Joyful Aging Meet Up, 4pm (Fall Prevention) Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm | 13 | 14 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm |
| 15 Worship 9am No SS Adult Forum 10am Lenten Hymns | 16 (No School) | 17 | 18 ASH WEDNESDAY FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Matthew Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm KFC, 3-5pm Worship 5:30pm Confirmation (worship with family) | 19 First Communion Classes 4th Grade - 4:30-5:30pm 5th/6th Grade - 5:30-6:30pm Church Council 6:30pm | 20 | 21 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm |
| 22 Worship / Scout Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am | 23 Cub Scouts:6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm | 24 FLC Quilters 8:30am | 25 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Matthew Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Worship 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6-7pm Bells 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm | 26 | 27 Scouts Overnight Event at First Lutheran | 28 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm |
| Winter Family Event Sea Scouts, 6:30-8pm | | | | | | |