

Firs* Things

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

March 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*



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

First Lutheran Council Members

A new council was elected at the Annual Meeting held on February 8 and will be installed at our **March 22** worship. Here is our new council:

Kim Ask-Carlson, President

Luke Kramer

Kjellgren Alkire, Secretary

Kelly Pribyl

Andrew Ahrens, Treasurer

Allen LeCaptain (newly elected)

Luther Berkeland

Kathie Majerus (newly elected)

Robert Carlson

Kerrie Reese (newly elected)

Janet Chestnut

Larry Wigern (newly elected)

Thank you to outgoing council members **Sandy Bendickson**, **Heidi Emerson**, **Tricia Oeltjen**, and **Jeff Rogness**. We are grateful for your service!

The First Lutheran Church council meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

Attention Thrivent Members!

Thrivent Members have two opportunities to give back. One is coming up at the end of March and the other can happen twice a year at any time.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have Thrivent Choice dollars that need to be allocated by the end of March.

You can either log into your account at thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836.

You can direct your Choice Dollars to many eligible organizations - First Lutheran Church is an option!

Thrivent Action Team

Thrivent Members are eligible to lead two projects throughout the year.

Gather a volunteer team of friends, family or neighbors to put on a

fundraiser, educational event or service activity—like organizing a school supply drive, or hosting a car wash fundraiser. Thrivent provides \$250 in seed money, Live Generously t-shirts, and other resources. There are four simple steps to apply. See more information here: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>

First Lutheran members have used this opportunity to lead the Super Bowl Sub Sale, a youth fundraiser, as well as service projects including Soup Suppers, and Quilting Projects. If you're a Thrivent Member and want to help, but not sure where to get started, contact the church office for project ideas that you can lead.

thrivent[®]

Prioritizing Prayer

How is your prayer life? As one of your pastors, I have a confession to make. I struggle a bit in my personal prayer life. Don't get me wrong. I am always ready when asked, "Pastor, can you lead us in prayer?" Praying off the cuff, publicly is something I am quite comfortable with. But I find it hard to prioritize tending to my personal prayer life. (It gives me hope that following his retirement from ministry, my husband Peter's prayer life has blossomed!)

If you also struggle with prioritizing daily prayer, you are not alone. However, it is a good practice to quiet our minds at some point in the day, and I have found bedtime a good time to pray. Bedtime prayers offer us a practice where we can reflect on the day and let go. Prayers at bedtime also offer us the opportunity to close our day with God, preparing for tomorrow where we will again place our trust in God's continued care.

The following is a modified version of a daily examen that can be used for bedtime prayers. This structured prayer time provides a way of reviewing how God might have been at work in our day with grace and love.

First, **invite God** to guide you in remembering your day. As you look back, what do you remember about your day? Who was present? How did you feel?

Come, Lord Jesus and guide me as I remember this day...where did I feel your love and where is your grace needed?

Second, **notice God's gifts**. Where did you feel the peace and grace of God? Give thanks for the many gifts you received as well as the opportunities you were given to share the love of God. These moments do not need to be dramatic and may be very simple.

Thank you, God...

Third, **notice the sins and missteps**. Reflect on the times that you may regret or on the things you left undone or avoided.

I am sorry for....

Finally, **look forward to tomorrow**. What is happening in your life tomorrow where you will need God? Pray for God's guidance and presence in these moments. **End with a work of thanks.**

God, tomorrow I ask...

God, thank you...Amen.

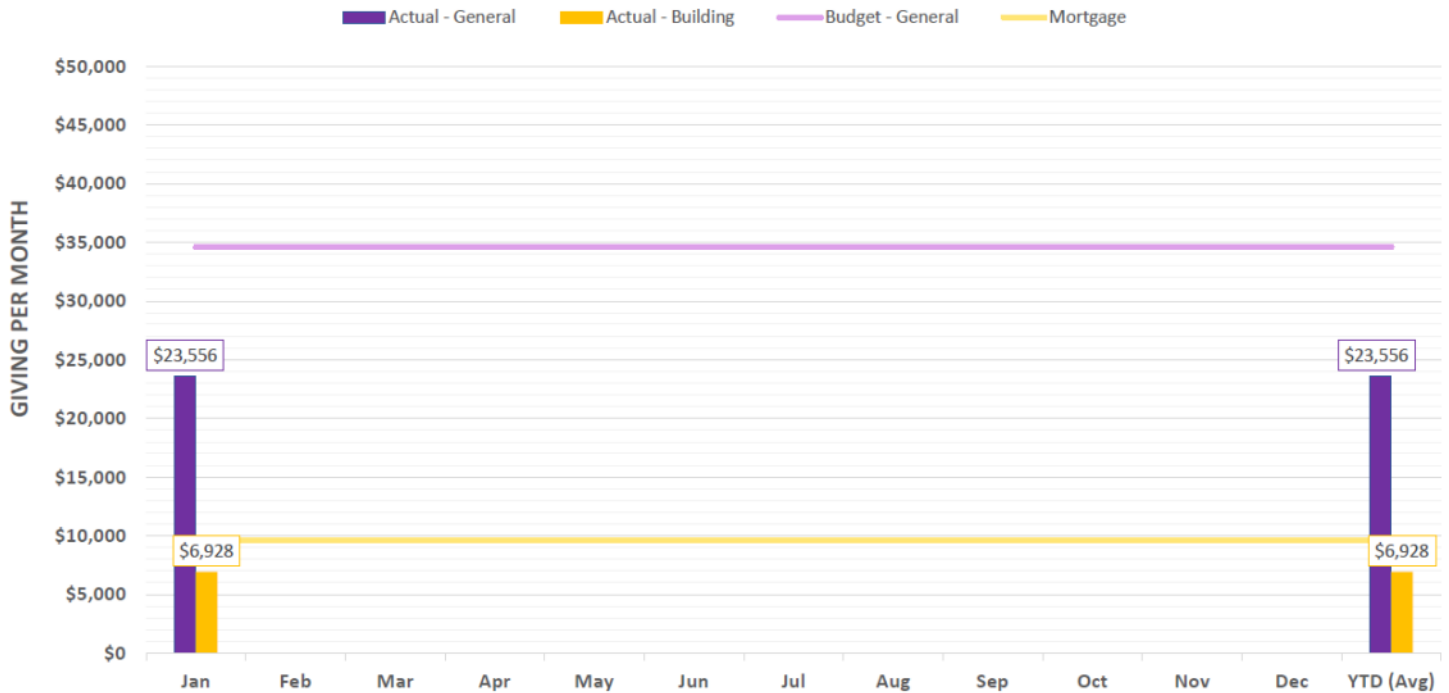
The Lenten season provides us an intentional time to begin again, renewing our relationship with God in prayer.

Peace be with you,



Pastor Kary

2026 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!

Easter Flowers Available to Order



Easter Flowers are available to order again this year. Over a dozen options to choose from to brighten your spring and our Easter Sunday services on April 5. Place your order by **March 15, 2026**

Varieties include Easter lilies, hydrangea, tulips, daffodils, begonias, cyclamen, spring cactus, pansy bowl and more! Download an [order form here](#) or pick one up at church. Leave payment with your order form at the church office or drop it in the Welcome Center locked drawer.

If you have any questions contact Becky Schultze, 651-380-2700 or schultze.becky@gmail.com

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.

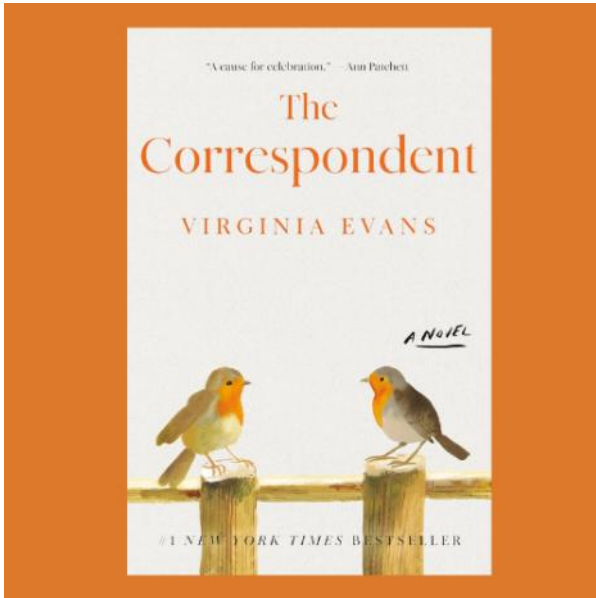


New Member Invite



Individuals and families interested in joining First Lutheran are invited to attend a sessions to learn more about First Lutheran from FLC members and meet others interested in joining on **Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30pm**. New members will be welcomed at the March 15 worship service and encouraged to stay for coffee fellowship afterwards. Please RSVP to the March 10 welcome session by [clicking here](#), scanning the QR code, or contacting Jen White at the church office. 651-345-5003 jennifer.white@firstlc.org

April Book Group: The Correspondent



Fireside Room
Mon. April 6, 9am

Book Group will be meeting on April 6 at 9am in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans . Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, “The Correspondent” is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

We invite everyone to locate your own copy of the book. Treats will be provided. Bring your morning beverage of choice.

Adult Forum: Housing in Lake City

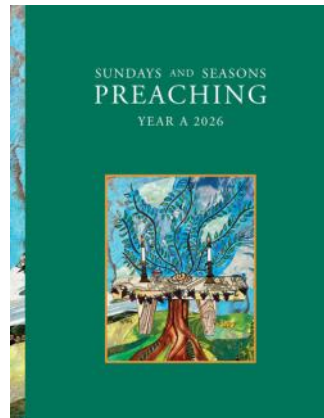
Fireside Room
March 8, 10am

Three Rivers Community Action is a non profit established in 1966 to bridge families out of poverty into self-sufficiency. Their core service areas are Rice, Goodhue, Olmsted and Wabasha counties. Some of our work extends to SE Minnesota and beyond. Housing services range from preventing homelessness to finding permanent supportive housing.

Learn more how Three Rivers Community Action assist members in our communities after worship on March 8.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Each Wednesday morning at 8:30am, 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.

Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, March 12** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.

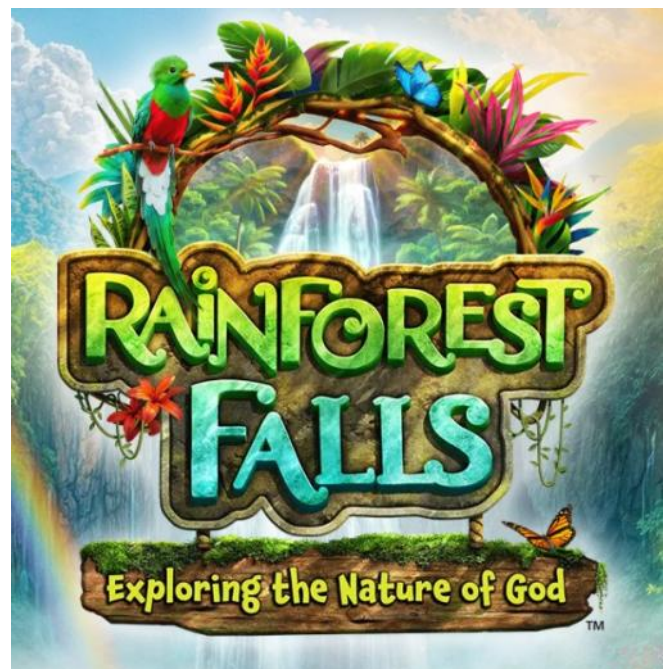


Fun with Friends at Sunday School & KFC!



Save the Date for VBS! August 3-6, 2026

As First Lutheran families begin planning their summers, note that First Lutheran will host Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 3-6, 2026. The theme this year will be Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God.



Mar. 1 - KFC Choir Sings at 9am Worship
 Mar. 4 - No KFC
 Mar. 5 - Last First Communion Class
 Mar. 29 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mar. 1: Travis Bremer, Heidi Flugstad, Justin Foss, Harvey Gabbert, Sam Klipfel, David Moe, Paul Myers

Mar. 2: Candace Dudley, Laura Fitterer, Dana Gartner, Kary Jonas, Paige Krueger, Amy Matanich

Mar. 3: Justin Campbell, Peter Suby

Mar. 4: Noah Atkinson, Meg Fitterer, Kathy Rodester, Dick Severson, Teddy Thompson

Mar. 5: Brent Engelbrekt

Mar. 6:

Mar. 7: Emery Ebert, Rob Nutt, Laurie Stoeger, Gary Yotter

Mar. 8: Morgan Dammann, Willow Dudley, Brent Engelbrekt, Courtney Haviland, Josie Kuchinka

Mar. 9: Christine Anderson, Aviana Kiechner, Elsie Weinrich

Mar. 10: Missy Ferguson, Sam Rol, Wendy Schultze, Kerstin Suby

Mar. 11: Ross Bendickson, Andy Carlson, Aubree Chavez

Randy & Stephanie Foss

Mar. 12: Paula Davis-Lynch, Milly Gagnon, Jarid Groth, Jeff Swiggum

Mar. 13: Braxton Berlin, Ava Carlson-Penn, Pat Ebert, Craig Kohrs, Richard Shequen

Joseph & Lori Morgan

Mar. 14: Elizabeth Enger, Cole Kohrs,

Mar. 15:

Mar. 16: Trace Meyer, Brody Meyer, Helene Pflaum

Mar. 17: Tom Kehren, Christian Oeltjen, Pat Samuelson

Mar. 18: Troy Ziebell

Mar. 19: Dave Ender, Kenzie Kramer, William Olson
Lee & Sharon Eggenberger

Mar. 20: Roger Hollman, Marcia Holst, Jane Windhorst

Mar. 21: Janet Carlson, Jill Dinsmore, Joe Kells

Mar. 22: Craig Harteneck, Cullen Kittelson, Kenny McEwen

Mar. 23: Marlys Johnson

Mar. 24: Dalton Arndt, Justin Fuchs, Jeff Mund

Mar. 25: Duane Boos, Bonnie Conway, Ashley Eichelberger, Nathan Larson

Jon & Mary Gravenish

Mar. 26: Kristen Flugstad, Olivia Matzke, Gwen Schafer

Mar. 27: Julie Deschneau, Joel Dose, Jon Gravenish, Wanda Pederson, Lindsay Peters, Beth Plank, Tim Schlagenhaft

Mar. 28: Jill Braaten, Mike, Paul Haviland, Owen Kopp, Erin Lichtblau, Adelyn Meyer, Chase Rodewald

Mar. 29: Millie Dudley

Mar. 30: Grayce Adler, Ava Eggenberger, Bryan Grimley, Naomi Mangold

Jim & Kathy Zwiener

Mar. 31: Jayden Banks, Ava Emerson, Mya Kohrs, Sam Mangold, Janet Reed, Dean Saby

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), Audrey Watson, Tom Gerken, Shirley Keyport, mother of Greg Keyport, the family of Gloria Issendorf, the family of Ron Hooge, the family of Richard Braid.

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	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29 Palm Sunday
LECTOR	Bennett Kohrs	Duane Holst	Dave Ender	Duane Holst	Dave Ender
GREETERS	Ella Kohrs & Family	Bennett Kittelson & Family	Chase Moechnig & Family	Addie Thieren & Family	needed
ACOLYTE	Maddy Kohrs	7th Grade Confirmation Student	Rose Plank	Lucas Roberson	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Alexis McCoy Frank Plank	Christopher Ahrens Klara Schmidt	Frank Plank Camryn Porisch	Camryn Porisch Confirmation Student	Klara Schmidt Need
USHERS	Camryn Porisch Bill Otto	Confirmation Student Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student Confirmation Student	Mason Eggenberger needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Marcia Holst Esther Gullixson	Marcia Holst Esther Gullixson	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus	Kim Ask-Carlson Janet Chestnut
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Shef & Deb Massey	Ross & Sandy Bendickson	Harvey & Nancy Gabbert	needed	needed
AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT	Mason Eggenberger	Miranda Koehler	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	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.

We will also need assistance with some worship roles on Palm Sunday, March 29. Contact the church office if you are able to assist.

