

# Firs\* Things

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

**April 2026**

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 Peace Ridge  
Lake City, MN 55041

651-345-5003  
info@firstlc.org  
[www.firstlc.org](http://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*  
[paul.miller@firstlc.org](mailto:paul.miller@firstlc.org)

Kary Jonas  
*Associate Pastor*  
[kary.jonas@firstlc.org](mailto:kary.jonas@firstlc.org)

Sara Thompson  
*Coord. of Children's Ministry*  
[sara.thompson@firstlc.org](mailto:sara.thompson@firstlc.org)

Kerstin Suby  
*Music Administrator & Organist*  
[kerstin.suby@firstlc.org](mailto:kerstin.suby@firstlc.org)

Jennifer White  
*Congregational Administrator*  
[jennifer.white@firstlc.org](mailto:jennifer.white@firstlc.org)

Loren Prigge, *Custodian*



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## Holy Week Worship Services



**April 2 - Maundy Thursday - 6:30pm**

**April 3 - Good Friday - 3pm**

**April 5 - Easter Sunday**

**7am & 9:30am**

## Easter Flower Pick-up

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter Flowers! For those who placed an order, you can pick them up after either Easter Sunday worship or on Tuesday or Wednesday the following week. (The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6). You'll find a tag with your name on the plants and arrangements you ordered.



## FLC Lenten Generosity

First Lutheran once again showed our immense desire to be helpers and show our support for local and global organizations. Thank you to everyone who pitched in and provided a soup supper and especially to those who helped new groups with planning, prep, and clean-up. It was inspiring to watch you all work as a team!

Donations for the organizations we lifted up each week were:

**Feb. 25: ELCA World Hunger - \$645**

**Mar. 4: Lake City Food Shelf - \$540**

**Mar. 11: Habitat for Humanity - \$1031**

**Mar. 18: Good Earth Village - \$540**

**Mar. 25: Sea Scouts - Ship 1 - \$695**



## Holy Week with Christians of All Times and Places

Take a moment to consider all the Christians around the world – more than 2 billion, currently – getting ready for Holy Week and Easter celebrations of some kind. That thought alone should fill us with awe, as we consider nearly every country in the world, from the most ancient churches to the newest of congregations.

I give thanks for our church year and liturgical seasons in part because of the way they hold us together with other Christians. You probably know that these seasons come from old traditions. Some are older than others. Holy Week and Easter are the oldest – probably as old as the pattern of gathering on Sundays – with us from the beginning.

The roots of our Holy Week and Easter are in Passover. We know when Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection took place because they happened during Passover: the first full moon after the spring equinox. In the following years, Christians, most of whom were also Jews for the first several decades of the church, kept celebrating Passover, but with new meanings: celebrating the mighty acts of God that set Israel free from slavery to Pharaoh, but also the mighty acts of God through Christ, setting all people free from slavery to sin and death.

Then, for a few centuries, Christianity was illegal and persecuted, and Jesus' followers had to worship in secret. We don't have a lot of direct evidence or sources from these years, but when Christians slowly came out of hiding, there is evidence of two well-established traditions that seemed to have grown up during that time.

The first pattern is the eastern one, centered on Jerusalem. In the East, Christians seemed to almost "re-enact" the Passion of Christ, following the events day-by-day. In Jerusalem, crowd would gather in Bethany for services remembering the events of John 11-12, and then enter the city with palms. Over the next days they met in various locations to recall events like Jesus' betrayal. On Good Friday, they would walk what became known as the Via Dolorosa or "Way of Suffering."

The second pattern grew up during the years of persecution in Rome and the western churches. There the Passion was read one Sunday, and the stories of the empty tomb were read on the next. In between a special three-part service across three days prepared the congregation for Easter, culminating with the Easter Vigil when most baptisms occurred.

I share this history for a few reasons. First, you can see how these ancient patterns continue in our own – the Procession with Palms and the idea of a Holy Week from East, Sunday of the Passion and the "Great Three Days" from the West. More importantly, you can see how these traditions hold us together with Christians around the world, and with the earliest believers.

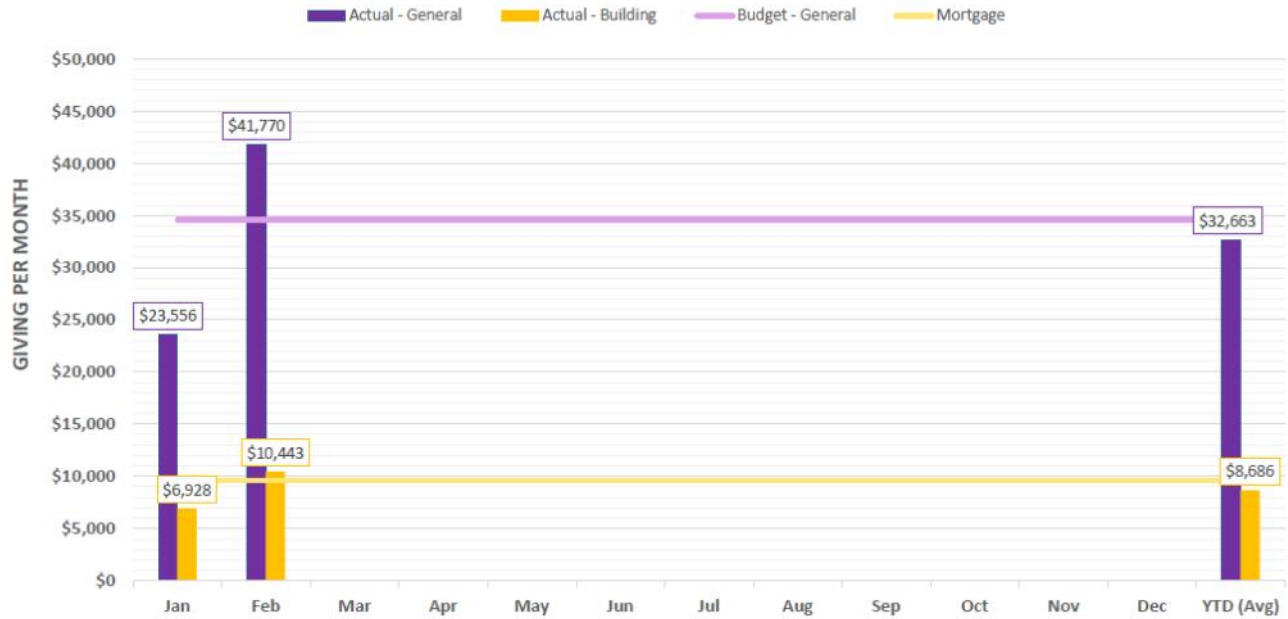
These traditions have been forming faith for 20 centuries. For most Christians, past and present, this is the high point of the year. This is the most important story we know, and so we surround it with worship, song and prayer, and take our time day by day to let it unfold.

A Blessed Holy Week and Easter to you all!



Pastor Paul

2026 Giving - First Lutheran Church



3/14/2026  
11:57 am

First Lutheran Church  
Income Statement for 2026 as of 2/28/2026

Summary across all Books

	February	Year-to-date as of 2/28/2026
Income:	53,394.41	88,400.52
- Expense:	46,003.78	87,694.70
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$ 7,390.63</b>	<b>\$ 705.82</b>

# Thank you from Sea Scouts - Ship 1

On behalf of the Lake City Sea Scouts Ship #1, thank you and all of those who helped so wonderfully with the last Lenten Soup Supper on March 25 which was linked to support for our Ship! Enormous direct help in planning this event, volunteers preparing cookies and bars, setting up the tables, then guiding us through use of the kitchen equipment and supplies made our role a heart-warming, positive experience. Our Scouts and adult leaders all experienced the wonderfully helpful and welcoming spirit of First Lutheran Church in full form.

We are all extremely grateful for the overall administrative and

financial support you have offered to our "Ship" and now we have had an opportunity to work more directly together to support this program designed to help young people learn about safety on the water, gain watercraft related skills, understand teams and collaboration and demonstrate solid citizenship as they progress through the Sea Scouting experience. This was one of our first more public activities in Lake City and, thanks to everyone at First Lutheran Church, it was a remarkable success!

~ Mac Baird,  
Sea Scout Committee Chair



## Landscaping Crew Leader Wanted



Our landscaping crew will be changing over our plants and containers for summer soon! We are looking for more helpers and especially someone interested in organizing our team of volunteers with watering and plant maintenance schedules. Long-time leader, Dale Nelson, is looking for someone to walk alongside him this summer to learn what it takes to make First Lutheran entrance and columbarium area look so stunning. If you are interested or have any questions, call Dale Nelson, 612-308-9298.

## Thank You Communion Bread Bakers

Thank to the bakers who provided the unleavened communion bread during the Lenten Season and beyond: **Melissa Ackermann, Tami Ender, Karen Heise, Jenny Schlagenhaft, and LaDonna Severson.**

And a special thank you to **Melissa Ackermann** who also lead the First Communion session teaching about the fleeing Israelites and why they made unleavened bread. They learn about Passover and the Last Supper with Jesus, which we remember as we take the Sacrament of Communion.



## Church Softball League

We have been contacted recently to see if there is interested in forming a citywide, co-ed church softball league this summer. The idea is simple—bringing churches together for fellowship, community, and a little friendly competition.

The vision would be to have teams made up of people from local congregations and play a few games throughout the summer.

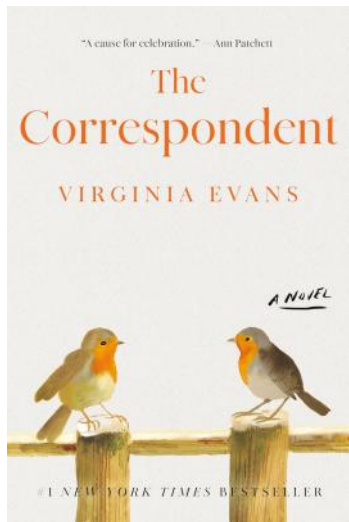
Contact the office if you are interested in playing and especially if you are able to be the point of contact. If interested contact Jen White in the church office, 651-345-5003

## Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, April 9** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.



# Book Group April & May Books



**Fireside Room  
Mon. April 6, 9am**

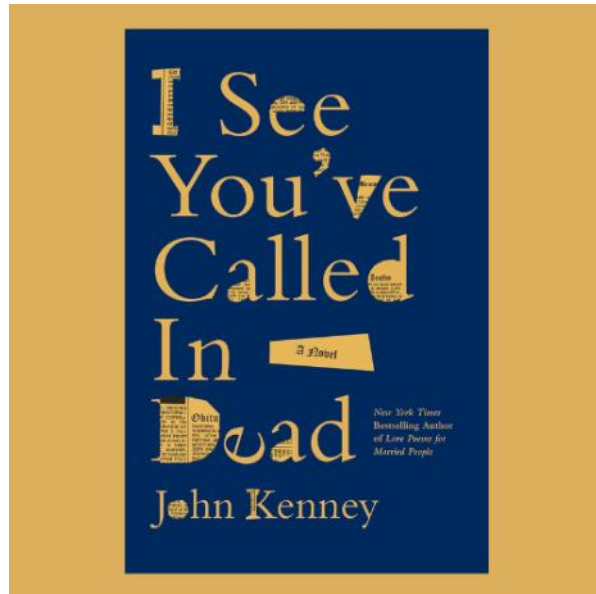
Book Group meeting on April 6 will be discussing "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

**Fireside Room  
Mon. May 4, 9am**

Book Group will be meeting on May 4 at 9am in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing "I See You've Called in Dead" by John Kenney.

Obituary writer Bud Stanley isn't really living his best life. He's fallen into a funk after a divorce. (She left him for another man, who, in fairness, was far more interesting.) He's not doing his job well. He's given up on dating. And he's about to be fired for accidentally publishing his own obituary one mildly drunken night (though technically the company can't legally fire a dead person). As Bud awaits his fate at work, he does the only logical thing: He goes to the wakes and funerals of total strangers to learn how to live again.

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



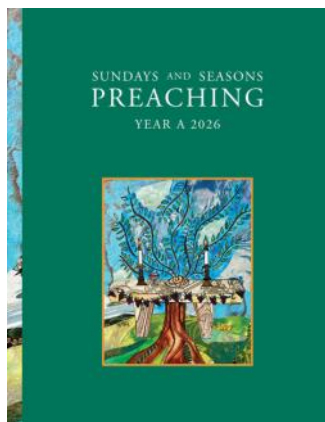
## Adult Forum: Get to Know Our Hispanic Neighbors

**Fireside Room  
April 19, 10am**

Sunday, April 19, we have the opportunity to better get to know our Hispanic neighbors who live in our community, go to school with our kids, and work in our businesses. Hear about their experiences and learn more about the work of our partner, Hispanic Inclusion of Lake City.



## 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.

**Do to others as you would have them do to you.**

- Luke 6:31

Apr. 1 - No KFC, No Confirmation (Spring Break)  
 Apr. 5 - No Sunday School (Easter/Spring Break)  
 Apr. 8 - KFC resumes, Confirmation resumes  
 Apr. 12 - Junior Choirs (KFC) sings, First Communion Blessing (Group 2), Good Earth Village temple talk, Sunday School resumes  
 Apr. 26 - 6th Graders receive Confirmation Study Bibles, Spring Family Event  
 Apr. 29 - Last Day of KFC  
 May 3 - Last Day of Sunday School, Sunday School & Junior Choir (KFC) sings

## Family Fun Day at Hok-si-la Park

Join us for an end-of-year celebration as our youth programming wraps for the 2025-26 school year.

**FLC Families-all ages**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
**3:00-5:00pm**

**Please bring an ice cream topping to share!**

Meet at the dining hall on site at Hok-si-la. Participate in a family scavenger hunt around the grounds (with prizes)! Wear comfy clothes and shoes. You may want to bring a stroller/wagon for littlest participants. Ice cream and root beer floats to follow. Feel free to stay and play as long as you'd like! If the weather isn't ideal, plan on indoor fun.

Contact Sara if you have questions:  
[sara.thompson@firstlc.org](mailto:sara.thompson@firstlc.org).



## Good Earth Village Visits First Lutheran

A representative from Good Earth Village will be at First Lutheran for a temple talk on April 12. Learn more about what GEV has to offer for youth camps as well as adult and family events throughout the year.



## New Member & Council Photos

Dave Ender will be available to take photos on April 12 after the 9am worship service of new members and families as well as newly elected church council members. Please stop in the Fireside Room to have your photo taken.

**Anyone who would like an updated church directory photo is welcome to have Dave take a new photo as well.**

Apr. 1 - No Confirmation (Spring Break)  
 Apr. 8 - Confirmation Resumes, 6pm  
 Apr. 18/19 - 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

## Summer Trips for Junior & Senior High Youth

First Lutheran youth have the opportunity to participate in various summer camps this summer. Camps offer an amazing opportunity to meet other Christian youth and to explore a unique connection with God in the outdoors.

### Rainbow Trail - July 4-12

This Lutheran bible camp is nestled in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains where campers worship under the blue sky by day and stars by night. They sing praise songs and experience new adventures like team high ropes, zip lines, white water rafting, and hiking in the mountains. A group of five senior high girls with chaperones Mike and Melissa Ackerman will be traveling to Rainbow Trail in Colorado this summer.



### Confirmation Camp - June 14-19

As part of First Lutheran's Confirmation program, students going into eighth grade attend Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village. This week-long experience strengthens the Confirmation journey through shared adventures, outdoor ministry, and deep reflection. GEV is located in the scenic bluff lands near Spring Valley, Minnesota.



### Wilderness Canoe Base - July 19-25

Located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Northern Minnesota, WBC is a Lutheran camp and outfitter. We plan to bring one or two groups of 5-7 senior high youth on this adventure.



## FLC Scholarships: Now Accepting Applications

Attention graduating seniors! Students graduating this spring and who were confirmed at First Lutheran Church may be eligible for two scholarships.

### First Lutheran ELCA Scholarship

This scholarship is available to confirmed members of FLC AND you plan to attend an ELCA affiliated college or university. The scholarship from First Lutheran will be matched by the ELCA college you attend and can be applied for up to 4 years. The deadline for this scholarship application is **May 1, 2026**.

### Bob Polk Scholarship

This college scholarship is available for FLC confirmed members who are planning a career in health care. The Bob Polk Scholarship application is also in the "Youth and Family Ministry" tab on the FLC website. The deadline for this scholarship application is **June 1, 2026**.

For more information and to download an application, visit our website <https://www.firstlc.org/index.php?/college> or contact the church office, 651-345-5003.

**Apr. 1:** Glenn Dwelle Jr, Nikki Wurst

*Sara & Daniel Peterson*

**Apr. 2:** Jonathan Grothe, Timothy Plote,  
James Plote

**Apr. 3:** Carson Groth, Joshua Rolbiecki,  
Callie Soden

**Apr. 4:** Lylleonna Boe, Tom Olsen, Maverick  
Pearson, Rory Pfeilsticker

*Bruce & Jody Carlson*

**Apr. 5:** Nancy Herron, Alexis McCoy

**Apr. 6:** Reid Meyer, Linda Rasch

**Apr. 7:** Liz Carlstrom, Caden Cobb,  
Emmett Logsdon

**Apr. 8:** Megan Ahrens, Eileen Carlson, Kay Harms,  
Ashley Holmgren, Eli Jackson, Ryan Pribyl,  
Patti Tackman

**Apr. 9:** Elijah Ender, Delbert Goeman, Greg  
Keyport, Lori Lichtblau

**Apr. 10:** Barb Gifford, Douglas Pflaum, Allison  
Rigelman, Trissa Wallerich

**Apr. 11:** Amber Eggenberger

**Apr. 12:** Michelle Kriett, Michelle Larson, Ashley  
Meyer, Janice Shequen

**Apr. 13:** Jessica Brunn, Tami Ender,  
Carson Mickelson

**Apr. 14:** Bradley Johnson, Nolan Kohrs

**Apr. 15:** Melissa Ackermann, Ella Kohrs, Samuel  
Nutt, Steven Swan, Christopher Weinrich

*Allen & Julie LeCaptain*

**Apr. 16:** Jalen Dudley, Matthew Fick

**Apr. 17:** Nathan Haviland, Jill Ziebell

**Apr. 18:** Claire Gnotke, Taylor Heitman, Michelle  
Knudsen, Janice Olson

*Tom Marik & Clara Carlson*

**Apr. 19:** Tyler Ruiz, Kevin Simonton

**Apr. 20:** Colin Jackson, Lynette Matzke, Paul Moe

**Apr. 21:** Mac Baird, Scott Bignell, Rick Boos,  
Jameson Carroll, Ben Dinsmore, Rick Frickson,  
Chase Kranz, Carol Siewert

**Apr. 23:** Glenn Hartzell, Kaitlin McCarthy,  
Nils Olson

*Deb & Shef Massey*

**Apr. 26:** Lori Fick, Kathi Hoops-Soden, Brayden  
Kells, Tiffany Nelson, Nixon Rolbiecki

*Mary & Loren Prigge, Carol & Tom Proud*

**Apr. 27:** Carol Dollar, Mary Durst, Kaylin Hartzell,  
Allen LeCaptain, Alaina Meyer, Daniel Tesch

**Apr. 28:** Hannah Alitz

**Apr. 29:** Nicole Brown, Jason Holst, Kristy Keim,  
Karyn Moechnig, Lawrence Svien

*Jack & Brigitte Rol, Kary & Peter Jonas*

**Apr. 30:** Mary Berg-Prigge

*Thomas & Elizabeth Hallaway, Malachy & Kristen  
McCarthy, Jacob & Samantha Suckow*

**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), Tom Gerken, Rand & Bonnie Conway, Dennis Callinan (brother-in-law to Diane Keyport), the family of Richard Braid, the family of Bob Majerus.

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, 651-345-5003.

Date Role	April 2 Maundy Thursday	April 5 Easter 7am	April 5 Easter 9:30am	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>LECTOR</b>	Jenny Schlagenhaft	Duane Holst	Randi Kirchner	Randi Kirchner	Duane Holst	Needed
<b>GREETERS</b>	Needed	Jeff & Janet Chestnut	Needed	Henry & Molly Nelson & Family	Evan Olson & Family	McKenzie McCoy & Family
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Ava Olson	Needed
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	Jenny Schlagenhaft Kathy Wigern	Duane Holst Jenny Schlagenhaft	Duane Holst Reid Meyer Claudia Howard Milly Gagnon Edie & Rick Sward	Klara Schmidt Needed	Reid Meyer Needed	Alexis McCoy Klara Schmidt
<b>USHERS</b>	Jeff & Janet Chestnut	Larry & Kathy Wigern	Luther Berkeland Brody Fick Tony Fick Needed	Frank Plank Needed	Brody Fick Bennett Kohrs	Camryn Porisch Needed
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Becky Schultze & Milly Gagnon	Becky Schultze & Milly Gagnon	Becky Schultze & Milly Gagnon	Bruce & Liz Carlstrom	Bruce & Liz Carlstrom	Sandy Bendickson & Susan Dailey
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	Not Needed	Not Needed	Not Needed	Needed	Dave & Tami Ender	Needed
<b>AUDIO VISUAL STUDENT ASSISTANT</b>	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Mason Eggenberger	Macie Carlson

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

If you are able to assist with any of these roles, you can sign up by...

- \* Clicking [Sign-up Genius here](#).
- \* Calling the office (651-345-5003)
- \* Sending an email to Jen White (Jennifer.white@firstlc.org)
- \* Signing up at the Kiosk at church.

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm NO KFC NO CONFIRMATION Bells 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY  Worship 6:30pm</p>	<p>3 GOOD FRIDAY  Worship 3pm</p>	<p>4  Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm</p>
<p>5 <b>EASTER</b> Worship 7am Worship 9:30am NO SS</p>	<p>6 <b>EASTER MONDAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm No Bells Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm No Senior Choir</p>	<p>9  Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm</p>	<p>10  Fireside Room in use</p>	<p>11  Oeljen Baby Shower, 11am-2pm</p>
<p>12 Worship 9am KFC Sings First Communion Blessing GEV Guest Temple Talk Sunday School 10am New Member &amp; Council Photos</p>	<p>13 Crafters 9:30, Fireside Rm  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>14  FLC Quilters 8:30am  Hispanic Inclusion 6pm</p>	<p>15 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17  Fireside Room in use</p>	<p>18  Bob Majerus Visitation, 9am Funeral, 11am Richard Braid Funeral, 2pm 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat</p>
<p>19 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat  Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Adult Forum, 10am - Getting to know our Hispanic Neighbors</p>	<p>20 <a href="#">First Things Articles Due</a>  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>23  Church Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25  Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm</p>
<p>26 Worship 9am Baby Jonas Baptism Bible Buddies—6th graders Sunday School 10am  Spring Family Event Hok-si-la Park</p>	<p>27  Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>28  FLC Quilters 8:30am</p>	<p>29 <a href="#">Send out First Things</a> FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm (Last Day) Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>30</p>		