

Firs* Things

January 2025

Living the unconditional Grace & Love of Jesus Christ



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 Peace Ridge
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-5003
info@firstlc.org
www.firstlc.org



First Lutheran Church Lake City, MN

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

Melissa Ackermann, *Coord. of Youth Ministry*

melissa.ackermann@firstlc.org

Heidi Berge, *Coord. of Children's Ministry*

heidi.berge@firstlc.org

Kerstin Suby, *Music Administrator and Organist*

kerstin.suby@firstlc.org

Karyn Moechnig, *Admin. Assistant*

Karyn.moechnig@firstlc.org

Loren Prigge, *Custodian*



HELP CLEAN UP AFTER CHRISTMAS! After worship on Sunday, January 5, all are invited to take down Christmas decorations and do some light cleaning in various areas of the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for First Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9 immediately after our 9:00am worship service.

ATTENTION TEAM LEADS! Please send your annual reports to Karyn (Karyn.moechnig@firstlc.org) by Wednesday, January 15. Thank you!

BELL & CHOIR PRACTICE WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025 — Bells will practice at 5:15pm and Choir at 7:00pm.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING & SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. This year we served 421 meals and were blessed with the assistance of 60 volunteers! A check will be presented to the Food Shelf for \$3,670. (The full letter is on the Kiosk)

Sharing Special Sea Shells... by the seashore? No, this isn't the new tongue-twister for 2025. It is an idea I had for how we can celebrate The Baptism of Our Lord on January 12th, a special Sunday that sometimes gets missed in the aftermath of Christmas. It is with Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River that he is revealed as God's Son and begins his public ministry.

Here's my idea: I wonder if some of you have collected some interesting shells through the years and maybe sometimes wonder: "what should I do with these?" Consider bringing them to church on January 12th! Since a shell has often been used as a traditional part of baptism, we will keep them and use them in upcoming baptisms, and then give them as a memento of the day.

This will also be a day to reflect on the gift of our own baptism and celebrate with some of those who have received this sacramental gift recently.

So You Think You Can Ush? I have found that there are usually plenty of people who are willing to serve in church if they are equipped to be confident doing what they are being asked to do. (It also helps to ask.) So I am asking you to consider being an usher for FLC, and we have a plan to make sure you feel equipped.

First, we have a one-page, step-by-step description of how ushering is currently done at FLC that I would like to share with anyone interested. I will print a bunch and have them available in January.

Second, on January 26th, I would like to have a time to walk through the process with anyone interested. After worship, during coffee fellowship time, as soon as Sunday School is done using the sanctuary, let's gather with some of our experienced ushers and just walk through the job, answering each other's questions. It won't take long.

If there's time, we can even figure out what to call what we are doing. I'm pretty sure it is ushering, but if you really want to ush, we'd be glad to have you, too.

Prayers for Healing. In past years, from time to time, stations would be set up in worship during communion time for people to stop and receive prayers and anointing for healing. We are bringing this back on January 19th.

If this is new to you, let me recommend it. Sometimes we think we aren't in need of prayer, but when the opportunity arises to have someone pray for us, we find that we are. While you have the option of sharing a specific prayer request with the person praying for you, you don't have to. It is fine to just receive prayer and blessing, and maybe only later you will realize what it was about.

This practice encourages us to think broadly about healing and our need for it: it may be in body, mind or spirit, or it may be a relationship that needs healing. It is also fine to ask prayer for someone else in your life. God's will for us is abundant life! That's what this is about.

Prayer is such a gift that most of us have only begun to explore. I am glad to make this a bigger part of our congregational life.

Happy New Year! -Pastor Paul

Book Group

All continue to be welcome to join in First Lutheran's Book Group that meets on the third Tuesday of the month (unless noted) at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Check out the list for the first part of 2025 below. If you would like to join us for all or some of the discussion, please let Pastor Kary know.

January 21...Inspired by Rachel Held Evans

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's might be read.

February 18...The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.

Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world.

The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past?

March 18...Walking Up White; and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

*For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.*

April 15...A Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord." And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

May 13* (note, this is the second Tuesday in May)...Love Does by Bob Goff

Can a simple concept shift your entire world? Goff certainly thinks so. When it comes to loving your neighbors, rather than focusing on having the "right answers" or checking the "right boxes," what if you decide to simply DO love? To shamelessly show love and grace to those around you? What would that look like?

A note from Karen Anderson, ELCA mission personnel in Chile

(For many years, First Lutheran Church has supported Karen Anderson and her ministry.)

Dear Supporting Congregations,

As many of you know, I am retiring this year from the ELCA. Although I see my retirement as a process not an event (I will continue to volunteer with EPES on several projects), this is an important milestone for me. I have worked for the ELCA for over 33 years and with EPES for 42 years. With both of my daughters now living in the states -- and a one-year old granddaughter in Minnesota-- I am looking forward to having more time to spend with them.

It has been wonderful to work with ELCA Global Mission all these years, especially under the leadership of Rev. Rafael Malpica. In the midst of the brutal dictatorship of Pinochet, the Lutheran church hired a 26-year old me to start and lead EPES. Working with EPES – the dedicated staff and the amazing community health promoters – has been the privilege of my life.

I am especially grateful to all of you! To all the wonderful, loving, faithful people I have met over all these years in my supporting congregations. I have been so blessed to stay in your homes, to have deep conversations about our lives, our faith and our work, and to share the work of EPES with your congregations. I am grateful for the letters of support, the cards, the prayer shawls, your friendship and for your interest, support and prayers for me, the EPES team and our work to promote justice and dignity in health.

I hope you will continue to support EPES and the Global Mission of the ELCA. EPES will continue to be an ELCA-supported ministry and you and your congregation can continue supporting EPES' work.

Thank you again for your support over all these years! Have a blessed Christmas.

Abrazos,

Karen Anderson

ELCA mission personnel in Chile

January Adult Forum – Sunday, January 19

Do you remember what Confirmation class was like when you were growing up? Come experience **Confirmation 2025** with Melissa Ackermann, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at First Lutheran. January's Adult Forum, following worship will give you a chance to hear a "typical" Confirmation lesson as well as break out into small groups, just like Confirmation students in 2025.

Youth Ministry Happenings

Mark your calendars for events coming this month:

Wednesday, January 1st - No Confirmation (Christmas Break)

Super Bowl Sub Sale!! Purchase hand made subs for Super Bowl Sunday. Watch the FLC Facebook page and the weekly bulletin for ordering information...



Happy New Year—2025!!

Confirmation Wednesdays will begin again on January 8 for grades 7-8-9

Senior High
Youth!

You're Invited:

Contact Melissa for More Info



10-12 Grade
Wed, Jan. 29
8-9pm

Snacks provided

Bring your own drink

Children's Ministry Happenings

KFC Important Dates

KFC resumes Jan. 8th

****Looking for helpers with KFC for the months of January and February from 3:00-5:00PM.** Please contact Heidi (507)398-7632.**

Sunday School Important Dates

Classes resume Jan. 5th

February 2nd children sing during worship

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? Let the office know! Thanks!

Ministry Duty sign-ups can be found on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.

Please consider signing up for any "**needed**" spaces!

If no one signs up for Coffee Fellowship on a particular Sunday,
there will be no coffee that day.

If you are assigned and cannot serve, please try to find your own replacement before calling the church office.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jan. 1: Taylor Groth, Cody Mortenson, Larry Wigern

Jan. 2: Maren Holst, Ashley Logsdon

Jan. 3: Graeson Gerken, Ellie Gerken, Bennett Kohrs, Megan McCarthy, Mason White

Jan. 4: Kit Busch, Nikki Eggenberger, Elliot Grimley, Judy McEwen, Sarah Nutt, Ben Roberson

Jan. 5: Julia Atkinson, Quinn Kittelson, Andrew Krehbiel, Damon Schmiegl

Jan. 6: William Atkinson

Jan. 7: Brooke Bee, Evan Huettl, Jessica Narum, Eve Sievers

Jan. 8: Kenneth Cady, Arnold Clare, Eric Swiggum, Rylee Thieren

Jan. 9: Everett Dinsmore, Olivia Gates, Carole Halpaus

Jan. 10: Lynette Benitt, Scott Breuer, Jeff Erickson, Thomas Frank, Charlotte Grimley, Emma Kopp, Dwain Lambert

Jan. 11: Landon Olsen, John Plote

Jan. 12: Emma Berge, Mary Meincke, Marcus Oeklers, Jaxon Porisch

Jan. 13: Juliane Dennis, Carl Kozlowski, David Roach

Jan. 14:

Jan. 15: Janet Chestnut, Barbara Groth, Audry Plote

Jan. 16: Seth Heitman

Jan. 17: Luther Berkeland, Brent Blattner, Logan Janka, Brad Krehbiel, Cory Wurst

Jason & Katie Bee

Jan. 18: Esther Gullixson, Amanda Johnson, Alexa Pflaum

Jan. 19: Sharon Eggenberger

Jan. 20: Robert Carlson, Zachary Griebenow, Russell Johnson, Wyatt Kennedy, Miranda Koehler, Gage Kranz, Sydney Ringeisen

Jan. 21: Carole Helgerson

Jan. 22: Wanda Wiebusch

Jan. 23: Josh Brown, Kathy Tesch, Molly Thieren

Jan. 24: Heidi Berge, Nolan Bruske, Kathei Majerus

Jan. 25: Ben Meyer, Shon Thieren

Jeremy & Kerri Reese

Jan. 26: Bobbi Craig, Sherry Earle, Marissa Gunhus, Lonnie West

Jan. 27: Lisa Stevenson

Troy & Jill Ziebell

Jan. 28: Sonda Featherstone, Conner Ferguson, Barbara Johnson, Shef Massey, Bruce Wallerich

Jan. 29: Amy Alkire, Sandy Bendickson, Audrey Breuer, Kim Vetter

Joe & Jenna Kells

Jan. 30: Ashlynn Dudley, Theodore Leafblad

Jan. 31: Rachel Fick, Carrie Griebenow, Steven Knudsen, Kyle Pavlak, Joseph Sievers

Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski; Diane Murray; Jennifer Hart (sister of Julie LeCaptain); Rand Conway; Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe); Susan Dailey, Loren Walters (brother of Diane Keyport), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson'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.

Ministry Assignments

| Date Duty | January 5 | January 12 | January 19 | January 26 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| LECTOR | Kim Ask-Carlson | Ava Carlson-Penn | needed | Meg Fitterer |
| GREETERS | Gnotke Family | Ohlhaber Family | Luhman Family | Reid Meyer Family |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Rylee Thieren needed | Meg Fitterer Laura Fitterer | Carson Mickelson Veronica Mickelson needed | needed needed needed |
| USHERS | Ava Emerson Heide Emerson | Rylee Thieren Meg Fitterer | needed needed | Ava Carlson-Penn Shantel Carlson |
| ALTAR GUILD | Kim Ask-Carlson Kathie Majerus | Milly Gagnon Becky Schultze | | Sandy Bendickson Karen Heise |
| Acolyte | Brody Otterson | Evan Olson | Trace Meyer | Henry Nelson |
| COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | needed | needed | needed | needed |
| Council Member on Duty | | | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Christmas Clean-Up 10am | 6 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm | 7 Scout Committee Mtg 6:30pm | 8 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm | 9 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Baptism of Our Lord Worship/Celebration of those Baptized 9am Sunday School 10am | 13 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm | 14 FLC Quilters 8:30am | 15 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm | 16 Church Council 6:30pm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10am Sunday School 10am | 20 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm | 21 Book Group 6:30pm | 22 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5-15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Worship 9am Usher Training following worship Sunday School 10am | 27 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm | 28 FLC Quilters 8:30am | 29 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5-15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth Group 8pm | 30 | 31 | |