

April 2025

# Firs\* Things

*Living the unconditional Grace & Love of Jesus Christ in the world.*



## 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](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)

Melissa Ackermann, *Coord. of Youth Ministry*

[melissa.ackermann@firstlc.org](mailto:melissa.ackermann@firstlc.org)

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

[heidi.berge@firstlc.org](mailto:heidi.berge@firstlc.org)

Kerstin Suby, *Music Administrator and Organist*

[kerstin.suby@firstlc.org](mailto:kerstin.suby@firstlc.org)

Karyn Moechnig, *Admin. Assistant*

[Karyn.moechnig@firstlc.org](mailto:Karyn.moechnig@firstlc.org)

Loren Prigge, *Custodian*



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS**

**Palm Sunday - April 13**

9:00am

**Maundy Thursday - April 17**

7:00pm

**Good Friday - April 18**

3:00pm

**Easter Sunday - April 20**

7:00am

9:30am

## **LENT 2025: "What does the Baptized Life Look Like?"**

April 2 - Elizabeth Fedde  
April 9 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Worship with Holden Evening Prayer is at 5:30 and soup supper will be served immediately following worship.

## Running with Perseverance

When Pastor Kary and I chose the Lenten theme, “What the Baptized Looks Like,” with the idea that we would get to know the saints who have their commemoration days during Lent, I wasn’t sure how it would go... but I didn’t have any better ideas either! As it turns out, it has been just what I have needed.

To do what we are called by God to do – to be disciples of Jesus – it takes support. It takes focus. It takes discipline, and encouragement. That’s what I have found as I prepared to share the stories of some saints, and heard with you about others.

It is easy to feel like we live in uniquely challenging times, and the path of discipleship is unclear. I remember not too long ago there was some conversation among preachers (and journalists too, and some others) about stopping using the word “unprecedented.” But there’s a reason we wanted to use it all the time! In the church, we can feel we are in uncharted territory as, on the one hand, many people around us don’t profess faith and don’t give religion the respect it once had, and on the other hand, many people who profess to be Christians don’t seem to share values with think are basic to following Jesus. Add to all this all our personal challenges – relationships, financial situation, health and aging, etc. – and it can be pretty overwhelming to even know where to begin in our call to follow Jesus.

Then I started researching people like Harriet Tubman, who freed herself from slavery, and then risked life and freedom again and again to free others. And Oscar Romero, who watched his home country of El Salvador being torn apart by strife, but stood in the gap, courageously calling for peace, justice, and dignity for all. And Dietrich Bonhoeffer struggled to keep the church faithful to Jesus in the face of a Nazi takeover. Each of them had the right to use the word “unprecedented,” and to feel they were facing uniquely challenging times! And the sense of being on your own, and abandoned by fellow Christians – the people who were trying to kill them probably considered themselves Christians! And they had doubts, but still they also found a way to follow Jesus’ call in ways that inspire us today.

Studying their lives, I see patterns that sustained them, and can sustain us, too. The basic disciplines of the Christian life sustained them: worship and communion, Bible study and preaching, Christian community, prayer, and confessing their sins. They were not as effective or successful as they might have wanted to be, but they were faithful. Not understanding all they might want to understand, they understood what it would take to live with integrity. Not having all the clarity they might want, they were given enough clarity to act.

The encouragement I received in this time of study reminded me of Hebrew 12:1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by **so great a cloud of witnesses**... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith**...* The saints are that great cloud of witnesses that encourage us in our race!

As we soon turn to Holy Week, we “look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...” The saints ran their races with perseverance because they had Jesus as their trailblazer. So do we. May we partake and receive all the gifts of this season, so that we can be renewed and encouraged in our discipleship, and enter into the Easter season with new strength and joy in our calling.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Paul

## April's Book Group

On Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 pm, we will be discussing "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's** selection is "Love Does" by Bob Goff and we will be meeting May 13. Please note this is a week earlier than our usual schedule.

---

## "Aging Gracefully" Meet Up

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you" (Isaiah 46:4 NIV).

- When: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 4:00 PM (stay for the potluck at 5:30)
- Where: FLC, Fireside Room
- Who: Anyone and Everyone
- Agenda: **Brain Games**



- All 50 + and older FLC members and friends are invited to **MEET UP** and share the games and activities you use for keeping your brain sharp.
- We will discuss the benefits of brain games in improving our thinking skills.

Questions? Contact Patty Svien/svien65@hbc.com

---

## Same Great Group...But A New Name

The group known as "The Quilters" for many years now has a new name because we don't quilt!

We will now be known as "Blanket Blessings". We intend each gifted blanket to be a blessing to the person who receives it; and it is a blessing for us to be able to spend the time together to craft each blanket.

**ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS!** Did you know that FLC offers scholarship to help you continue your education after high school? There are a variety of scholarships offered:

- **ELCA College Scholarship** — First Lutheran encourages and supports our confirmed members to enroll in Lutheran colleges by providing scholarships that are often matched dollar-for-dollar by qualifying institutions. Colleges in the Midwest who are ELCA affiliated include: Luther College (Decorah, IA), Wartburg College (Waverly, IA), Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN), St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN), Concordia College (Moorhead, MN), Augustana College (Sioux Falls, SD), Augsburg College (Minneapolis, MN). Applications can be found online and the deadline for submitting applications to the FLC office is May 1, 2025.
- **Bob Polk College Scholarship** — Bob Polk, a longtime faithful member of FLC who died in July 2015, has generously given money for a scholarship to support FLC confirmed members who are planning a career in a medical field/ health care. Applications can be found online and the deadline for this scholarship application is June 1, 2025.
- **Trades/Technical Scholarship** — First Lutheran has provided financial support for a Trade School scholarship administered by the Greater Lake City Community Foundation. FLC graduating seniors can apply for the Trades School scholarship through the Lincoln High School counselor's office. Applications must be submitted to The Greater Lake City Community Foundation and received by April 15, 2025.

For more information about any of the scholarships or to find the applications, please visit our website [firstlc.org](http://firstlc.org) and find the "College" page under the "Youth & Family Ministry" tab. Questions can be answered by contacting Patty Svien at 651-380-8752 or via email at [svien65@hbc.com](mailto:svien65@hbc.com).

---

## **New on the calendar – music ensemble of *Iglesia Cristiana Labranza de Dios***

We have a congregation in Lake City that doesn't have a permanent home yet. They meet for worship at Valley View Assembly of God and worship in Spanish. Their musical ensemble has been rehearsing at FLC some Saturdays. You'll see it on the calendar as "Iglesia rehearsal."

If you need to schedule a Saturday event, go ahead and let the office know and we will inform the group if there is a conflict – the musicians know the building will not always be available.

And if you know of a place in town they could rent, buy or build – they are interested!

---

## **Signing up for Worship Roles – Online Option**

FLC is now using Sign-Up Genius in addition to the paper sign-up sheets on the kiosk at church. A link will be part of each week's Connections email. You can sign up to usher, serve coffee, read the lessons, serve communion, and any other role that may be needed. You will see – it really just looks like a sign-up sheet, but you can access it from anywhere. It takes just a minute to sign up, and it will even send you a reminder email. Give it a try!

# Children's Ministry Happenings

## KFC Dates

April 2: No KFC (Spring Break)  
 April 9: Class  
 April 16: No KFC (Easter)  
 April 23: Class  
 April 30: Last Day of KFC  
 May 4: Singing at 9am Service

## Sunday School Dates

April 6: No Sunday School (Spring Break)  
 April 13: Class  
 April 20: No Sunday School (Easter)  
 April 27: Class  
 May 4: Singing at 9am Service; Last Day of Class

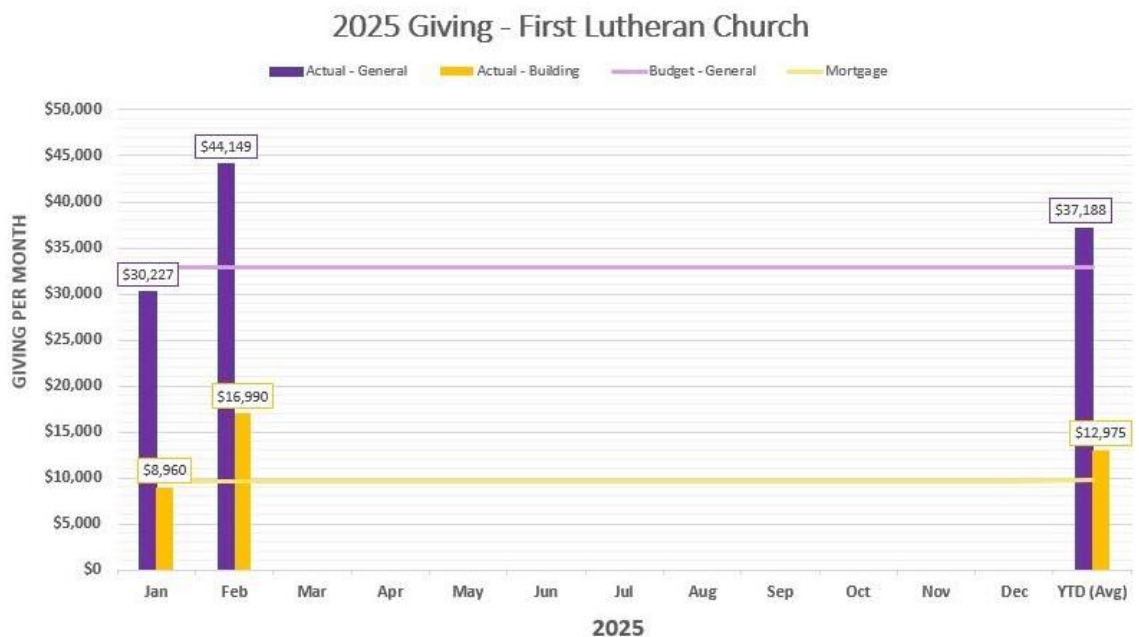
## Changes to the FLC Prayer List

Look for our list of people in special need of prayer in the Newsletter each month. We will no longer print it in the bulletin every Sunday, but we will continue to maintain the list – and we will have room for more names this way. We will continue to include these names in our Sunday prayers as well, although perhaps not all of them every week.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or have someone you would like to ask prayers for, tell a pastor or contact the office.

If you would like to be added to the email prayer ministry, which includes timely updates to the prayer list throughout the month, contact the office.

# Financials



# Youth Ministry Happenings

## Confirmation Wednesday Schedule Changes During April:

Wednesday, April 2 - No Programming due to Spring Break

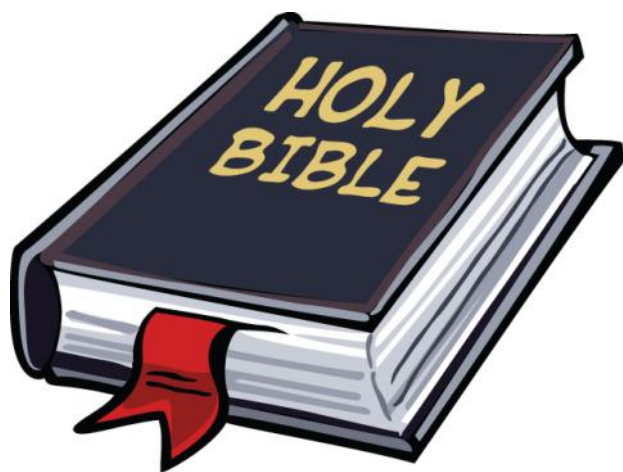
Wednesday, April 16 - No Programming due to Holy Week

Wednesday, April 23 - Back to regular confirmation schedule, 6-8pm

Sunday, April 27 - 9th Grade Confirmation Worship Adventure (watch email for details)

---

## **Bible Buddies Sunday is Coming!**



### **6th Gr. Students & Parents:**

Mark your calendars for May 4th  
Special presentation and blessing during  
9am worship

Sunday, May 4th

Watch your email for details

---

Senior High  
Youth!

You're Invited:

Contact Melissa for More Info



10-12 Grade  
Wed, Apr. 30th  
7:00-8:00pm

Snacks provided,  
Bring your own drink

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

**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

*Bruce & Jody Carlson*

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

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

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

**Apr. 8:** Megan Ahrens, Eileen Carlson,  
Marian Dittfach, Kay Harms, Ashley  
Holmgren, Eli Jackson, 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, Jan Moe, 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

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

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

**Apr. 21:** Mac Baird, Scott Bignell, Rick  
Boos, 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, Nancy Spooner-Mueller, Daniel  
Tesch

**Apr. 28:** Hannah Alitz

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

*Jack & Brigette 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); Wally and Susan Dailey, Loren Walters (brother of Diane Keyport), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Kathy Walstrom (daughter of Eloise Blattner), Carol Dollar, Faye Conway, Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Violet (granddaughter of Susan & Walter Dailey), Mary Johnson

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.

Date Duty	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 17 Maundy Thursday	April 18 Good Friday	April 20 Easter 7:00am	April 20 Easter 9:30am	April 27
<b>LECTOR</b>	Cheryl Luettinger	Dave Ender	Cheryl Luettinger	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED
<b>GREETERS</b>	Luhman Family	Cobb Family	NEEDED	NOT NEEDED	Atkinson Family	Gnotke Family	Carlson Family
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	Liz Carlstrom NEEDED	NOT NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED
<b>USHERS</b>	Meg Fitterer Rylee Thieren	Audrina Meyer NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	NOT NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED	Larry & Kathy Wigern
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Liz Carlstrom Bruce Carlstrom		Milly Gagnon Becky Schultz	NOT NEEDED	Milly Gagnon Becky Schultz		Susan Dailey Sandy Bendickson
<b>ACOLYTE</b>		Evan Olson				Henry Nelson	Grace Dunn
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	Tami & Dave Ender						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Worship 9am NO SS	7 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm	8 Blanket Blessings 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 9pm	9 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Worship 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6:15-7pm Bells 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	10 Ageing Gracefully Meet-Up 4pm Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	11	12 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Adult Forum 10am	14 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm	15 Book Group 6:30pm	16 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1pm NO KFC NO CONFIRMATION Bells 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship 7pm Communion Blessing	18 <b>Good Friday</b> Worship 3pm	19 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
20 <b>Easter</b> Worship 7am Worship 9:30am NO SS	21 <b>Easter Monday</b> OFFICE CLOSED	22 Blanket Blessings 8:30am	23 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	24 Church Council 6:30pm	25	26 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
27 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	28 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm	29	30 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm KFC 3-5pm (last day) Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth Group 8pm			