

First Things

May 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

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Kerstin Suby, Music Administrator and Organist

kerstin.suby@firstlc.org

Karyn Moechnig, Admin. Assistant

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Loren Prigge, Custodian

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

First Lutheran Church has been blessed to have a Labyrinth built just outside our sanctuary in 2021. Generous donations and many hands helped build this Labyrinth in 2021.

A Labyrinth is a place for connecting with God, spirit and self. By walking the Labyrinth one can be mindful and focus on an intention of gratitude, forgiven, hope, healing or whatever is needed from God's arsenal of blessings.

On May 3rd at 1 PM, participants are invited to "Walk as One at 1" by walking a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

First Lutheran members are invited to the FLC Labyrinth and walk the path at 1 pm joining all who are walking labyrinths around the world.

For more information on World Labyrinth day, visit worldlabyrinthday.org.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Mark your calendar for our National Day of Prayer observance on Thursday, May 1 at 6:00pm at the Patton Park gazebo. This is a nonpartisan prayer event to pray for all of our national, state, and local leaders regardless of politics.

THE QUILTERS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK

preparing quilts for FLC's graduating seniors. Seniors will receive their quilts as well as a blessing on Sunday, June 1. Thank you to these women for creating such beautiful quilts for our young people to remember their home congregation



May is jam-packed with significant events; Mother's Day, Graduation from high school and college and then, closing with Memorial Day weekend. This month is busy with days that carry a great deal of meaning in our lives. I am sharing some scripture readings (Common English Bible [CEB]) for these days in order to connect them to our lives as followers of Jesus.

Mother's Day

Ephesians 5:1-2a

Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

2 Timothy 1:3-5

I'm grateful to God, whom I serve with a good conscience as my ancestors did. I constantly remember you in my prayers day and night. When I remember your tears, I long to see you so that I can be filled with happiness. I'm reminded of your authentic faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I'm sure that this faith is also inside you.

Psalms 139:13-14

You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb. I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

Graduation

Romans 12:2

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Jeremiah 29:11

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Memorial Day

John 15:13

No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends.

Romans 12:9-13

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Kary

Staff Transition

We want to share with you what Melissa Ackermann, our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, and Heidi Berge, our Coordinator of Children’s Ministries, have shared with us: that both of them have reflected on their time in these roles and feel it is the right time to step aside. Both feel that the best timeframe will be to make way for new leadership coming into the fall program year.

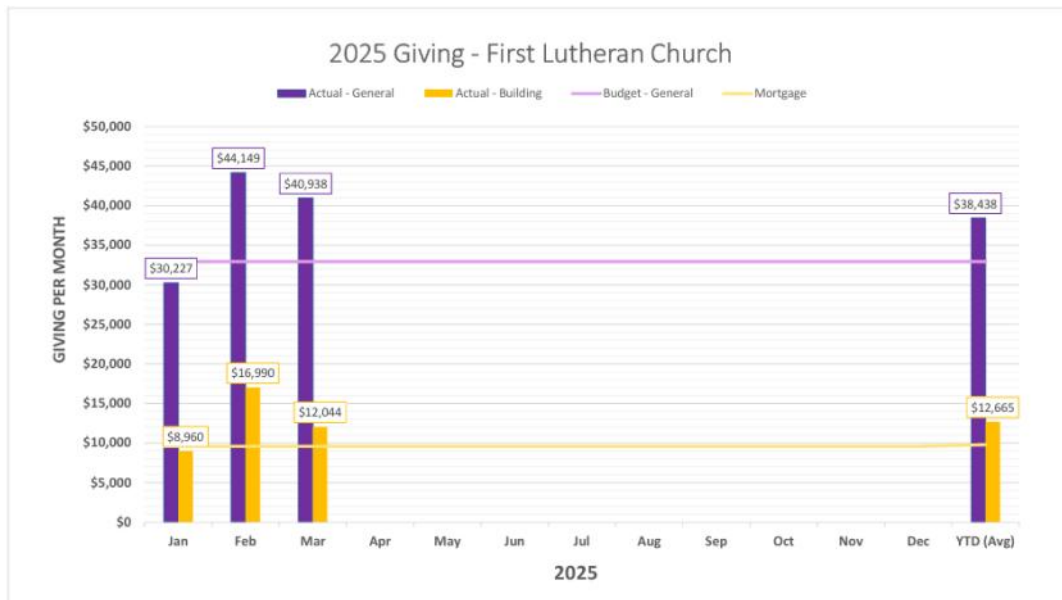
We are making plans to give the congregation an opportunity to acknowledge and thank Heidi and Melissa, but both have important events yet to lead, so we will wait until they’ve had a chance to do that. They have done us a big favor in sharing these plans in advance so that we can ensure a good transition.

There is always some sadness and uncertainty when we have servant leaders in the church who are leaving their familiar roles. Heidi and Melissa have served well and faithfully, and God has touched many lives through their work. But there is also much to celebrate: this is not “goodbye” since Melissa and Heidi plan to continue to be active in our church and community. And these programs are going strong, so it is as good a time as any for a transition.

Almost 9 years ago, FLC had a need for new leaders in these ministries and took a very creative approach: find the people with the passion and the gifts to lead them, and then structure the work to fit the gifts. The result was a consistent and resilient ministry arrangement that lasted many years. This is where we are beginning again now. Perhaps you who are reading this are one of those people who has some of the gifts we need, or you know of someone who could do this. Let’s talk! And everyone who is reading this can prepare to support the process in your own way.

We are so blessed in this congregation by the wonderful children and youth among us! As church leaders, we are thankful for the presence of children, and proud of the ways this church has served them with Melissa and Heidi in the lead. We are committed to maintaining these ministries. And we know that God loves our children and youth even more than we do, and will bless our efforts.

Pastor Paul Miller and Kjell Alkire, President, for the Council



May Book Group

On Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm, we will meet to discuss "Love Does" by Bob Goss.

"Can a simple concept shift your entire world? Bob 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?"

Please join us for what promises to be an interesting and fun discussion.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make the Soup Suppers a success again this year!

Leaders of the Teams who deserve special thanks are Janet & Jeff Chestnut, Greg Gilman, Marie & Todd Severson and Ashley Harkins, Mary Johnson's Crew and Mary Gravenish & Family.

Thanks also to everyone on the Teams who contributed bars and provided the help needed to serve our Congregation for this yearly event.

Bless you all for a job well done.

Mary Johnson, Coordinator



"Joyfully Aging" 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, May 8, 4:00 PM (stay for the potluck at 5:30)
- Where: FLC, Outside near the playground
- Who: Anyone and Everyone
- Agenda: **Kubb (koob)**; come learn to play this Swedish lawn game.
- All 50 + and older FLC members and friends are invited to **MEET UP Kubb**. The object of the game is to knock over wooden blocks (kubar) by throwing wooden batons (kastpinnar) at them. A combination of bowling and horseshoes.

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

LET US KNOW.....If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

Dine and Don't Dash (Restructuring Dine Around)

Our church enjoyed the fellowship involved in the Dine Around program from 2006-2018, which was a social commitment to host a meal for eight in your home (or place of your choosing). Each couple/pair would host one time during the season providing the main course with the other 3 couples providing specific portions of the meal, such as salad, dessert, etc. Typically, dinner is served but brunch or lunch may be done if it is more workable for your monthly group. The groups will rotate so you won't be dining with the same group each month.

The season was typically about six months (often omitting the winter months when many are away). The proposed restructuring of this adults only program for the 2025-2026 season would be August, September, October, March, April, May.

It was a great program to get to know your fellow worshipers on a more personal level than a handshake during church when sharing the peace.

This year the host couple would be encouraged to offer some kind of entertainment to prolong the evening so that it doesn't become a dine and dash program. Something like a board game, a sing along, Scrabble, card game...whatever your imagination comes up with.

If anyone is interested in rejuvenating this fun, social program, please sign up at the Welcome Center during the month of May or contact Mavis Hawkins at 651-428-9201. (If you are a single person, ask a friend to partner with you or we can assist in finding you a partner.)

Summer Worship Schedule

With some exceptions, our summer Wednesday services have had very low attendance, so this year the last Wednesday service for the Spring will be on the last Wednesday of confirmation, 5/14. We will resume that service in the fall. Watch the June newsletter for some extra summer worship opportunities that will take their place. Summer is a great time to try out some times and formats that may serve summer travelers and visitors, and to get outdoors if the weather permits.

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. Click [here](#) and give it a try!

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS...Scholarship deadlines fast approaching!!

- **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**.

For more information about any of the scholarships or to find the applications, please visit our website 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.

Children’s Ministry

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

May 4th — Sunday School and KFC kiddos sing at 9AM worship
10:00-11:00AM Last Day of Sunday School

August 11– 14th — VBS SET SAIL
Vacation Bible School [Registration](#)

Watch FIRST THINGS and email for upcoming events for youth and families!!



Mark your calendars for events coming this month:

Wednesday, May 7 & 14 (6-8pm) - Final Confirmation Lessons

Sunday, May 18 - End-of-Year Confirmation Party, 7th grade (6-8pm)

May 4th is Bible Buddies Sunday!



6th Grade Families:

Special presentation and blessing during
9am worship

Meet your student's Bible Buddies

**Please Join Us for
Confirmation Sunday:**



Celebrate our FLC 9th Graders
May 18th during 9am worship as
they affirm the promises made on
the day of their baptism.

**Families with
Graduating Seniors:**



**Join Us to Celebrate
Senior Recognition Sunday**
June 1 during 9am Worship

Students and parents will receive a special
blessing and a personal gift. A celebration
will be held in the gathering area
immediately following the worship service.

**STUDENTS, PLEASE RETURN YOUR RSVP TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MAY 15th!**

Senior High Youth!
You're Invited



10-12 Grade
Wed, May 28th
7-8pm

Snacks provided, bring
your own drink!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 1: Lindsey Morgan, Jacob Suckow, Deborah Tiedeman

May 2:

Mark & Priscilla Converse, Douglas & Anne Pflaum

May 3: Thomas Nutt, Gail Schmit, William Webster

May 4: Amy Rogness

May 5: Anna Johnson

Cory & Nikki Wurst

May 6: Ava Olson

Aaron & Missy Ferguson, Sean & Tarri Gnotke, Lawrence & Patty Svien

May 7: Daniel Bignell, Deb Grimley Bremer, Kayla Langhans, Bill Otto, Whitney Rolbiecki

Dick & Mary Sitta

May 8: Jimmy Anderson, Jennifer Durgin, Philip Gartner, Mac Heise

May 9: Miranda Dudley, Cassidy Dudley, Michael Eggenberger, Katie Gilman, Michael Sprick, Jane Webster-Urbach

Raymond & Delane Krier

May 10: Nicholas Albright, Sig Anderson

Veronica & Jeffrey Mickelson

May 11: Nathan Fuchs, Carol Schmidt

Nicholas & Candace Dudley

May 12: Karen Heise, Val Janka, Ramsey Meyer

Tom & Mary Jane Rasmussen

May 13: Deb Harteneck, Sandra Libor, Chelsey Smith

Richard & Janice Shequen

May 14: Kristen McCarthy, Randy Meincke

May 15: Matt Berlin, Cedric Larson, Robert Rasch

May 16: Heath Oeltjen, Tom Proud, Sandy Swan, Gerald Tobias

May 17: Rick Bremer, Turdy Roach, Jo Ann Thompson

Bruce & Elizabeth Carlstrom, James & Bobbi Craig, Tanner & Megan Meincke, Dave & Becky Schultze

May 18: Jodi Crecelius

Mike & Carrie Griebenow, Sheri & Jeremy Sommer, Ernie & Jo Ann Thompson, Tina & Darin Wallerich

May 19: Allen Blattner, John Kirkwood, Kellen Meyer, Dale Sogla, Deann Windhorst

May 20: Maddie Gates, Brooklyn Gates, Bruce Lichtblau, Mark Lutjen

May 21: Eunice Blattner, Cindy Boehlke, Britton Cobb, David Harms, Luke Janka, William Johnson, McKenzie McCoy

Jim & Kathy Rodester

May 22: Heide Emerson, Amanda Jackson, Dick Sitta

Kit & Tim Busch, Troy & Kathi Soden

May 23: Lauren Meyer, Tyler Pribyl

May 24: Chase Moechnig, John Mortenson

Ed & Anne Towey

May 25: Robert Keim, Brenik Rolbiecki, Sara Thompson, Diane Walters-Keyport, Randall Zanto

Kenny & Judy McEwen

May 26: Beth Krehbiel, Veronica Mickelson, Rachel Nelson, Amy Roberson, Brent Urbach

May 27: Rebecca Gagnon, Douglas Pflaum

Rich & Liz Alitz, Pat & Cindy Ebert

May 28: Jason Banks, Niklas Nilsson

May 29: Tyler Chestnut, Megan Harms, Connie Sylak

Kjellgren & Amy Alkire, Josh & Nicole Brown

May 30: Lorraine Heitmann, Troy Soden

May 31: Scott Knudsen, Don Mueller

Tom & Deborah West

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 & Bob Johnson, Kathy Hollman, Randi Kirchner & Family, Erica (Patty & Laurie Svien's daughter)

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	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1
LECTOR	Jenny Schlagenhaft	needed	needed	needed	needed
GREETERS	Ohlhaber Family	Porisch Family	Klein Family	Bennett Kohrs Family	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jenny Schlagenhaft Tim Schlagenhaft needed	Kathy Wigern needed	needed needed	needed needed needed	needed needed needed
USHERS	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Susan Dailey Sandy Bendickson	Kathie Majerus Liz Enger		Marcia Holst Esther Gullixson	
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	needed	needed	needed	Ross & Sandy Bendickson	needed
Acolyte	Atticus Alkire	Jaxon Porisch	Bennett Kittelson		

Ministry Duty sign-ups can be found on the kiosk in the Gathering Area or Online: click [here](#)

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.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Worship 9am Baptism Bible Buddies SS Sing at Worship Sunday School 10am (Last Day)</p>	<p>5 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm</p>	<p>6 Hispanic Inclusion 6pm</p>	<p>7 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>8 Joyfully Aging Meet Up 4pm Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Max Rogness Grad Party (Private)</p>
<p>11 Mother's Day Worship 9am</p>	<p>12 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm</p>	<p>13 Blanket Blessings 8:30am Book Group 6:30pm</p>	<p>14 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm (Last Day) Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm</p>	<p>15 Church Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>16 Wedding rehearsal</p>	<p>17 Wedding (Holand/Kranz) at Hok sila</p>
<p>18 Worship 9am Confirmation Sunday 7th Gr Confirmation Party</p>	<p>19 Cub Scouts 6-7pm Boy Scouts 7-8pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1pm</p>	<p>22 Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 Wedding (Bailey/Ziebel) in Pepin need parking lot</p>	<p>24 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm</p>
<p>25 Worship 9am</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27 Blanket Blessings 8:30am</p>	<p>28 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm High School Youth Group 7-8pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Synod Assembly</p>	<p>31 Synod Assembly Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm</p>