

Firs* Things

July 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

Loren Prigge, *Custodian*

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

First Lutheran Church of Lake City celebrated its graduating seniors on June 1st. Each senior received a blessing and a handmade quilt made by the church quilters.



Front: Alaina Johnson-Nadeau, Hannah Weinrich, Sydnee Stolzenberg, Adison Cole

Middle: Ada Alkire, Mallorie Carlson, Cameron Thieren, Asher Bee, Braxton Berlin

Back: Brayden Burgeson, Carter West, Maxwell Rogness, Dominik Hoffman, Nils Olson, Eric Anderson

SCHOLARSHIPS

Cassidy Dudley, sophomore attending Carthage College in Kenosha, WI and will be pursuing a degree in nursing.

Max Rogness will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN this fall leaning toward a degree in Education.

Alaina Johnson-Nadeau will be attending Luther College in Decorah, IA this fall. She will be studying exercise science.

Nils Olson will be attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN this fall and has yet to determined his major.

Patty Svien leads the group to raise funds for scholarships to FLC graduates attending ELCA colleges. Most ELCA colleges provide matching grants for congregational funds. The main fundraiser for this effort has been the Scandinavian breakfast and bake sale.

It's summer and so I try to make some time for reading. These are the books that are on my nightstand.

Reading Genesis by Marilynne Robinson

First, I admit, I love Marilynne Robinson's writing. She has a way of communicating that speaks to my brain. This nonfiction book describes her encounter with the book of Genesis, a book filled with amazing biblical stories, and I can't wait to hear her take on Sarah, Abraham and Hagar as well as the Joseph saga.

Isola by Allegra Goodman

I just finished this wonderful book last month so it's no longer on my nightstand but worth a read. This is a work of historical fiction based on an account of a young French woman in the sixteenth century who is abandoned on an island off Canada by her guardian...not a nice guy. It's a story of a woman with grit, perseverance against all odds in a time when women had very little power.

Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies by N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird

This book's questions, "what is our role as Christians in public and political life?" N.T. Wright has written some wonderful (and sometimes weighty) books on themes like the kingdom of God and the resurrection of Jesus. In this book, Wright and Bird try to answer this question by examining what the bible says as well as Church history to come to some conclusions about the call of Christians today in our current political climate.

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

I ran across a trailer for a movie based on this book but want to read the book first. It is a true account of a married couple, married for 32 years who lose everything and then decide to walk the South West Coast Path (Somerset to Dorset, through Devon and Cornwall) in England. Oh, and he has just learned he has a terminal illness.

The Museum of Failures by Thrity Umrigar

There are certain authors one just must read all their books. For me, Thrity Umrigar is one of those authors. This book is described as a "powerful story about family secrets, a mother's power and the importance of forgiveness." I'm on board for it.

The Forty Year Kiss by Nickolas Butler

I've just finished this gem of a book. Butler is an author who lives outside of Eau Claire so most of his books are set in western Wisconsin. This is a tale about a couple who married briefly during their younger years and find their way back to each other. It has many layers and it more character-driven than action-packed, but it is so rare that writers take a deep dive into the inner lives of people in "the twilight years" so I really enjoyed it.

Other books: Fox by Joyce Carol Oates, 33 Place Brugmann by Alice Austen, All She Carried by Tiya Miles and I Cheerfully Refuse by Leif Enger.

I'd love to know what is on your reading list this summer.

Happy reading!

Pastor Kary

Hearing During Worship

Throughout the year, the pastors as well as members of the Church Council have heard comments from a number of people who are having difficulty hearing during the worship service. To respond to these concerns, the pastors, several Council members and Heath Oeltjen held an informal gathering after worship on Sunday, June 22 to hear these concerns, share tips and ideas for what works for some as well as float some solutions.

Here are some notes from that meeting:

- Hearing the sermon clearly was identified as a major concern
- Those who speak or read are better heard if they speak slowly with clear word separation, speaking directly into the microphone without turning to the left, right, or looking down.
- People want to hear AND understand, so speakers could summarize what they are saying/reading.
- Those who will be reading can come early and test the microphone to ensure that their voice is easy to hear.
- There is a phone app called “ListenWiFi” that can be downloaded onto a phone, and using the church’s network, will transmit through headphones or hearing aids. The Sound/Video staff can help navigate this. There are a couple phones and plenty of headphones to use, located at the Sound/Video area.
- Those who wear hearing aids have found there are “sweet spots” to sit and hear well. Sitting on the aisle in the middle of pews, about half-way to the altar, works well. Sitting in the narthex is good. The choir loft is a difficult place to hear.
- Since the sound system is 20+ years old, perhaps bringing in some specialists that can test the digital equalizer, placement of speakers, etc. might be considered. Perhaps a “Sound Committee” could be formed.
- Live captioning apps are available.
- Heath is able to add closed captioning to the weekly YouTube recordings for those who watch services on their television/devices.
- Sermons could be printed out before services for those who wish to read along.
- Auracast Bluetooth transmitter technology is being developed, which would be useful for those with hearing aids.

Please continue to keep us informed of what is working or not working for you if you are struggling to hear in worship. If you have any questions about any of the apps or technology listed above, please also let us know. As worship leaders and Council members, we take your concerns seriously and are committed to helping find solutions so that all can participate and engage in our worship life.

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), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Mary & Bob Johnson, Cindy Whitcomb, Dave & Kay Harms, Deb Tiedeman, the family of Barb Follstad, the family of Ron Stoerzinger.

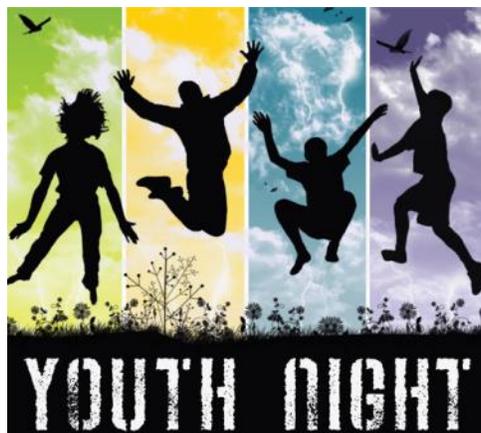
Would you like your name or a loved one added to FLC’s prayer list? Please contact the FLC Prayer Connection at firstlutheranprayerconnection@gmail.com or the FLC office.

Mark your calendars for events coming this month:

July 5-13 - Summer Trip to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
Hillside, Colorado



Senior High
Youth:
You're Invited...



10-12th Grade
Summer Bonfire
Wed. July 30th
7:30-8:30pm

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	3	4 Fourth of July OFFICE CLOSED	5 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
6 Worship 9am	7	8 Blanket Blessings 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	9 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	10 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	11	12 Fugstad's 60th Anniversary Party 1-4pm — All are welcome!
13 Worship 9am	14 Craft Night 6-8pm, Fireside Rm	15	16 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1pm	17 Church Council 6:30pm	18	19 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
20 Worship 9am	21	22 Blanket Blessings 8:30am Funeral of Barb Follstad (time TBD)	23 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	24	25	26 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
27 Worship 9am	28	29	30 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	31		