

Firs* Things

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

August 2025



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 Peace Ridge
Lake City, MN 55041

651-345-5003
info@firstlc.org
www.firstlc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday at 9am

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

Heidi Berge
Coord. of Children's Ministry
heidi.berge@firstlc.org

Kerstin Suby
Music Administrator & Organist
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Jennifer White
Congregational Administrator
jennifer.white@firstlc.org

Loren Prigge, Custodian



Summer Camp Builds Faith

Pictured left to right: Ava Emerson, Klara Schmidt, Mike Ackermann, Meg Fitterer, Melissa Ackermann, Ava Carlson-Penn, Ariana Talbert.

See article on page 5

Fall Children's Programs Registration Open!

FIRST LUTHERAN
SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTER NOW!
SEPT. 7TH RALLY DAY
MEET YOUR TEACHER
SUNDAYS 10-11AM
PREK-6TH GRADE WELCOME!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
... K.F.C. ...
Kids for Christ
Registration
Wednesdays
3-5pm
Sept 24-April 29
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Kindergarten - 6th Grade
\$20 per child

Enrollment for Sunday School and KFC (Kids for Christ) 2025-26 is now open! Please fill out a form even if your child/children participated last year.

Scan the QR code at the bottom the respective form or...

[Click here](#) for Sunday School Registration form

[Click here](#) for KFC Registration form

Contact Sara Thompson with any questions sara.thompson@firstlc.org

Ministry with Youth and Children

First Lutheran is blessed with a legacy of vibrant ministry with youth and children across decades and generations. On Rally Sunday, September 7th, we will have the opportunity to celebrate these ministries. We'll take that opportunity to celebrate those who have led them so well in the past and those who are being raised up to lead them in the future.

Even as we bless leaders and give thanks for them, it is always a good time to remember that these ministries have been entrusted to us all. As Jesus' disciples, we are called to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them (Mt. 28:19-20). In a time of staff transition, it is especially appropriate to remember that this is not something that certain church staff do, or that pastors do, or certain key volunteers, but something that the whole congregation, and every disciple, is called to do.

Let me share some ideas that help to guide my thinking about this ministry we share.

Family ministry. Lutherans have a strong history and legacy of acknowledging that faith grows in the home, and that parents and family are the first and foremost teachers of the faith to all children and youth. Family life can and should be an experience of Christian community. Whatever else pastors or a congregation can do in forming faith, their first job is equipping and supporting parents.

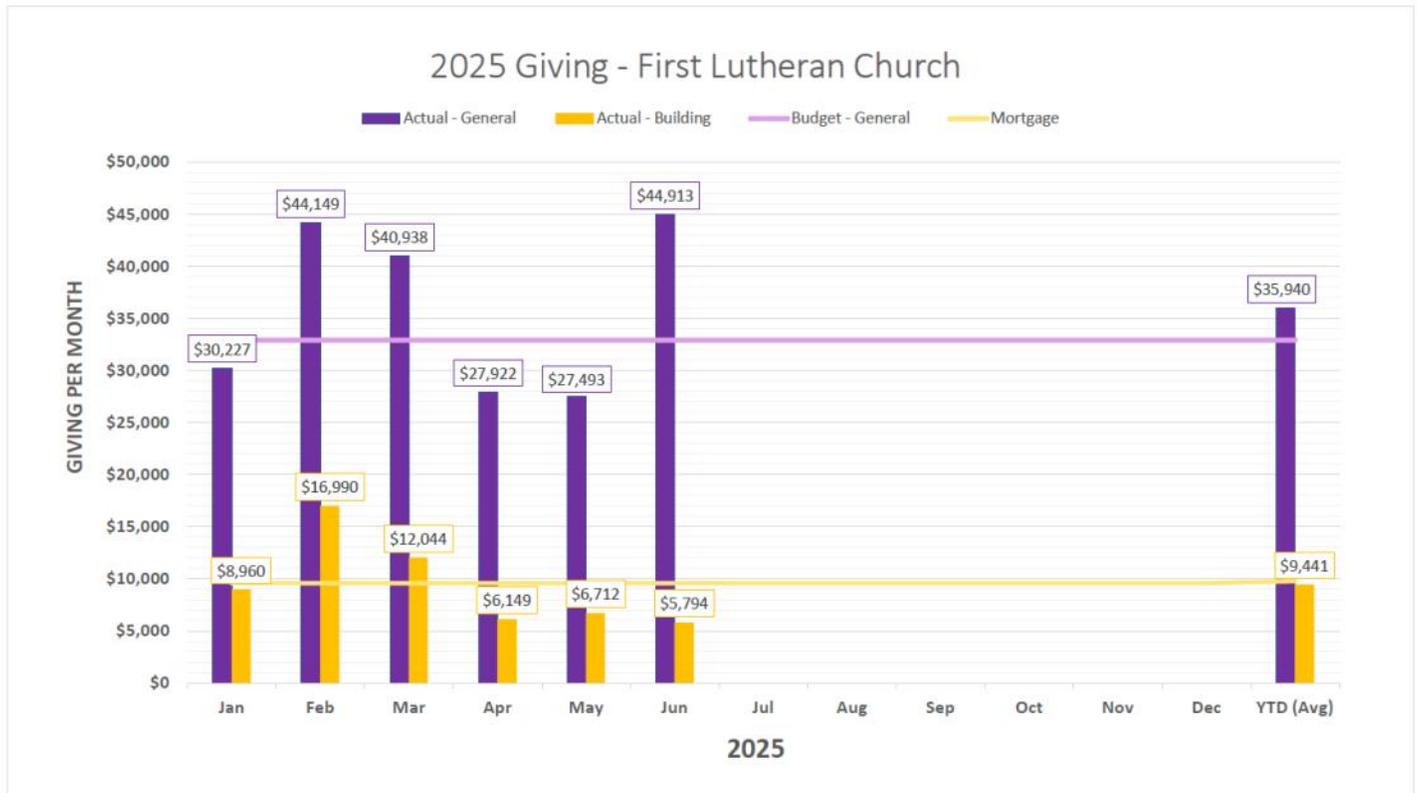
Relationships. Many research studies have confirmed what most of us probably knew – that people come to faith and grow in faith through meaningful relationships with people of faith. It's a pattern we can find many times in the Bible: the Holy Spirit uses disciples of Jesus to make new disciples. It isn't information that changes people – it's people! The shorthand I try to remember is this: "Faith is caught, not taught." Learning content is important and will always be part of ministry with youth and children, but connecting children and youth with people who are examples of faith is even more important.

Welcome. Welcoming and intentional inclusion are important work in a congregation. Every church member probably wonders at some point if they really belong, or we get a little "imposter syndrome" as we think about what it means to be claimed as God's people. And so we foster belonging, and we try to be especially inclusive of people who are visiting or newer members. All of that is very important. But it will improve our ministry greatly to realize that there are a few more groups that are probably often wondering if they belong: all the children, and especially all the youth. All ministry with children and youth is a ministry of welcome and inclusion, assuring them: "You belong. You have a place among God's people, and as part of this congregation."

Faith Formation. This term is increasingly used to help us see how youth and education ministry is really about how faith matures across the whole lifespan and is shared primarily through relationships (see above) and through Christian practices such as prayer, acts of service, worship, and sharing each other's joys and sorrows. As we equip parents and families (see above), we invite them into these patterns that form and grow faith over a lifetime.

This is a summary of my vision for ministry with youth and children. Perhaps a few of you have noticed that I haven't mentioned Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group, summer camp, or KFC. Those are all important tools that are serving us well! But they serve us well precisely because they create welcome and relationships, form faith and equip family ministry. And they aren't the whole story. The work of ministry with children and youth needs to connect to every part of our congregation's life and connect every disciple to this most important work we have: inviting new generations into discipleship.

Together in Christ's service,
Pastor Paul



Music News

Pop-up Choir

Join us for our last Pop-Up Summer Choir at worship on **August 24th**. All are welcome to sing— no prior choir experience is necessary! Meet at 8:15am in the choir room to rehearse the anthem, “This Little Light of Mine.” Copies will be available. Thanks to all who have sung with us in June and July!

Senior Choir & Bells

Mark your calendars! Senior Choir/Bells practice will start **September 10, 2025**.

Polk Scholarship Awarded

Mallorie Carlson, daughter of Andy and Cassie Carlson, has been awarded the Bob Polk Memorial Scholarship for 2025. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin in Lacrosse, WI

in pursuit of a degree in radiology. The Polk Scholarship was established by the Polk Family to support students who are preparing for a medical profession.

Book Group Organizational Meeting

Do you love reading books and talking about them together? Please join us in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran for an organizational meeting of the Book Group on Tuesday, **August 19** at 6:30pm.

Children's Ministry Happenings

Vacation Bible School: August 11-14



First Lutheran Sunday School-aged children will be headed north...TRUE NORTH! Outdoor adventure awaits the week of August 11-14.

Upcoming September Children's Ministry Events:

Sept 2 - Sunday School Teacher Orientation

Sept 7 - RALLY SUNDAY!

- 3-year-old Bible Distribution
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sunday School Teacher Installation
- Meet your Sunday School Teacher

Sept 24 - First Day of KFC

Welcome New Staff Members!

We are delighted to share that First Lutheran has hired two of our current members as staff:

Jennifer White - Congregational Administrator

Sara Thompson - Director of Children's Ministry

Jennifer has begun in the office already and Sara's first day will be August 11 for VBS, overlapping with Heidi Berge.

Mountaintop Summer Camp Experience



In July, Melissa and Mike Ackermann drove across the Midwest with five FLC students for a week of bible camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, nestled in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains. We worshipped under the blue sky and the stars every day and learned what it looks and feels like to put Christ at the center of our lives. We sang praise to God at the tops of our lungs, made a ton of new friends, and experienced new adventures like team high ropes, zip lines, white water rafting and hiking 14 miles to an old mountain mine.

Huge thanks to all the First Lutheran people who have supported summer youth trips financially and in prayer, these experiences are incredible faith builders. Our hearts for God and each other have been changed - what a blessing!

Youth Ministry

Note of Gratitude from Melissa

Most of you already know that July 31 was my last day as Coordinator of Youth Ministries at First Lutheran Church. I am finishing my tenth(!) summer on staff with gratitude for all the blessings this job has brought my family and myself. I feel incredibly fortunate to have walked God's path with you all, especially ALL the students who have brightened my days and strengthened my faith through learning together what Christian community feels like. I am forever grateful to the parents and grandparents who have shared and entrusted your incredible kids to me in this ministry and who have supported and partnered with us through the highs and lows of faith formation over the years. And I continue to be in awe of the way the people of this church love and support the children's and youth ministries of FLC year in and year out - there are no words to accurately express my thanks, but it's clear that God is at work here in the hearts of His people. I truly appreciate all the hugs, words of thanks and well wishes so many of you have

shared with me over these last weeks and I'll carry them with me as I figure out what God has in store for me next. Lastly, I'm not going anywhere, I'll just be back among the volunteers of this special place. So...I'll see you Sunday :) --Melissa

Confirmation Registration & Parent Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 27th

Where: First Lutheran Sanctuary

- 7th & 8th Grade @ 6:30pm
- 9th grade @ 7:30pm

(No students, just parents)

**Confirmation Begins
Sept 3rd - 6-8pm**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug. 1: Wally Dailey, Liv Kozlowski

Aug. 2: Colin Fritz, Jason Meyer

Aug. 3: Sue Benson, KayLee Eichelberger, Valerie Kuchinka

Kristy & Robert Keim

Aug. 4: Nick Majerus, Joshua Oeltjen

Aug. 5: Cindy Ebert, Destiny Tesmer

Bruce & Trissa Wallerich

Aug. 6: Luke Hartzell

Aug. 7: Mike Ackermann, James Craig, Johanna Gates, Kinley Reese

Craig & Cari Kohrs

Aug. 8: Natalie Gnotke, Beth Knudsen

Greg & Heidi Berge, Bob & Kathie Majerus

Aug. 9: Diane Eckhart

Aug. 10: Chris Matzke, Martha Weinrich

Aug. 11: Carter West

Aug. 12: Bob Johnson, Mary Mund

Joshua & Marin Rodewald

Aug. 13: Breckin Harkins, Larry Kehren, Jeffrey Roach

Aug. 14: Charley Belden, Molly Fitterer, Shelia Johnson

Glenn & Heidi Hartzell

Aug. 15:

Jake & Teresa Atkinson, Kris & Mac Baird, Justin & Kimberly Foss

Aug. 16: Addison Ahrens, Dennis Johnson, Isabell Sievers

Aug. 17: Tony Fick, Reid Gastner, Mason Schumacher, Tom Stevenson, Stewart Talbert, Hannah Weinrich, Joseph White

Duane & Claudia Howard

Aug. 18: Anna Olsen

Paul & Patti Tackmann

Aug. 19: Frank Plank, Valya Urbach

Aug. 21: Ellis Ebert, Kylee Ferguson

Aug. 22: Maci Blue, Travis Heitman, Alexander Holmgren, Dale Nibbe, Dutton Schmidt

Dale & Ann Nelson

Aug. 23: Jim Cobb, Adison Cole, Kimberly Foss, Kevin Tesch, Matthew Thompson

Whitney & Josh Rolbeicki

Aug. 24: Niki Nadeau

Jeff & Janet Chestnut

Aug. 25: Parker Atkinson, Brittany Bauer, Kassie Campbell

John & Sherry Earle

Aug. 26: Kadarina Foss, Isaac Sulflow

Aug. 27: Raymond Krier, Scarlett Meyer, Winifred Stretton

Rick Bremer & Cheryl Sprick

Aug. 28: Diane Fuchs, Sofie Irwin, Randy Klipfel, Krystal Krage, Jenny Schlagenhaft

Dean & Joanne Flugstad, William & Ashley Olson

Aug. 29: Brandon Bauer, Christopher Breuer, Erica Wallerich, Kari Weinrich

Chuck & Judy Bremer

Aug. 30: Amy Frank, Jennifer Gunhus

Todd & Marie Severson

Aug. 31: Bernie Dudley, Tyler Frank, Adeline Tackmann

Matthew & Courtney Fick, Mark & Deb Grimley, Steven & Kathy Hegseth

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, Joshua Johnson (nephew of Esther Gullixson).

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	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31 (Labor Day Weekend)
LECTOR	Randi Kirchner	Jenny Schlagenhaft	Cheryl Luettinger	needed	Jenny Schlagenhaft
GREETERS	Jenna Kells	needed	needed	needed	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Kathy Wigern Cheryl Luettinger	Jenny Schlagenhaft Claudia Howard	Kim Ask-Carlson Claudia Howard needed	needed needed	Jenny Schlagenhaft needed
USHERS	Al LeCaptain Jerry Benson	needed needed	Larry & Kathy Wigern	needed needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Susan Dailey Karen Heise	Susan Dailey Karen Heise	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus	Liz Enger Kathie Majerus	Sandy Bendickson Janet Chestnut
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	needed	needed	needed	needed	needed
Council Member on Duty	needed	needed	needed	needed	needed

Sign up for Ministry Duties

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

Sign-up for ministry duties online at SignUpGenius.com. Click on the link or scan the QR code to the right to go directly to the website

Online sign-ups are preferred, however a sign-up sheet has been added to the kiosk. Or call Jennifer to be added. Ministry duty descriptions are available upon request.



Scan above or [click here](https://SignUpGenius.com) for online sign-up.

August 2025

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
3 Worship 9am	4	5 FLC Quilters 8:30am	6 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	7	8 Bike Group Camping/Sleeping in Church leaving Saturday am	9 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm Cajfen Wed. Shower 7am-4pm	
10 Worship 9am	11 VBS8:30-11:30am Craft Night 6-8pm, Fireside Rm	12 Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	13 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm	14 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm →	15	16 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm	
17 Worship 9am Rigelman Baptism	18	19 Book Group Organizational Meeting, 6:30pm	20 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1pm	21 Church Council 6:30pm	22 Bell / Meincke Rehearsal	23 Bell & Meincke Wedding	
24 Worship 9am Atkinson Baptism	25	26 FLC Quilters 8:30am	27 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1pm Confirmation Parent Meetings 7th & 8th Grade, 6:30 9th Grade, 7:30	28	29	30 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm	
31 Worship 9am							