

# Firs\* Things

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

**September 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  
Wednesday at 6:30pm

Watch online at [firstlc.org](http://firstlc.org) or LIVE on YouTube on Sundays.

### STAFF

Paul Miller, *Pastor*  
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*Associate Pastor*  
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Sara Thompson  
*Coord. of Children's Ministry*  
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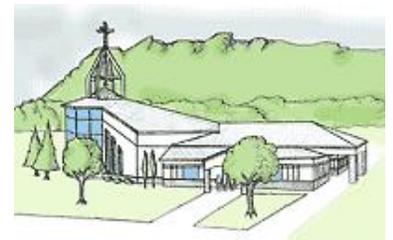
Kerstin Suby  
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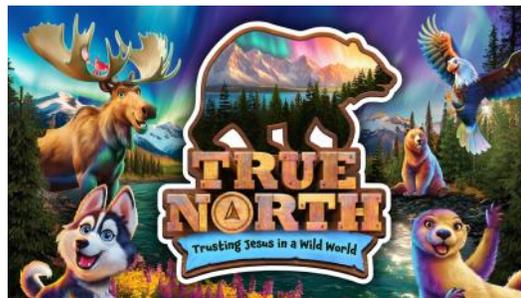
Loren Prigge, *Custodian*

## Building Anniversary Celebration Planned

September 11 marks the 20th anniversary of the first worship in our current building. We plan to commemorate the 20th anniversary of its dedication on Reformation Sunday (October, 26, 2025). Please submit stories, photos, and other memorabilia for display by September 30. Send to [jennifer.white@firstlc.org](mailto:jennifer.white@firstlc.org) or stop by the church office.



## Vacation Bible School Goes Wild



Our First Lutheran building transitioned to the Alaskan wilderness August 10-14. Over 60 kids and volunteers learned how "Trust Jesus in a Wild World" at Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all the families who joined us and all the volunteers who made it happen!



## “We are the Ones They were Making Room For”

This fall, we get to celebrate 20 years in First Lutheran’s present building. The building was dedicated in October 2005 on Reformation Day – and so we will celebrate again on Reformation Day this year, Sunday, October 26th.

When I first saw this building, the first thing I noticed was the setting. I take it for granted now, but the views of the bluffs are stunning. Next I noticed the beauty inside – especially the sanctuary with its simple design and natural light. But as I got a tour, I remember thinking, “this building was put together by people who know how churches get used.” I have come to understand that this building was designed by a congregation that saw how new spaces could make room for new ministries, and new people.

A lot of us weren’t here 20 years ago – but it occurs to me that that is exactly the point. In a conversation about the upcoming anniversary, when I was speaking about the people who have come in the last 20 years, I used the phrase, “we are the ones they were making room for.” My conversation partner said, “Wait – say that again!” I think we realized in that moment that the decision to build this facility is really part of all our stories: some were here then and were part of the decision and all the transition, but the rest of us are the ones who have come to fill the space that was being made in the congregation – both literally and symbolically – for new people.

I have really enjoyed hearing stories these last few years about how this building plan came to be. It is always inspiring to hear about times a congregation tries to do something big for the sake of the mission God has given us. I have come to appreciate, as well, how that time both revealed something about this congregation’s character and continued to shape it in important ways.

There was a lot of risk. And it is hard to shape a vision, and even harder to agree. Most churches would simply never consider such a big move. Others might begin such a venture, only to find their vision wasn’t clear, or the timing wasn’t right, or maybe they had misread the needs of their community, or perhaps entered into the project for the wrong reasons.

Somehow, this congregation did a lot of things right as you took this leap of faith. In looking back, we may see some key moments of clarity, and key leaders whose thoughts and actions set things on a course for fruitful results. It is in looking back, as well, that we can often begin to see God’s guidance and faithfulness in guiding us toward the paths we need to find.

All of that is reason enough to take some time to pause and give thanks this fall, and to tell some of the stories. Because it’s our story now: whether we were here for the groundbreaking, or whether we are ones they were making room for.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Paul

## We Are Pleased to Announce the Election of the REV. YEHIEL CURRY as ELCA Presiding Bishop



# Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

**PHOENIX** — The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I

never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

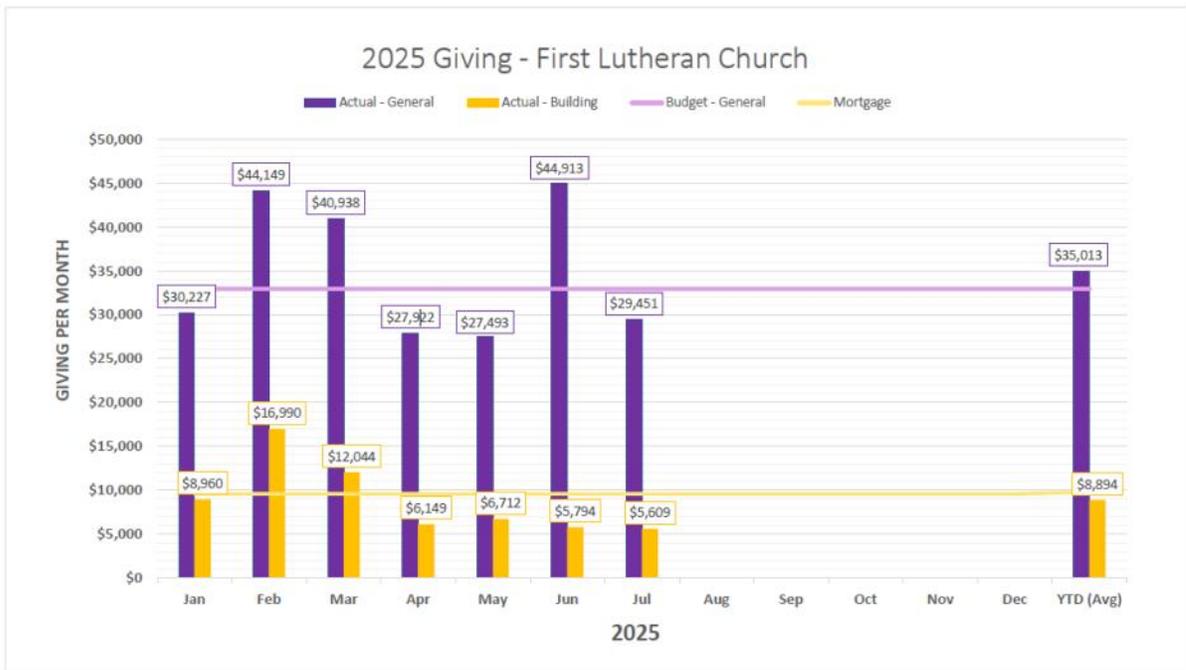
He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Learn more about Yehiel Curry: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>

## Join an ELCA Donor Immersion Trip to Argentina & Chile



For many years, our congregation has supported ELCA missionary Karen Anderson and her work with EPES in Chile—a ministry focused on public health, justice, and accompaniment. Now, we’re invited to see that work in person! The ELCA is hosting a **Donor Immersion Trip to Argentina and Chile, October 3–13, 2025**, and we’re invited to join. More information, including cost and a tentative itinerary, are included on the attached brochure. This is a unique opportunity to visit the ministries we’ve supported, meet our global companions, and witness firsthand how God is at work through the Lutheran churches in Latin America. Interested in learning more? Contact Jennifer Kenyeri, at [Jennifer.Kenyeri@elca.org](mailto:Jennifer.Kenyeri@elca.org) or 773-380-2872.



## Bishop Regina Girls Secondary School Established

In August 2025, Bishop Syprian Hilinti, Central Diocese of Tanzania (ELCT-Central Diocese), officially announced the establishment of the Bishop Regina Girls Secondary School! Located outside of Singida town (the small city where the Central Diocese offices are located), the school is under construction and set to open in 2026. Initially, the school will be a day school serving students from the Singida region. When dormitories are complete, additional girls from more remote rural areas can enroll.

Congregations from both the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the Central Diocese of Tanzania have provided the funds necessary to construct new and remodel existing buildings, as well as to equip the campus with water, sanitation, and electrical systems—including solar energy. Next steps include furnishing the classrooms and dining hall with tables, desks, chairs, books, and other essentials. Once the school opens, there will be ongoing opportunities for individuals and congregations to provide scholarship funds for girls, particularly the daughters of subsistence farmers. Contact Kathy ([chatelaine@semsynod.org](mailto:chatelaine@semsynod.org)) if you are interested in joining Bishop Regina and Kathy on an upcoming visit to Tanzania to dedicate the new school!





## Evening Bible Study

### The Book of Ruth

Tuesday evenings @ 6:30pm  
 9/16, 10/14, 11/18, and 12/16.  
 Sign-up by Sept. 7

Pastor Kary will lead a four-part Bible study that will meet once a month on the book of Ruth. By examining the three central characters of this book (Ruth, Naomi and Boaz), we will explore themes of loss, loyalty, risk and hope.

Each hour-long class will meet in the Fireside Room and begin at 6:30 pm on the Tuesdays listed below.

- September 16:** Where Does Loss Push Us? (Ruth 1:1-18)
- October 14:** Where Does Loyalty Pull Us? (Ruth 1:19-2:23)
- November 16:** Where Does Risk Take Us? (Ruth 3:1-18)
- December 16:** Where Does Hope Lead Us? (Ruth 4:1-22)

If interested, Study Guides will be ordered through First Lutheran for \$6. Please use [the link](#) to sign up for a copy by September 7. Sign-up is also available on the kiosk in the gathering area at church.

## Book Group Update



Book Group is changing things up a little this fall with their meeting time and will be meeting on the **first Monday of the month at 8:30 am**. Coffee and a treat will be provided!

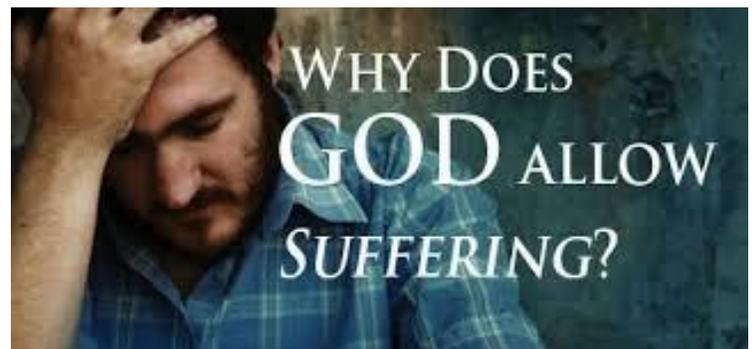
The first meeting date is **Monday, October 6, 8:30 am**. The group will be discussing "The Welcome Committee of Butternut Creek" by Jane Myers Perrine.

Readers are responsible for obtaining a copy of the book (also available by request from the library,) however, please sign up using [this link](#) (Sign up Genius Link). A sign-up sheet will also be available on the kiosk in the gathering area at church.

November's book: "Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding God's Love Everywhere" by Savannah Guthrie (Monday, November 3, 8:30 am.)

## Adult Forum Begins Sept 14

Sunday Adult Forum begins again on September 14 following worship. Pastor Kary will be giving a talk on this hard theological question, "If we believe in an all-powerful God, why is there human suffering?" Using the guidance of Scripture, we will dive into this question. If possible, bring your Bibles and your curious minds, joining us in the Fireside Room on the 14th. Future Adult Forums are planned for October 19 and November 9.



## Children's Ministry Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Sept. 2**

Sunday School Teacher Orientation 6pm

**Sunday, Sept. 7 - RALLY SUNDAY!**

- ◇ **Bible Blessing** *3-year olds, 1st graders, and new students will receive their bible during 9am service.*
- ◇ **Blessing of the Backpacks**
- ◇ **Sunday School Teacher & Confirmation Leader Installation**
- ◇ **Meet your Sunday School Teacher**

**Sunday, Sept. 14**

First Day of Sunday School

**Wednesday, Sept. 24**

First Day of KFC

## Senior High Youth!

**Who:** 10-12th Grade

**What:** FLC Youth Group

**When:** Wed. Sept 24 @ 8-9 pm

**Where:** Youth Room @ FLC

Come join us for FLC Youth Group on the final Wednesday evening of each month. Your faith journey doesn't end with confirmation - hang with your classmates and explore what it means to walk with Jesus in every day life!

## Confirmation Bible Buddies

Watch for Bible Buddies sign-up in the Blessings Café starting September 21. Bible Buddies at First Lutheran Church provide one new Lutheran Study Bible for a student who will be entering the confirmation program next fall. Bible Buddies also commit to pray for their confirmation student as they learn about God's love and grow in their own faith.



Cost for one Lutheran Study Bible is \$20. Bibles will be presented to 6th graders during a worship service in the spring of 2026.

## New Coordinator of Children's Music

First Lutheran is pleased to announce the addition of Claire Bouma to our music team as the Coordinator of Children's Music. Claire will be assisting with our children's choirs (during KFC), Sunday School music, Christmas program, and assist with music for Wednesday evening worship (during confirmation). Claire recently joined ISD 813 as the Elementary music teacher and also brings experience in church music and children's ministry. Join us in welcoming Claire to Lake City! We're glad you're here!

## Thank You Kitchen Cleaning Crew!

Thank you to the kitchen deep cleaning crew of **Kim Ask-Carlson, Sandra Bendickson, Claudia Howard, and Marlys Johnson!** During the last week of August, this team cleared and organized the pantry; washed the counters, shelving, cupboards, and floors; and deep cleaned the oven, refrigerators, and dishwasher. Thank you!

**Sept. 1:** Troy Emerson, Anna Foss, Cory Porisch  
**Sept. 2:** Kathleen Gunhus, Vivian Krier, Joshua Rodewald  
**Sept. 3:** Ryan Gunhus  
*Mark & Jill Braaten Bailey, Randy & Linda Pavlak*  
**Sept. 4:** Jake Atkinson, Kayson Hartzell, Randi Morgan, Audrey Watson  
**Sept. 5:** Brett Langfritz, Kirsten Langworthy, LuAnn Moechnig, Brady Nelson  
**Sept. 6:** Tanner Meincke, Brian Oelkers, Ava Wallerich, Charlie White  
*Randy & Lori Meincke*  
**Sept. 7:** Allie Langhans  
**Sept. 8:** Shirley Mickow, Jack Narum  
*John & Nancy Albright, Kevin & Kathy Tesch*  
**Sept. 9:** *Jim & Johanna Gates, Jesse & Katelyn Jonas*  
**Sept. 10:** Judy Bremer, Joseph Morgan, Caleb Tesmer  
*Philip & Dana Gartner, Rod & Arlene Johnson*  
**Sept. 11:** Nancy Rigelman  
*Rick & Val Janka*  
**Sept. 12:** Margaret Rol  
*Travis & Jacelyn Dunn, Joshua & LuAnn Moechnig, Ryan & Megan Sullivan*  
**Sept. 13:** *Duane & Kimberly Boos*  
**Sept. 14:** Jan Johnson  
**Sept. 15:** Maddie Breuer, Jennifer Talbert  
*William & Shelia Johnson, Rick & Edie Sward*  
**Sept. 16:** Cole Dierick, Heidi Hartzell, Edith Hoffman, Randi Kirchner, Debbie Mickelson  
*Ryan & Amy Olson*  
**Sept. 17:** Faith Bonde, Alexis Eggenberger, Jim Menting, Evan Olson  
*Megan & Andrew Ahrens*

**Sept. 18:** Christopher Ahrens  
*Chris & Kari Weinrich*  
**Sept. 19:** Zach Dudley, Derek Sogla, Jeremy Tesch  
*Jim & Christine Anderson, David & Kelly Pribyl*  
**Sept. 20:** Mike Kohrs, Randy Pavlak, Heidi Schwer  
*Mike & Kim Bobb, Colin & Amanda Jackson, Tom & Valerie Kuchinka, Steve & Sandy Swan*  
**Sept. 21:** Mark Matanich, Cheryl Mohn, Linda Sexton  
**Sept. 22:** Ava Jolie Brunn, Patty Svien, Addison Thieren  
*Nathan & Michelle Larson*  
**Sept. 23:** Reese Anderson, Carston Dammann, Aaron Nelson, Lori Swiggum, Skylar VanLoan  
*Tyler & Erika Blim, Michael & Barbara Johnson, Dale & Carol Nibbe, Larry & Kathy Wigern*  
**Sept. 24:** Joshua Matanich, Dennis Schumacher  
*Jeff & Terri Erickson*  
**Sept. 25:** Jerry Benson, Rick Janka, Alex Ratz  
*Rand & Bonnie Conway, Lisa & Jose Koehler, Shon & Molly Thieren*  
**Sept. 26:** Kelly Pribyl, Marin Rodewald  
*Wally & Susan Dailey, Stephanie & Michael Eggenberger, Dustin & Kimberly Meyer, Tim & Jenny Schlagenhaft*  
**Sept. 27:** Lisa Alitz, Shelby Glander, Mary Kregel  
**Sept. 28:** Greg Berge, Cam Ender, Megan Langworthy, Alison Wallerich  
*Amy & Mark Matanich*  
**Sept. 29:** Thoren Mangold, Virginia Plote, Tom Rasmussen, Cheryl Sprick Bremer, Galen Vetter, Debbie West  
*John & Audry Plote*  
**Sept. 30:** Megan Kramer, Bradley Rigelman

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**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.

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.

# Worship Role Assignments

Date \ Duty	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28
<b>LECTOR</b>	Randi Kirchner	Duane Holst	Jenny Schlagenhaft	needed
<b>GREETERS</b>	needed	Moechnig Family	needed	needed
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	Kathy Wigern needed	Claudia Howard Marcia Holst	Jenny Schlagenhaft needed	Duane Holst Marcia Holst
<b>USHERS</b>	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sandy Bendickson Janet Chestnut	Susan Dailey Esther Gullixson	Marcia Holst Esther Gullixson	Kim Ask-Carlson Janet Chestnut
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	Heidi Berge & Friends	needed	needed	needed
<b>Council Member on Duty</b>	needed	needed	needed	needed

## Sign up for Worship Roles

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](https://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.

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm	4	5	6 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
		SS Teacher Orientation 6pm	Confirmation 6-8pm (first day) Worship 6:30pm			
7 Worship 9am - RALLY SUNDAY 3-year-old Bibles Blessing of Backpacks Teacher Installation	8 Craft Night 6-8pm, Fireside Rm Cub Scouts Pack/Parent Mtg 6pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	9 FLC Quilters 8:30am	10 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	11 20th Anniversary of Building (Celebration of Dedication, 10/26) Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	12	13 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
14 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Adult Forum, 10am	15 No Cub Scouts Troop 94 7-8:30pm	16 Bible Study: Book of Ruth, 6:30pm	17 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	18 Church Council 6:30pm	19	20 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
21 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	22 Cub Scouts 6pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	23 Oct First Things Articles Due FLC Quilters 8:30am	24 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm (first day) Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth Group 8pm	25	26	27 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
28 Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	29 Cub Scouts 6pm Troop 94 7-8:30pm	30				