

Firs|Things

October 2026

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

Firs|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 LIVE at on
[YouTube](#) on Sundays.

STAFF

Paul Miller

Pastor

paul.miller@firstlc.org

Kary Jonas

Associate Pastor

kary.jonas@firstlc.org

David Steenhoek

Director of Youth Ministry

david.steenhoek@firstlc.org

Sara Thompson

Director of Children's Ministry

sara.thompson@firstlc.org

Kerstin Suby

Music Administrator & Organist

kerstin.suby@firstlc.org

Jennifer White

Congregational Administrator

jennifer.white@firstlc.org

Loren Prigge, Custodian



A New Face in Youth Ministry at FLC

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a part-time Director of Youth Ministries: David Steenhoek of Rochester. He begins his time with us in October and will be installed October 11th. David is originally from Iowa, and worked in youth ministry for many years after college at a Presbyterian church in Oregon. He joined Mt. Olive Lutheran in Rochester, and has begun several years of preparation to be a pastor in the ELCA.

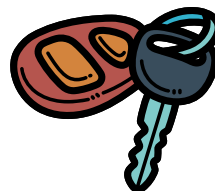
Sue Megrund of InterServe Ministries joined us late in the spring in an interim capacity. She has guided us through InterServe's "Discovery Process" - a time of learning and reflection on new and sustainable approaches to ministry with and for youth. Thanks to those who participated in the congregational event Sunday September 27th! Sue will continue with us through October, "passing the baton" to David, completing the Discovery Process, and continuing to be available to us as a consultant and coach.



My name is David Steenhoek. I have a 12 year old daughter named Elodie and a 3 year old Goldendoodle named Penny. I am in my second year at Luther Seminary working for a Master of Divinity. In my free time, I love to read (fiction) and volunteer with youth football. I'm so excited to meet y'all!

Blessing of Car Keys

Blessing of Car Keys is one of the Milestone Ministries at First Lutheran. We invite all sophomores to worship on **Sunday, October 11th** for a special blessing as they turn sixteen and have the opportunity to receive a driver's license. We ask God to watch over these youth and guide them in their new freedom. And we provide a small cross to add to their key chain as a reminder that God is with them wherever they go.



TRICK
TREAT
for Food Shelf

Halloween ~ October, 31

FLC Members: Get your items together for Confirmation Students!

FLC Youth: Let's dress up, have some fun, and help our neighbors! Watch your email for details.

Sharing Appreciation

I did not know that “Pastor’s Appreciation Day” was a thing until I came to First Lutheran. I might just be clueless – I remember getting one or two cards in several past years, but because they came in October, I think I just assumed they were really for my birthday!

But First Lutheran made it a big thing! I was pretty shocked the first year. I took my stack of cards with me and read a few each day for several days. What a neat tradition! And it isn’t just a “day” here – Pastor Kary and I have often commented that this is a church where you really do feel appreciated as a pastor. As you can imagine, that isn’t always the case, so it goes a long way on morale and job satisfaction.

What a gift! This October, I wanted to take this space to wonder if we can be just as intentional about sharing that gift more widely – and just let the appreciation flow!

My first thought is for the church staff. We have an amazing staff. From full-time to part-time to very-part-time, we are well-served by people who joyfully contribute so much to our community life and shared ministry. Take a moment to think through our staff (those listed on the front of the newsletter, plus Pastor Duane, our soon-to-arrive Director of Youth Ministries David Steenhoek, and leaders of music groups). Think about past staff as well. We are blessed!

I lift up church staff first, because they have many of the same challenges pastors have but often with less support, and I worry, often with less appreciation. To be frank, they are typically over-qualified and under-compensated. They balance their church work with other jobs and busy lives and often end up “volunteering” beyond their paid time and tasks, just because they care so much. And they are glad to do it! But a little more appreciation might go a long way.

Beyond staff, we all know churches run on volunteers. Make sure they get in on the appreciation! I’ll start with what one church consultant calls “volunteer staff.” This applies to anyone who is doing a job that we would otherwise have to pay someone to do. Such as... managing all our technology and sound equipment, managing the property and grounds, fixing stuff, mowing, cleaning... you get the idea. Do you know any of these people? But then there is the army of teachers and child-care helpers, the faithful funeral servers, those who make worship happen week in and week out... and so many more. Volunteers carry out the core functions of a church! And we can’t forget the donors – we may not know who is making sacrificial gifts to fund our work, but we appreciate you, too!

I hope I’ve painted a picture for you. If you want to support your pastors, appreciate all these people who make our lives a lot easier and who make so many wonderful things happen. If skipping me this year would allow you to thank just one more staff person or volunteer, then please, skip me! (Especially if you just gave me a card in August. You people know who you are.)

Most of all – let’s grow our culture of appreciation and take all the opportunities we can find to share the appreciation that is already in our hearts.

Together in Christ’s service,



Pastor Paul

Editors Note

Pastor Appreciation Day: Oct. 11
Pastor Paul’s Birthday: Oct. 11



August Financials

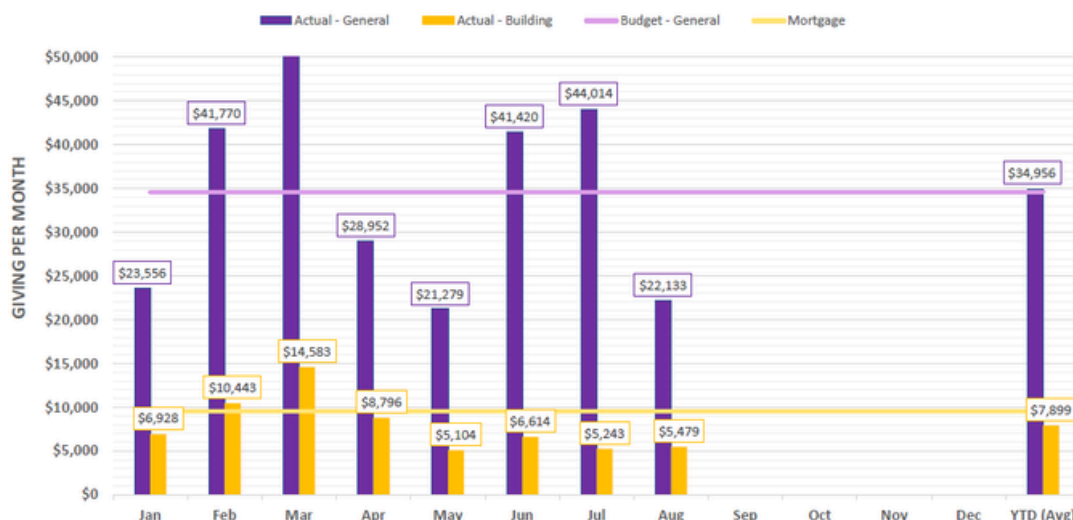
*A note from our treasurer,
Andrew Ahrens.*

For August, we were slightly negative overall from a profit perspective. This was expected as summer months tend to lead to lower giving. We would expect this to improve for the fall and winter months.

Overall General Fund giving is in line with our full year budget. The Building Fund is currently averaging approximately \$1,700 below our budgeted amount per month, which is something to continue monitoring.

This does not affect our payments, but has affected our reserve balances.

2026 Giving - First Lutheran Church



	August	Year-to-date as of 8/31/2026
Income:	38,237.06	371,517.30
- Expense:	41,419.26	336,111.04
Net Income:	-\$ 3,182.20	\$ 35,406.26

Reminder of Price Increase for Graves & Niches Nov. 1



The price of a grave in Oakwood Cemetery and in the price of a niche in our Columbarium will increase effect on November 1, 2026.

Price increases are as follows:

Grave: \$800 increase to \$1,000*

Niche: \$2,000 increase to \$2,500**

Contact the church office for more information, 651-345-5003 or email jennifer.white@firstlc.org.

**There are additional opening fees for caskets and cremations for the grave. A grave site accommodates one casket and one urn, or two urns.*

***The niche price includes two urns and engraving of the marble front plate. A niche accommodates two urns.*

Front Landscaping Refresh

Over the past few years, the property and landscaping teams have been seeing a decline in our front entry landscaping. They put together a thoughtful plan to implement a makeover. After receiving dedicated contributions from several members and in kind labor commitments, the council has approved plans to update our front landscaping.

Members Tyler Blim and Larry Wigern contributed to the tear out of existing landscaping and Sargent's Nursery will be installing a new plan the first week of October. Thank you to our members for your financial support and volunteers who help make a great first impression!



Sept. 25, 2026



Sept. 26, 2026

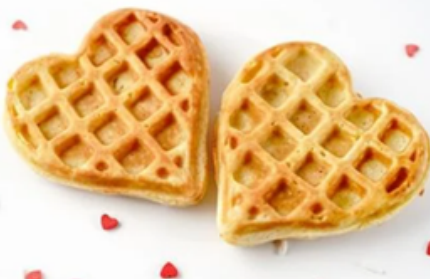
Hispanic Inclusion Awarded Food Ministry Grant

Hispanic Inclusion Lake City was once again awarded a Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Food Ministry Grant. Last year, the grant money was used to support a food pantry located at Lincoln High School in Lake City. The food is available to students who work before and/or after school to help support their families.

This year, the funds will go toward stocking a food pantry at Bluff View Elementary School. This past summer some of our Hunger Grant dollars provided healthy lunches for the Multilingual Language Learners summer school held for Elementary students for the first time this summer. THANK you to our synod for supporting this community ministry!



Save the Date: Scandinavian Brunch



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 15th** for the Annual Scandinavian Brunch and Bake Sale after the 9am service. Norwegian waffles will be served along with Scandinavian almond cake after the Sunday Service. A freewill offering will be collected for the brunch to raise funds for First Lutheran ELCA Scholarship Fund.

Advent by Candlelight Date Set

Advent by Candlelight is planned for **Sunday, Nov. 22**, at 5:00 pm at First Lutheran. This is an evening of fellowship, music, prayer and light supper as we begin a new church year, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Each table will be decorated by the hostess of that table in her unique style including a candle centerpiece.

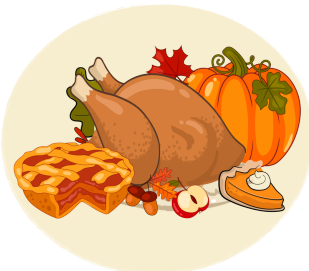
As women, we often feel like every moment of Advent is filled with preparations as we strive to make Christmas special for everyone... family, friends, coworkers. Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to gather and spend some time focused on Jesus and the real meaning of Christmas.

There is no cost for this evening of fellowship but a non-perishable food item is appreciated for the Lake City Food Shelf. This women's event is not limited to our congregation, so feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers.



Registration is necessary so we will have sign-up at the Welcome Center starting Sunday, October 25 for this event. If you would like to hostess a table, please contact Mavis Hawkins at [651-428-9201](tel:651-428-9201) as soon as possible.

Save the Date: Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner



**Annual Thanksgiving Day
Community Dinner**
Bethany Lutheran Church
Thursday, Nov. 26, 2026

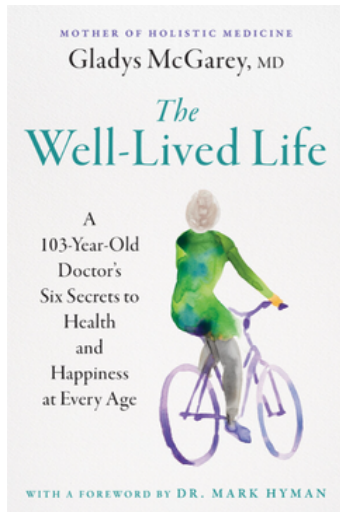
Make plans to help at this annual community event by serving and packaging desserts. Watch for a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk!



Book Group: October & November Books Selected

The October meeting will be on **Oct. 5 at 9am**, They will be discussing *"The Well-Lived Life: A 103-Year-Old Doctor's Six Secrets to Health and Happiness at Every Age"* by Dr. Gladys McGarey

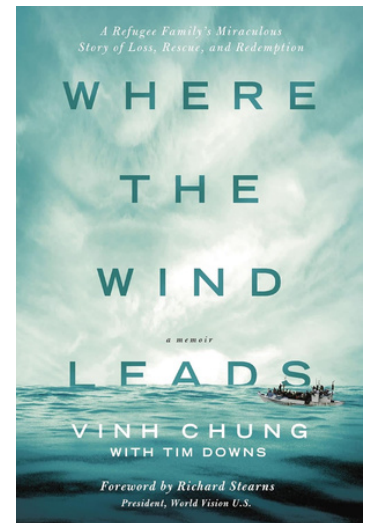
Mc Garey began her medical practice at a time when women couldn't even have their own bank accounts. Since then, she pioneered a new way of thinking about disease and health that has transformed the way we imagine



health care and self-care around the world. [Learn more and sign-up here.](#)

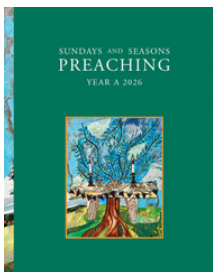
The November book will be "Where the Wind Leads" and the group will meet on **Nov. 2 at 9am**

This book follows Vinh Chung and his family on their desperate journey from pre-war Vietnam, through pirate attacks on a lawless sea, to a miraculous rescue and a new home in the unlikely town of Fort Smith, Arkansas. There Vinh struggled against poverty, discrimination, and a bewildering language



barrier--yet still managed to graduate from Harvard Medical School. [Learn more and sign-up here.](#)

Wednesday Bible Study



Each Wednesday morning at 8:30am several members and guests gather in the Fireside Room where Pastor Paul or Pastor Kary lead a bible study with focus on the gospel and lessons for the upcoming week.

Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, Oct. 8th** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.



Reclaiming Revelation



Pastor Kary will be leading a six-week exploration of one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible, Revelation. The study group will meet on **Wednesdays Oct. 7 -Nov. 11 at 11 am in the Fireside room.**

Adult Forum: CarePortal

Join us for Adult Forum on **Oct. 11th at 10am** after worship. We welcome past member, Phil Jacobsen as he presents information on a outreach program that is working for his current church and community in Cannon Falls.

CarePortal is a care-sharing technology that drives action for children and families in crisis. The technology connects needs of children and families in crisis with others in the same community who care and who want to take action.

Learn how First Lutheran can join this network and make a difference in our community!



October At A Glance

Oct. 14 - No KFC (MEA)

Oct. 18 - No Sunday School (MEA)

Nov. 1 - Family Event

Rally Sunday Fun!

🍋 Lemons to Lemonade 🍋



Fall Family Event

Fleece Tie Blankets

Sunday, Nov. 1

4:00-6:00pm

First Lutheran Church

Bring an item for Food Shelf



Our late fall / early winter Family Event will be a fleece tie blanket activity. Each family will work together to create a fleece tie blanket. We've ordered adhesive prayer patches that can be added as well.

A special note of thanks to Donna Oeltjen and the Oeltjen family for their donation of fleece! THANK YOU!

Dinner will be provided (pizza, cookies, drinks, etc...) Bring an item to donate to our local food shelf. Email Sara Thompson with questions: sara.thompson@firstlc.org.

Please RSVP by filling out the [form at this link](#).

Thank You to Our Youth Volunteers!

Wow! We have an amazing number of junior and senior high youth helping out with our youth programs. Several helped at VBS, a couple are helping with KFC on Wednesdays and we have over 15 junior and senior high students helping with Sunday School! Thank you for your leadership and for sharing your faith with our youngest members!



October At A Glance

- Oct. 7** - Pastry Puffins Youth Trips Fundraiser starts
- Oct. 11** - Blessing of Car Keys (10th grade)
7th Grade Confirmation Retreat (11am-7pm)
- Oct. 14** - No Confirmation (MEA)
- Oct. 21** - High School Youth Group, 8pm (10th-12th grades)
- Oct. 24** - 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat (Eagle Bluff)
- Oct. 28** - Pastry Puffins Youth Trips Fundraiser orders due
- Oct. 31** - Trick or Treating for the Food Shelf

High School Youth Group

Wed. Oct. 21 | 8pm
10th-12th Grades

Come connect with friends in faith! We will have some games, sharing, late-night snacks, prayer, and decide what you'd like High School Youth Group to look like!

Senior High Summer Trips

There's still time to sign-up for Summer 2027 youth trips! We've started planning and fundraising. Here are some of the opportunities for Senior High youth (9-12th grades):

ELCA Youth Gathering

When: June 28-July 2, 2027

Where: Minneapolis, MN

What to Expect: It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, approx. 20,000 young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling.



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Bible Camp

When: Early or mid-July, 2027

Where: Colorado



What to Expect: Hiking, archery, high ropes, zip lines, and white-water rafting are all on the menu. Campers stay on-site, build new friendships, take on leadership roles, and ground it all in worship and Bible study. It might just be the best week of your summer.



Pastry Puffins Fundraiser

Fundraiser Starts: 10/7

Fundraiser Ends: 10/28

Delivery Date: 11/9

Purpose: Youth Camps & Trips

Cost: \$16 each



(6 flavors pastry puffins / 2 varieties of pizza puffins)

First Lutheran youth are selling Pastry Puffins through October 28th. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward funding youth camps and trips!

Watch for youth taking orders after worship on Sundays in October. Samples will be available for tasting after worship on October 11th worship.

Orders will be delivered on November 9th.

Contact the church office with questions or to place an order, (651) 345-5003 or jennifer.white@firstlc.org



Financial Assistance Note

First Lutheran members are extremely supportive of our youth. We have members standing by willing to assist with expenses for youth camps, trips, or other opportunities. Families, please ask our staff about assistance if the cost of an opportunity is a concern.

Oct. 1: Sam Fitterer, Savannah Klein, Ayonna Nadeau

Oct. 2: Asher Bee, Bruce Carlson, Reid Lundell,
Joshua Roach, Luke Skifton

Dwain & Gwen Lambert

Oct. 3: Mavis Hawkins, Ben Klipfel

Oct. 4: Bree McCoy, Kris Pichelman

Andy & Dena Huettl

Oct. 5: Jordan Dick

Oct. 6: Melissa Eichelberger, Kannon Hartzell, Joyce
Hegseth, Stephanie Larson, Kristie Stolzenberg,

Cameron Thieren

Eric & Deb Hanson

Oct. 7: Matthew Alitz, John Earle, Stephanie Foss

Oct. 8: Faye Conway, Joseph Kozlowski

Bruce & Georgia Nygren

Oct. 9: Carol Hoyt, Cheryl Luettinger, Ann Nelson

Oct. 10: Josh Kohrs, Peg Mattke, Loren Prigge

Mark & Sarah Krage

Oct. 11: Paul Miller, Edie Sward

Steven & Jean Johnson

Oct. 12: Jenson Foss

Dennis & Marlys Johnson

Oct. 13: Randy Foss, Mitchell Mund, Ric Wallace,

Caysen Warneke

Brad & Beth Krehbiel

Oct. 14: Owen Meyers, Meta Rigelman, Ed Towey

Jarid & Taylor Groth, Joseph & Jennifer White

Oct. 15: Lori Meincke, Ava Rolbiecki

Oct. 16: Tyler Blim, Bruce Nygren

Bruce & Lori Lichtblau

Oct. 17: Courtney Fick, Justin Harkins

Oct. 18: Donna Oeltjen, Justin Ratz

Craig & Deb Harteneck

Oct. 19: Bill King

Lonnie & Paula West

Oct. 20: Mason Eggenberger

John & Lori Mortenson, Dick & LaDonna Severson,

Neil & Kristie Stolzenberg

Oct. 21: Olivia Bailey, Ashley Emerson, Deb Massey,
Stacy Nelson, Collin Rigelman, Tim Thompson,

Morgan Wurst

Aaron & Tiffany Nelson, Dean & Darlene Saby

Oct. 22: Eloise Blattner, Haley Dollar, James Kranz,

Cindy Patton

Juliane & Terry Dennis

Oct. 23: Easton Bremer, Jo Ender, Bennett Kittelson,

Carl Kittelson, Kerri Reese

James & Cherie Kranz

Oct. 24: James Fuchs

David & Trudy Roach

Oct. 25: Lauren Porisch

Oct. 26: Rich Alitz, Kim Bobb

Justin & Kassie Campbell

Oct. 27: Emily Albright, Lori Morgan

Darin & Jodi Lundell

Oct. 28: Kayla Berg, Erika Blim, Andy Huettl,

Jessica Schmidt

Oct. 29: Mallorie Carlson, Brigitte Rol

Oct. 30: Garret Rigelman, Ernie Thompson, Jordy

Thompson

Carl & Elizabeth Kittelson

Oct. 31: Jason Bee, Jad Erickson, Ryzen Suckow,

Anzley Suckow

Keep in prayer: Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Tom Gerken, Rand & Bonnie Conway, Hazel Jonas (granddaughter of Shef & Deb Massey), Wally Dailey, Barb Novek (sister of Diane Keyport), Cecelia (Jean Benson's mother), Marlene (Walter & Susan Dailey's son's mother-in-law).

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, 651-345-5003.

Date Role	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
LECTOR	Dave Ender	Confirmation Student	Sandy Bendickson	Confirmation Student
GREETERS	Rosie Plank & Family	Gauge Johnson & Family	Nora Bonde & Family	Allie Langhans & Family
ACOLYTE	Needed	Izzy Langhans	Felix Larson	Needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Ella Kohrs Carrie Kohrs	Will Stolzenberg Jack Narum Grace Dunn	Cedric Larson Confirmation Student	Chase Moechnig Confirmation Student
USHERS	Todd & Marie Severson with Brody Otterson	Molly Nelson Henry Nelson	Chase Moechnig	Confirmation Students x2
TECH ASSIST	Addie Thieren	Evan Olson	Confirmation Student	Will Stolzenberg
ALTAR GUILD	Marlys Johnson Karyn Moechig	Kim Ask-Carlson Janet Chestnut	Kim Ask-Carlson Janet Chestnut	Mary Santelman Jane Simonton
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Barb Gifford Duane & Claudia Howard	Needed	Needed	Needed

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

You'll notice that many of our Confirmation students are assisting with Worship Roles during the school year. Please offer encouragement as they try new roles in our worship.

We will need assistance with Coffee Fellowship. Please see the sign up sheet on the kiosk.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Scouting District Mtg, 7-9pm	2	3 Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm
4 Worship 9am Clara Hess Baptism Sunday School 10am Council Retreat / Potluck 10:30am-2:30pm	5 Book Group 9am Cub Scouts 6:30pm Troop 94 7pm	6 Scouts Committee Meeting 6:30pm	7 Pastry Puffin Fundraiser Bible Study 8:30am Revelation Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3-5pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	8	9	10 Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm
11 Pastor Appreciation Day Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Blessing of Car Keys Adult Forum 10am 7th grade Retreat, 11am-7pm	12 Crafters 9:30am Cub Scouts 6:30pm Troop 94 7pm	13 Stewardship, 7:30am Quilters 8:30am Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	14 Bible Study 8:30am Revelation Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm No KFC No Bells or Choir No Confirmation	15	16	17 Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm
18 Worship 9am No Sunday School	19 Cub Scouts 6:30pm Troop 94 7pm	20 Hispanic Inclusion 6pm	21 ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Opens Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Revelation Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm HS Youth Group, 8pm	22 First Things Articles Due	23	24 8th Grade Retreat @ Eagle Bluff & First Lutheran
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	26 Cub Scouts 6:30pm Troop 94 7pm	27 Quilters 8:30am	28 Pastry Puffin Sale Ends Bible Study 8:30am Pepin Plaza Service 10am Revelation Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm KFC 3pm Bells 5:15pm Confirmation 6-8pm Worship 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm	29	30 Send Nov. First Things	31 Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm