# First Things

**November 2026** *Living the unconditional Grace & Love of Jesus Christ in the World*


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 LIVE at on YouTube on Sundays.*

**STAFF**

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Jennifer White
*Congregational Administrator*
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Loren Prigge, *Custodian*

ELCA

## All Saints Sunday: November 1

This is the Sunday in the church year where we remember those who have died, placing our hope in Jesus' promise of resurrection and new life. This is our day to remember and give thanks for all the saints in our lives who have provided an example of faith. First Lutheran will remember especially the following dear ones who have departed in the past year:

Mary Johnson

Ron Hooge

Richard Braid

Gloria Issendorf

Bob Majerus

Nancy Herron

*There will be opportunities during worship on Sunday, November 1 to remember and give thanks to God for others who are in your hearts—in prayer, or by the lighting of a candle.*

From the Pastor

# The Ten Commandments of Welcome

We receive new members this month. What a gift! We have wonderful, interesting new people joining us on a regular basis!

I once worked with a very enthusiastic Evangelism Chair. She was made for that job! One year, she and I had a lot of fun writing the "Ten Commandments of Welcome" for our congregation. I've adapted them for our use in this season of welcome.

1. When it is a nametag Sunday, wear a nametag, and use the opportunity to learn (or double check) some other names.

2. Learn the names of the new members – remember, they have a whole lot more names to learn than you!

3. Remember what it was like to be a new person. Think about this often.

4. Get the FLC directory app on your phone.

5. At coffee and fellowship time, greet some people you don't know well before sitting down with friends.

6. At Sunday School or KFC pick-up, start a conversation with someone you don't know well before catching up with friends.

7. When the people you sat with or talked with in steps 5 and 6 become your friends, be sure to go back to steps 5 and 6 and start again with new people!

8. Sign up to make sure we always have Greeters and Ushers. Visitors consistently cite these roles and the power of having smiling faces, a spoken welcome, and a host to guide them as soon as they cross the church's threshold.

9. Invite someone to come to church with you! We have lots of special services and other events throughout the year – think of them as opportunities (or just excuses) to invite someone. Even if people say, "no," they usually feel good about being invited.

10. Pray for someone who may not know they are welcome.

May there always be a wide and warm welcome ready at First Lutheran for anyone God may send our way. "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) It takes all of us!

Peace in Christ,

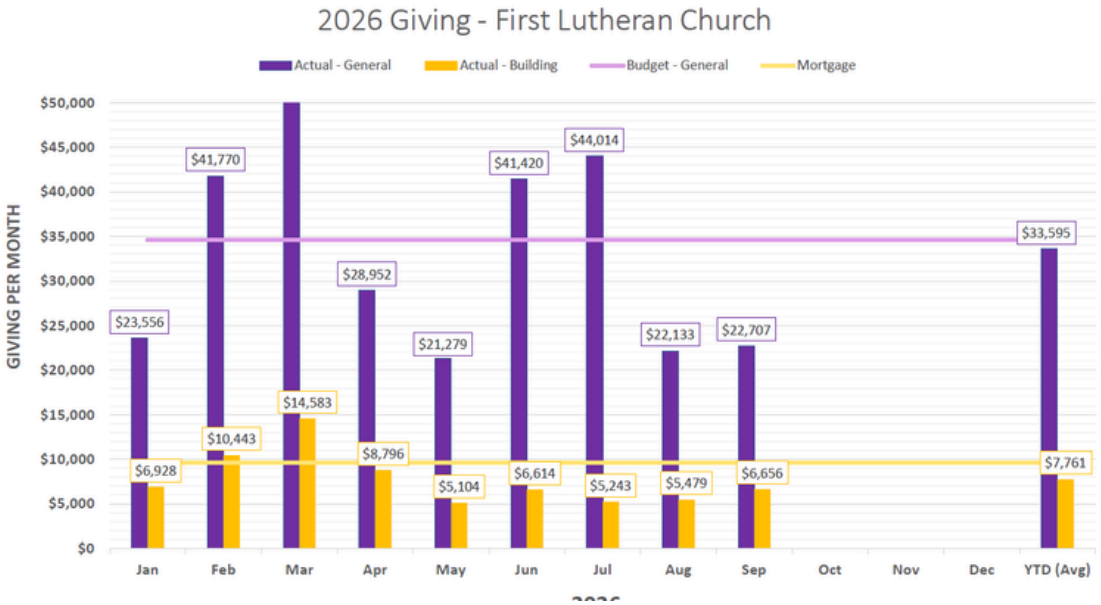
Pastor Paul

# September Financials

*A note from our treasurer, Andrew Ahrens.*

For September, we saw a decrease in overall giving, both General and Building Fund. We ran a loss for the month due to that shortfall and also a corresponding increase in expenses.

We are currently projected to come in with a short fall for both the general fund and building fund. The General Fund is on pace for a $12,000 shortfall and the building fund is at a $22,000 shortfall. This is going to change depending on giving for the next 3 months.




| | September | Year-to-date as of 9/30/2026 |
|---|---|---|
| Income: | 32,823.26 | 404,340.56 |
| - Expense: | 41,440.87 | 377,551.91 |
| **Net Income:** | **-$ 8,617.61** | **$ 26,788.65** |

# How Can I Give to First Lutheran Church?

It is the generosity of your time, talents, and financial giving that helps make First Lutheran a vibrant place of community and worship. There are several ways you can financially support the ministry at First Lutheran Church.

**Offering Plate** - The traditional passing of the offering plate is available weekly. Pew envelopes are available if you'd like to notate your name and designate it to an account (i.e. General Fund, Building Fund, etc.) if desired, and we will track your giving throughout the year. And, of course, feel free to give anonymously.

**Numbered Envelopes** - We update our envelope mailing list quarterly, so if you want envelopes OR if you want to stop receiving envelopes, let Jen White know in the office, jennifer.white@firstlc.org.

**Bank Account Check** - You can request that your financial institution send a check to First Lutheran via mail. These can be set up as a one-time or recurring contributions

**IRA Contributions** - At a certain age, you may be required to take withdrawals from your IRA accounts. Consider First Lutheran for a tax-free contribution anytime throughout the year.

**Online Giving** - We use Vanco for our online giving service. You can choose a one-time payment or set up recurring giving. Bookmarks with a QR code are in the pews. Here is the link to First Lutheran giving through Vanco: https://secure.myvanco.com/YQ6G/home. You can also find the link on our website: Contact Us > Giving Options

Thank you for supporting the various projects and fundraisers throughout the year as well!

# A note from Pastor Kary Jonas...

On Tuesday, October 20 I had a quadruple bypass surgery at Mayo Hospital in Eau Claire. It was a shock that my heart was so damaged especially seeing I didn't have any of the markers one looks for with heart disease. However, the doctors continue to be pleased with my progress following surgery and I will do all I can to reach recovery.

In times like these, you cross paths with many strangers (mostly medical staff). One shared her story with me. This woman who was probably in her 50's shared that out of the blue they found cancer in her jaw. She was also shocked. Cancer did not run in her family. In March, she had major surgery in Rochester to remove large portions of her jaw and rebuilt it using bones from her leg. After she shared details of her recovery, she added a line that I heard many times as pastor (from you and others I have served.) "What I went through was really hard, but so many others have it so much worse."

Honestly, I have not reached that point of gratitude. It is way too soon. Primarily, I am tired. I feel anger and fear. But, I was grateful this nurse shared her story with me as a reminder of what is possible and what is to come. It offered hope.

Thank you to all who have texted or sent cards in the mail. I am feeling your love; a love worthy of deep gratitude.

Pastor Kary

# Greetings from Pastor Darren & Trudi Paulson

*Following is a note from Cheryl Luettinger who returned from a recent trip with the Paulsons.*

I spent 17 days traveling with Pastor Darren Paulson, and his wife Trudy, as he was a co-leader of a Steps of Saint Paul trip through Turkey, Greece and Italy. We visited many of the places that Paul visited on his travels, while spreading the Good News to Jews and Gentiles. These included: Thessalonica, Philippi, Veria, (Berea), Athens, Ephesus, Corinth, Rome, Pozzuoli, (Puteoli), Foro Appio, and Rome.

Trudy and Pastor Darren wanted to be sure that I carry their blessings and greetings to the members of our congregation. This picture was taken from the spot tradition holds that Paul stood and preached the Gospel to the community of Berea in Bible times, now Veria, Greece. This happened after he and Silas were chased out of Thessalonica by angry Jews at night for his words.

It was wonderful to have been able to spend time with them and a great group of 37 others from Montana, on this interesting and spiritual trip, following the steps of Saint Paul.

# Scandinavian Brunch & Bake Sale

Annual Scandinavian Brunch and Bake Sale is set for **Sunday, November 15th** for the 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.

A bake sale will be held with many Scandinavian treats for sale including almond cake, spritz, krumkake, as well as other home bakes cookies and desserts.

Funds raised during this event will support the First Lutheran ELCA Scholar-ship Fund which provides support to ECLA colleges (Luther, Wartburg, Gustavus, St. Olaf, Augsburg, Concordia, Augustana) through matching fund scholarships to congregational members who are attending ELCA Lutheran Colleges. Any student who attends an ELCA college is invited to apply for the scholarship. Deadline for applications for the 2027-28 academic year is May 1, 2027. Contact the church office for application requirements.

# Advent by Candlelight: November 22

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.

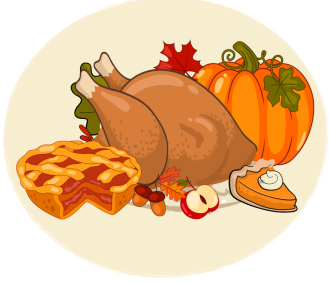
There is no cost for this evening of fellowship but a non-perishable food item is appreciated for the Lake City Food Shelf. This women's event is not limited to our congregation, so feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers. Registration is necessary so we will have sign-up at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Mavis Hawkins at 651-428-9201.

# Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner

First Lutheran will be contributing food to the Thanksgiving Community Dinner at Bethany Lutheran Church. We are also seeking volunteers to help support the annual community dinner by serving and packaging desserts. Contact Susan Daley with questions.

Sign up at the Welcome Center at First Lutheran!

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

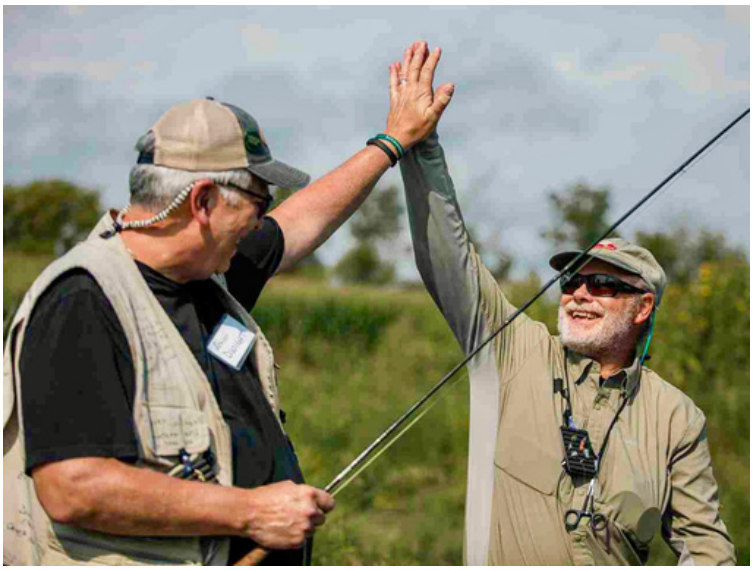


# Adult Forum: The Vocation of Mentoring

Pastor Peter Jonas will present “The Vocation of Mentoring” following worship on Sunday, November 8 in the Fireside Room.

Mentoring is not a specialized skill but an openness to sharing parts of one’s life with another human being while also walking with another human being through joys and challenges. Join Peter in an exploration of how mentoring can enhance both the life of the one who mentors and the one who is mentored.

*Photo to right: In Reel Recovery retreats, experienced anglers mentor men with cancer, most of whom have never fly fished before.*



## Fellowship Potluck

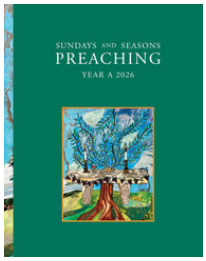
Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, Nov. 12th** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.

## Worship Flowers

If you’d like to give flowers for our worship services, please sign-up at the kiosk. Let us know your name and if they are in memory or honor of someone. We will order the flowers from Lake City Floral and make delivery arrangements. Checks should be made to First Lutheran Church for $40 and placed in the locked drawer at the Welcome Center.

You are welcome to take the flowers home after the worship service. Please bring a container

## Wednesday Bible Study



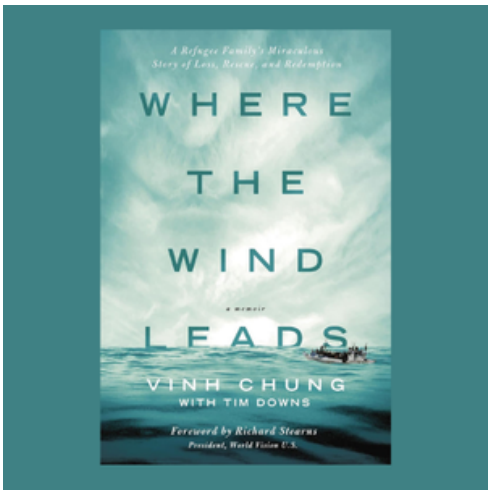

Each Wednesday morning at 8:30am several members and guests gather in the Fireside Room where Pastor Paul or Pastor Kary lead a bible study with focus on the gospel and lessons for the upcoming week.

# November Book Group

The November book will be “Where the Wind Leads” and the group will meet on **Nov. 2 at 9am** in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran.

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.

If you are interested in joining the Book Group, email Jen White to be added to the sign-up list. jennifer.white@firstlc.org



## November At A Glance

**Nov. 1** - Family Event
**Nov. 22** - Junior Choirs (KFC) Sing
**Nov. 23** - No KFC (Thanksgiving Break)
**Nov. 29** - No Sunday School

# Fall Family Event

**Fleece Tie Blankets**
**Sunday, Nov. 1**
**4:00-6:00pm**
**First Lutheran Church**
***Bring an item for Food Shelf***

# KFC Craft Time Fun!

## November Key Dates

**Nov. 8** - ELCA National Youth Gathering Last Day for Early Registration (Save $!)
**Nov. 25** - No Confirmation
**Dec. 2** - 9th Grade Confirmation Christmas Decorating

## Pastry Puffins Pick-up

Thank to everyone who ordered Pastry Puffins in support of youth camps and trips! Pick-up is **Monday, Nov. 9** between 3-5pm.

## Winter Care Packages for the Food Shelf

Ninth grade Confirmation students assembled winter care packages for the Lake City Food Shelf. Packages contained hat/mitten set, socks, hand sanitzer, and a package of tissues. Our local food shelf serves approximately 80 families a week. Several First Lutheran members volunteer at the food shelf. These care packages were available for food shelf patrons the next day.

## Confirmation Candle Closing

One of the practices during Confirmation class this year is closing the evening with journaling and prayer by candlelight. This group of 7th & 8th grade girls enjoyed a moment at dusk on a mild September evening.

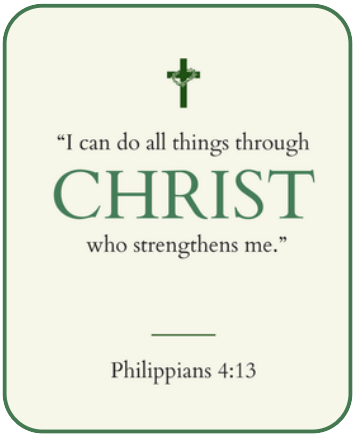
## High School Youth Fellowship

Two new opportunities for fellowship are available for our high school youth.

On Sunday mornings 9-12th graders are invited to meet at 11am for High School Sunday School with bible study and other spiritual practices.

On Wednesday evenings 10-12th graders will meet for a time of community and service.

Both sessions are youth driven so let David know what you'd like to do! david.steenhoek@firstlc.org




## Senior High Summer Trips

There's still time to sign-up for Summer 2027 youth trips for Senior High youth (9-12th grades.) We've started planning and fundraising. If interested, talk to David Steenhoek or email him at david.steenhoek@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.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries November 2026

**Nov. 1:** Traci Green, Tiffany Hess, Ellie Kohrs
*Richard & Gwendolyn Schafer*

**Nov. 2:** Lisa Carlson, Carson Fick

*Scott & Robin Bignell, Josh & Carrie Kohrs*

**Nov. 3**: Rand Conway

**Nov. 4:** Logan Cole, Debra Dose, Jessica Holst, Patrick Lynch

**Nov. 5:** Rayna Meyer

**Nov. 6:** Aaron Ferguson, Shyra Golding, Travis Kopp, Royce Meyer, Padraig Scanlon, Hayden Talbert

**Nov. 7:** Felix Larson, Lesley McCoy

**Nov. 8:** Aubrey Gates, Ryder Heisler, Todd Plote, Terri Schumacher, Margaret Selleseth

**Nov. 9:** Delane Krier

**Nov. 10:** Susan Dailey, Dena Huettl, Laura Miller

**Nov. 11:** Lori Fritz

**Nov. 12:** Morgan Matanich, Ashley Kennedy

*Roger & Nancy Brooks*

**Nov. 13:** Eric Anderson, Greg Sievers, Bruce Whitcomb

**Nov. 14:** Austin Ebert, Anne Towey, Eleanora Wise, Kathy Zweiner

**Nov. 15:**

*Mike & Sara Kohrs*

**Nov. 16:** Clara Carlson, Landon Peters-Wiemann

**Nov. 18:** Jody Carlson, Brody Fick, Sean Gnotke, Marie Miller, Georgia Nygren

**Nov. 19:** Jennifer White

*Brad & Wanda Pederson*

**Nov. 20:** Tracy Graner, Matt Grimley, Sylvia Hoffman, Tanner Porisch, Camryn Porisch, Dylann Porisch, Ryan Sullivan

*Lee & Randi Kirchner*

**Nov. 21:** Julie LeCaptain, Becky Sievers, Valerie Smith

*Randy & Kim Vander Laan*

**Nov. 22:** Heather Beck, Steven Dickson, Weston Holst, Julia Huettl

**Nov. 23:** Matthew Bignell, Dustin Meyer, Jenna Sommer

*Steven & Rosie Dickson*

**Nov. 24:** Darren Brunn, Cora Foss

**Nov. 25:** Autumn Holland

**Nov. 26:** Neil Stolzenberg

**Nov. 27:** Carrie Kohrs, Michael Tiedeman

**Nov. 28:** Gwen Lambert, Luke Narum

**Nov. 29:** Damian Fitterer, Gabriel Grimley, Marcie Padilla, Dennie Pahl, Paul Tackmann

**Nov. 30:** Jessica Bruske, Jackie Dunn, Lincoln Grothe, Emma Narum, Alexander Porisch

*Russell & Janice Johnson*

**Keep in prayer:** Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Rand & Bonnie Conway, Hazel Jonas (granddaughter of Shef & Deb Massey), Wally Dailey, Cecelia (Jean Benson's mother), Liam Jonas (Pastor Kary's son), Pastor Kary, Marilyn Mathison, Diane Walters-Keyport.

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.

# First Things — Worship Role Volunteers — November 2026

| Role \ Date | Nov. 1 | Nov. 8 | Nov. 15 | Nov. 22 | Nov. 29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LECTOR | Dylan Porisch | Bennett Kittelson | Confirmation Student | Will Stolzenberg | Confirmation Student |
| GREETERS | Jenny Gabor | Lucas & Liam Roberson & Family | Maggie Thieren & Family | Allie Langhans & Family | Hayden Talbert & Family |
| ACOLYTE | Nora Henderson | Cullen Kittelson | Julia Atkinson | Felix Larson | Halle Kennedy |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Grace Dunn<br>Will Stolzenberg | Lincoln Grothe<br>Brody Meyer | Grace Dunn<br>Addie Thieren | Chase Moechnig<br>Karyn Moechnig | Ella Kohrs<br>Atticus Alkire |
| USHERS | Henry Nelson<br>Jaxon Porisch | Bennett & Carl Kittelson | Trace Meyer<br>Jack Narum | Cedric Larson<br>Lincoln Grothe | Chase Moechnig<br>Karyn Moechnig |
| TECH ASSIST | Jack Narum | Trace Meyer | Brody Meyer | Brody Otterson | Brody Otterson |
| ALTAR GUILD | Jane Simonton & Liz Carlstrom | Liz & Bruce Carlstrom | Liz & Bruce Carlstrom | Becky Schultz<br>Milly Gagnon | Becky Schultz<br>Milly Gagnon |
| COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | Dave & Tami Ender | Needed | Scandinavian Breakfast ELCA Scholarships | 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.**

# November 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worship 9am<br>Sunday School 10am<br>New Member Welcome Mtg, 10am<br>HS Sunday School, 11am<br><br>Fall Family Event: Fleece Tie Blankets, 4-6pm<br>Sea Scounts - Ship 1, 6:30-8pm | Book Group 9am<br><br>Cub Scouts 6:30pm<br>Troop 94 7pm | | Bible Study 8:30am<br>Staff 1:30pm<br>KFC 3-5pm<br>Bells 5:15pm<br>Confirmation 6-8pm<br>Worship 6:30pm<br>Senior Choir 7pm<br>HS Youth Group, 8pm | New Member Welcome Mtg, 6:30pm | | Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm |
| 8<br>Worship 9am<br>Sunday School 10am<br>Adult Forum, 10am<br>HS Sunday School, 11am<br>ELCA Youth Gathering<br>Deposits Due | 9<br>Crafters 9:30am<br><br>Puff Pastry Delivery<br><br>Cub Scouts 6:30pm<br>Troop 94 7pm | 10<br>Quilters 8:30am<br><br>Hispanic Inclusion 6pm<br>New Member Welcome, 6:30pm ? | 11<br>Bible Study 8:30am<br>Staff 1:30pm<br>KFC 3-5pm<br>Bells 5:15pm<br>Confirmation 6-8pm<br>Worship 6:30pm<br>Senior Choir 7pm<br>HS Youth Group, 8pm | 12<br><br>Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm | 13 | 14<br><br>Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm |
| 15<br>Worship 9am<br>New Member Sunday<br>Sunday School 10am<br>HS Sunday School, 11am<br>Scandinavian Breakfast<br><br>Sea Scounts - Ship 1, 6:30-8pm | 16<br><br>Cub Scouts 6:30pm<br>Troop 94 7pm | 17 | 18<br>Bible Study 8:30am<br>Staff 1:30pm<br>KFC 3-5pm<br>Worship Team, 4pm<br>Bells 5:15pm<br>Confirmation 6-8pm<br>Worship 6:30pm<br>Senior Choir 7pm<br>HS Youth Group, 8pm | 19<br><br>Council Meeting 6:30pm | 20<br>First Things Articles Due | 21<br><br>Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm |
| 22<br>Worship 9am<br>Jr Choirs (KFC) Sings<br>Sunday School 10am<br>HS Sunday School, 11am<br><br>Advent by Candlelight, 5:30pm | 23<br><br>Cub Scouts 6:30pm<br>Troop 94 7pm | 24<br>Quilters 8:30am | 25<br>Bible Study 8:30am<br>Pepin Plaza Service, 10am<br><br>No KFC<br>No Confirmation<br>No Worship<br>No Choirs | 26 **THANKSGIVING**<br>**OFFICE CLOSED**<br><br>Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner | 27<br>**OFFICE CLOSED** | 28<br><br>Iglesia Rehearsal 3pm |
| 29 **ADVENT 1**<br><br>Worship 9am<br>No Sunday School<br>HS Sunday School, 11am | 30 Send First Things<br><br>Cub Scouts 6:30pm<br>Troop 94 7pm | | **High School Youth Group**<br>Who: 10-12th grade<br>When: Wed. 8-9pm<br>What: Service/Community | **High School Sunday School**<br>Who: 9th-12th grade<br>When: Sun. 11am-Noon<br>What: Spiritual Bible Study | | |