

Firs* Things

June 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

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

Sue Megrund
Interim Youth Director
sue@ISMteam.org

Sara Thompson
Coord. 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



2026 Confirmation Class



First Lutheran celebrated 20 confirmands on May 17, 2026! Congratulations to these students who experienced Affirmation of Baptism. Back row: Brody Fick, Frank Plank, Carter Keim, Bennett Kohrs, Macie Carlson, Mason Eggenberger, Parker Atkinson
Middle row: Britton Cobb, Savannah Klein, Klara Schmidt, Camryn Porisch, Arianna Talbert, Clarie Gnotke, Pastor Paul Miller
Front row: Lily Miller, Reid Meyer, Nolan Kohrs, Christopher Ahrens, Miranda Koehler, Avery Ohlhaber, Alexis McCoy

Seniors to Receive Quilts

Throughout the year, First Lutheran quilting group has been creating a personalized quilt for each graduating senior. On May 31, these quilts will be presented to the seniors. Seniors and parents will receive a blessing as they prepare for life after high school. The quilts have become a treasured gift for the graduates providing warmth and comfort on their next journey. Thank you to the quilting team of Judy Bremer, Claudia Howard, Pauline Samuelson, LaDonna Severson, Sandy Bendickson, Marcia Holst, Audry Plote, LuAnn Otto, Jo Ann Thompson, Marlys Johnson, and Lorraine Heitman (not pictured).



A Note from Sue Megrund, Interim Youth Director

This month, I offered our "Pastor's Column" to Sue Megrund. Sue is our Interim Youth Director. I recommend her sermon from April 26th to you – you can find it on YouTube (but unfortunately, that was the week our cameras weren't working!). After a month of diving in and helping with our programs, she will now have time to do some of the consulting work we need, and she describes that below. I invite you to pray, and listen to where God is calling you to partner in ministry to youth and children. – Pastor Paul



My name is Sue Megrund, and I serve with InterServe Ministries, an organization that partners with congregations during changes in children and youth ministry staffing and leadership. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you over the past month, and I am grateful to be walking alongside First Lutheran in this season. I want to take a moment and share what's ahead for our time together.

My work here is two-fold. First, I am currently working with the middle and high school youth ministry programs. Second, we will be forming a congregational Discovery Team to help shape the next chapter of First's children, youth, and family ministry. We will form this team soon in the next month or so, and are looking for

people who care deeply about how First Lutheran ministers to young people and fosters their faith development. We are looking for people who like to think big picture, ask good questions, and dream about what's possible. You don't need to have kids in the program to serve on this team. In fact, we want a diverse group of people from different walks of life within the congregation to participate. This team will not be planning youth events, as our focus is on discernment and direction.

Together, this team will:

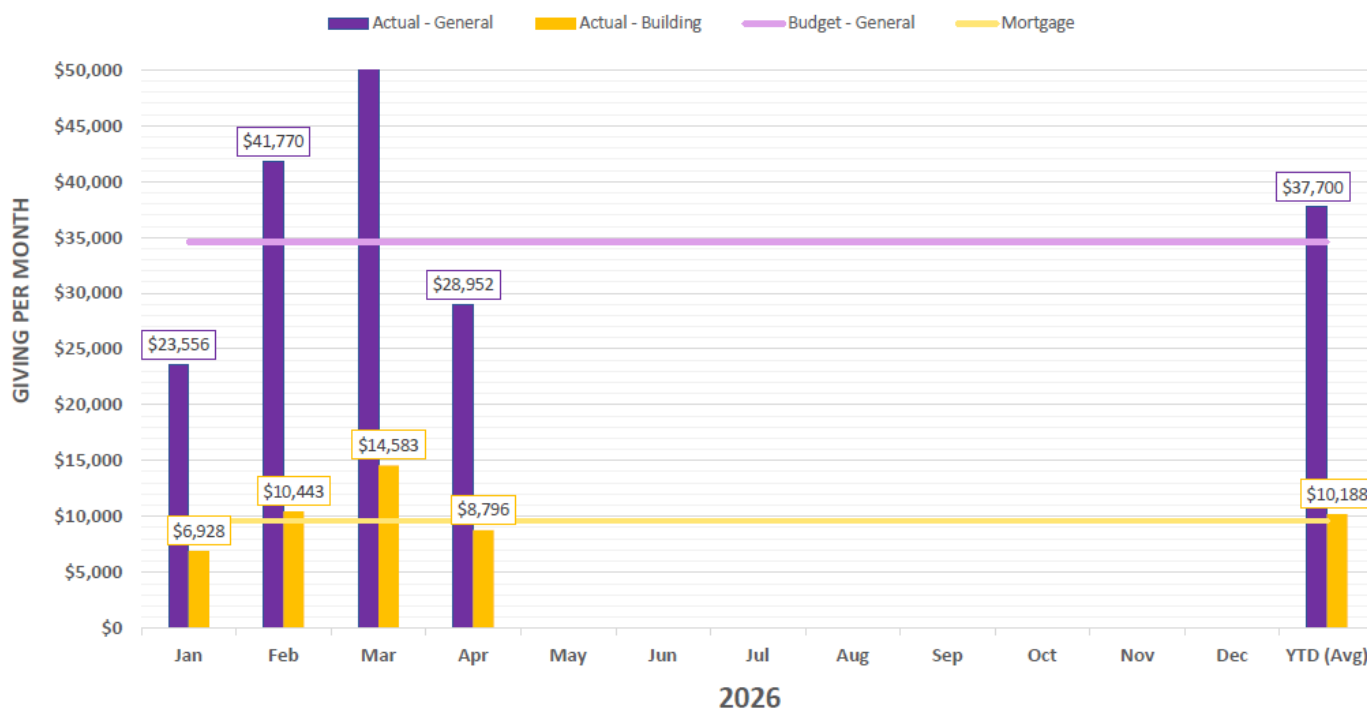
- Celebrate First Lutheran's history and strengths. This is the foundation on which we will build.
- Discern how God is calling First Lutheran into ministry with young people, navigating the unique challenges of growing up in our world today.
- Evaluate the goals of the current ministry and programming, along with effectiveness.
- Provide opportunity for feedback and ideas from the congregation.
- Help shape a new youth ministry position description and dream about what's next.

The team will meet at least monthly (twice monthly as needed), with an online option available. And here's something important: This team has an end date. We will begin this summer and wrap up in about 6 months.

Please prayerfully consider whether this might be the right opportunity for you to help shape something meaningful for the young people of First Lutheran, and for the congregation as a whole! Below is my contact information. If you have any questions about this process or if you are interested in serving on the Discovery Team, please reach out. I look forward to our next steps together!

Sue Megrund
sue@ISMteam.org
612-387-1522

2026 Giving - First Lutheran Church



Summary for Book 01 - General Checking

	April	Year-to-date as of 4/30/2026
Income:	39,601.07	196,198.69
- Expense:	43,606.24	168,644.54
Net Income:	-\$ 4,005.17	\$ 27,554.15

2026 YTD has remained on schedule to budget. We have had minimal change to our Balance Sheet -- only ~\$200.

In reference to the Income Statement, April posted a negative (\$4,000) but we are still positive \$27.5k for the year which is ahead of our budget. Both our income and expense are better than budget at this time.

For giving, we are ahead of budget for both the building fund and general fund through April, however the summer many times leads to slightly lower giving.

SEMN Synod Assembly

In early May, a contingency of four First Lutheran members attended the 2026 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly. Pastor Paul Miller, Cheryl Luettinger, Jennifer White, and Kathy Wigern attended the day long event. See a summary of the day's events on the next page of this newsletter.

Join the Deep Cleaning Team

First impressions are important. At First Lutheran, when people enter our church, let them see that we don't let the dust and cobwebs gather. We take care of what has been given to us.

Our faithful janitor, Loren, tackles a lot, but his hours simply don't allow for the deep cleaning that is needed. That's where we, the members, can pick up the dust cloths, shine up the woodwork, vacuum, organize the cupboards, and declutter where needed.

Summer is a great time to spend some time with friends, maybe even make new friends, as we make our house of worship shine!

If you are interested in lending a hand, contact Janet Chestnut to learn more. jchestnutmd@gmail.com / 507-323-5082



Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly 2026



BAPTIZED

IN

muddy waters



Synod Nomination Results:

- 1x Synod Secretary
- 4x Synod Council lay people
- 5x Synod Council Rostered Ministers
- 1x Synod Council young adult
- 2x Synod Council youth
- 1x Augsburg University Corporation Board

14 positions filled!

Baptism Discussion:

All were invited to share in conversation with others about the following:

- What do you know about your own baptism?
- Talk about a baptism you have witnessed that had an impact on you.
- What images come to mind when you think of baptism?

Other Business:

- The **spending plan** for 2027-28 was approved.
- **Amendments** to the synod constitution were approved.
- **Reports** were received from Bishop Hassanally, Vice President Lisa Dierks, Synod Treasurer Tammy Dahlvang, Synod Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, ELCA Churchwide representative Rev. Barbara Lund, and others.
- Find the spending plan, photos, video messages, and more online.



Bishop Hassanally, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Vice President Lisa Dierks, Parliamentarian Dave Borka

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Michael Chan

Total Attendees:

- 194 Lay voting members
- 127 Pastor voting members
- +5 Deacon voting members
- 326 Total Voting Members**
- 5 Voice Without Vote
- 19 Visitors and Guests
- +12 Volunteers

362 People!



Actual Offering Received: **\$17,539+**

Supporting what the Holy Spirit is doing through the synod's campus ministries and candidacy process, and International Women Leaders of the ELCA. (As of 5/2/26.)



SEMNSynod.org/Assembly

Paul Miller Celebrates 20 Years



Pastor Paul Miller celebrates 20 years of Ordination on June 18, 2026. Congratulations on this milestone in ministry!

Duane Holst to Assist with Visitations

Pastor Duane Holst will be assisting the First Lutheran team as a visitation pastor working a few hours each month. If you'd like a pastoral visit, please call the office.



Remembering Rev. Arnie Swanson



Arnold Raymond Swanson

August 4, 1931 – May 15, 2026

Arnold Raymond Swanson, 94, a child of God, most recently of Salisbury, North Carolina, died May 15, 2026, after a long struggle with physical illness. Arnold was born to Albert and Media Swanson on August 4, 1931 in Shenandoah, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education, and from Augustana Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity. He was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church Augustana Synod (later a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). Arnold served churches in

Lengby, Pelican Rapids, Minneapolis, Lake City, Worthington, and Sandstone, all in Minnesota, and served as a long-term interim pastor at Onamia, Minnesota following his retirement in 1994.

Arnold married Lois Elaine Hassler on July 31, 1955, and together they raised two sons, Daniel and Randall.

Arnold enjoyed, camping, outdoor activities, and woodworking. He was proud of the small farmhouse on their property outside of Sandstone, which he renovated and to which he attached a substantial timber frame addition, working almost completely by himself. He served as chair of the Pine County, Minnesota Democratic Party, and was active with Habitat for Humanity, where he was a construction manager on several projects. Arnold, for a number of years, wrote the Pine Splinters column - his thoughts and observations about people, events, and the world around him - in Pine City's Pine County Courier newspaper. He was an avid gardener, for years fighting a losing battle to keep the deer out of his vegetables.

Arnold is survived by son and daughter-in-law Daniel and Robin Swanson, of Denton, North Carolina, daughter-in-law Wedan Swanson, of Lorton, Virginia, granddaughter and her husband, Laura Swanson and Richard Joe, of Bayside, Queens, New York, grandson Paul Swanson, of Mathews, North Carolina, grandson Oliver Swanson, of Lorton, Virginia, and great granddaughter Quinn Joe Swanson, of Bayside, Queens, New York.

Arnold was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Media Swanson, his wife Lois, and his son Randall.

A memorial service for Arnold will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Hinckley, Minnesota, at 4:00 PM CT. with Pastor Erik Lundquist, officiating. The family will greet visitors one before the service, at 3:00 PM CT. Burial will be at Lois's home church, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Princeton, Illinois, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent in honor of Arnold to the following: Alzheimer's Association (alz.org), P.O. Box 96011 Washington, DC 20090-6011; or Habitat for Humanity (habitat.org), 322 West Lamar Street, Americus, Georgia 31709-3543.

Rochester Area Handbells Concert



First Lutheran Church is hosting the Rochester Area Handbells for a concert on at **7pm on June 13!** The group says this is the most ambitious concert program yet. Entitled "Why We Ring", the program will feature their usual exciting and moving selection of music, and also personal vignettes from their ringers with insights into why they are so dedicated to art of handbells.

Habitat for Humanity Workday



We had a great group of volunteers helping at the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity house in May. Thank you Pastor Paul, Joe White, Mac Baird, Jeff Chestnut, Beth Plank (soon-to-be new homeowner), Mal McCarthy, Bob Bidon (construction foreman) and Bill Otto!

The foundation is complete and the house is expected to move from Goodhue to its new location on 10th street in Lake City on May 28. If you'd like to be part of a future workday, contact Joe White at (651) 927-9070 or jwhite@acrotechinc.com

Member Spotlight

While visiting members, Ken & Edith Hoffman, Pastor Duane Holst learned that the couple will be celebrating their 76th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2026. Ken will be 98 years young on June 22. And not too far behind, Edith will be 96 later this summer on August 16, 2026. We believe these are the oldest members at First Lutheran!

Feel free to send a card celebrating any of these milestones to:
480 W Grant St #207.

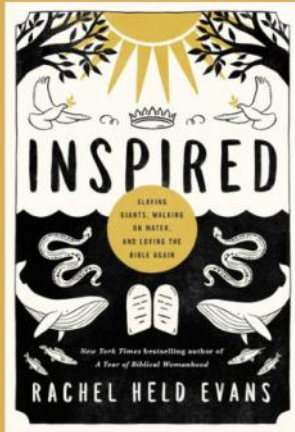


Ken and Edith are picture here with their new quilts provided by the First Lutheran Quilting Team.

Bendickson's Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ross and Sandy Bendickson will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 19. The couple volunteer and serve in numerous groups both at First Lutheran and throughout our community. It is fitting that they have signed up to serve coffee after our June 14 worship in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Ross & Sandy!

Summer Bible Study: "Inspired"



On **Wednesdays beginning June 3 at 11 am**, we will be gathering with Pastor Kary to discuss "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again" by the late Rachel Held Evans. [Several years ago, we read "Inspired" in the church book group where we wished we could dive deeper into it's ideas.]

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when

they say the Bible is inspired? Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

Wednesday classes will run as follows:

June 3: Introduction and Chapter 1 [Origin Stories and The Well]

June 10: Chapter 2 [Deliverance Stories and The Walls]

June 17: Chapter 3 [War Stories and The Debate]

June 24: Chapter 4 [Wisdom Stories and The Beast]

July 1: Chapter 5 [Resistance Stories and The Water]

July 8: Chapter 6 [Gospel Stories and The Seas]

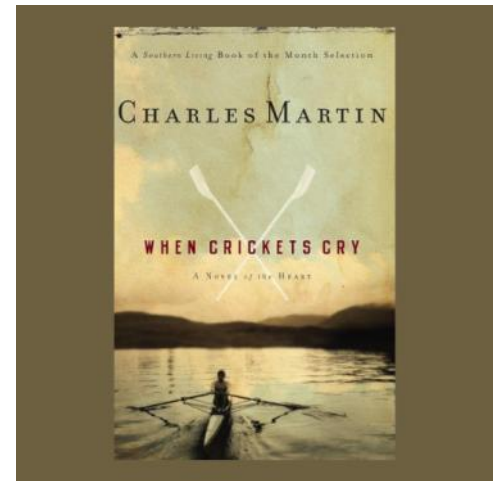
July 15: No class

July 22: Chapter 7 [Fish Stories and The Letter]

July 29: Chapter 8 [Church Stories]

Participants will need to acquire their own books. They are available, new and used on Amazon as well as used from allbookstores.com.

If you would like to participate in this study, please sign up. Student reading guides which will be used in class will be available in the church office. Please pick one up before the first class.



June Book Group

Fireside Room

Mon. June 1, 9am

Next Book Group will be meeting on **June 1 at 9am in the Fireside Room**. We will be discussing "When Crickets Cry" by Charles Martin

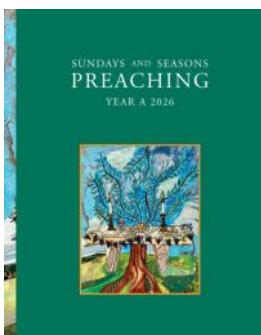
This is a moving novel about a heart surgeon in hiding, Jonathan Reese Mitchell, who is drawn to a young girl, Annie, who runs a lemonade stand to raise money for a heart transplant. The story follows their unlikely connection as they both deal with past trauma and grief, exploring themes of faith, redemption, and the healing power of love and forgiveness. The book is known for its emotional depth, Southern setting, and poignant storytelling, with a plot that involves a medical thriller and spiritual epiphany.

Treats will be provided. Bring your morning beverage of choice.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says he Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

~ Luke 6:31

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Each Wednesday morning at 8:30am, Pastor Paul or Pastor Kary lead a bible study with focus on the gospel and lessons for the upcoming week. Following the lectionary each week creates thoughtful discussion and insight for the upcoming sermon during Sunday worship.

Summer Dates

June 14-19: Confirmation Camp (soon to be 8th graders)

July 21: Good Earth Village Adventurers Day Camp

July 3-12: Rainbow Trail Senior High Trip (includes travel days)

Aug 3-6: Vacation Bible School (12:30-3:30pm)

Vacation Bible School Sign-up



August 3-6 | 12:30-3:30pm

PreK-6th grade

Cost: \$15 (\$40 family cap)

Register by June 5

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is open to anyone entering PreK-6th grade. You do not need to be a FLC member to attend. Scholarships available. Please send cash or check to the office with a note for VBS. [Sign-up here.](#)

Volunteers Needed

It takes 20-30 volunteers to make VBS a great experience for our kids. We need teachers, station leaders, snack prep, and floaters. Please consider signing up to help.

If you have a middle school or high school student interested in helping, there is an option on the form as well.

[Volunteer sign-up here!](#)

Vacation Bible School Fun from 2025!



June 1: Emily Banks, Hudson Moechnig, Jax Rolbiecki

David & Kay Harms

June 2: Lucas Roberson, Liam Roberson, Dylan Speltz

*Ben & Jill Dinsmore, Brett & Susan Langfritz,
Jason & Ashley Meyer*

June 3: Jared Morgan

June 4: Ross Featherstone, Nicholas Hartzell

June 5: Joanne Flugstad, Mary Gravenish, Deb Hanson,
Will Heise, Tonia Swiggum, Ashley Thieren

June 6: Noah Bailey, Macie Carlson, Cole Lundell,
Gretchen McCarthy

Duane & Marcia Holst

June 7: Joel Eichelberger, Lucy Grothe, Thomas Huettl

Galen & Kim Vetter

June 8: Beth Breuer, Jennifer Cobb, Cora Fitterer,
Mitchell Kuchinka, Todd Severson

Dave & Tami Ender, Brent & Jane Urbach

June 9: Mark Fick, Mark Grimley, Gus Sullivan, Ethan
Wurst

June 10: Travis Dunn, Benjamin Nutt, Sean Roach,
Sheri Sommer

Greg & Diane Keyport

June 11: John Albright, Kjellgren Alkire, Kohen Blim,
Letti Blim, Madyson Skifton

June 12:

Tom & Karen Heise, Ben & Elizabeth Meyer

June 13: Shantel Carlson, Mateo Figueroa,
Olivia Ohlhaber

June 14: Erin Berlin, Adolph Zanto

June 15: Adam Holden, Carter Keim, Rick Sward

June 16: Dinah Marking, Lauryn Stolzenberg

Scott & Beth Breuer

June 17: *Greg Gilman & Deb Tiedeman,*

Kenneth & Edith Hoffman, Heath & Tricia Oeltjen

June 18: Joseph Hinck, Steven Johnson

June 19: Alex Lundell, Marilyn Mathison, Mary Jane
Rasmussen, Elliette Roberson

Ross & Sandy Bendickson, Dave & Tamara Lewey

June 20: Fred Canfield, Halle Kennedy, Tom Kuchinka,
Joshua Moechnig, Sara Peterson

Bernie & Jessica Dudley

June 21: Emily Berkeland, Margaret Ebert, Mike
Griebenow, Tyler Johnson, Ryan Langhans, Trevor
Narum, Anne Pflaum

June 22: Nicholas Dudley, Andrew Green, Kenneth
Hoffman, Logan Meincke

Rob & Sarah Nutt, Jeff & Amy Rogness

June 23: Terri Erickson, Jim Gates, Tricia Meyers,
Carter Wallerich

Pat & Pauline Samuelson

June 24: Grant Gilman, Walter Grimley

*Jeff & Mary Mund, Bob & Dianna Nafe, Peter & Kerstin
Suby*

June 25: Brayden Burgeson, Michael Johnson, Michael
Pfeilsticker, Rhett Suckow

Ryan & Kayla Langhans

June 26: Liz Alitz, Madi Green, David Kohutko, Caron
Lichtblau, LaDonna Severson

Floyd & Loa Olson

June 27: Abriell Krier

June 28: Ada Alkire, Brad Nelson, Shelby Skifton

Boyd & Janice Olson

June 29: Tanner Frank, Nancy Heins, Leah Ratz, Jake
Schumacher

Randall & Janee Klipfel, Paul & Marie Miller

June 30: Tarri Gnotke, Alan Harteneck, Susan
Langfritz, Maverick Rolbiecki

Joel & KayLee Eichelberger

Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski, 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), Lindy Jane Majerus, Chuck Harlan, Anna Wood (Wally Dailey's sister), Allan Mumm, Wally Dailey, Barb Novek (sister of Diane Keyport), and Tom Heise.

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	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
LECTOR	Randi Kirchner	Duane Holst	Cheryl Luettinger	needed
GREETERS	needed	needed	needed	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Randi Kirchner needed	Duane Holst Jenny Schlagenhaft	needed needed needed	needed needed
USHERS	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Santelman & Jane Simonton	Mary Santelman & Jane Simonton	Marlys Johnson & Karyn Moechnig	Marlys Johnson & Karyn Moechnig
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	needed	Ross & Sandy Bendickson	needed	needed

Thank you to those who share their time and talents! Your service is a gift to our congregation!
 If you'd like to try one of these roles, we have created a "job description" for each worship role.
 Please contact Jen White in the church office to receive a copy of any of the above roles.

If you are able to assist with any of these worship roles, you can sign up by...

- * Clicking [Sign-up Genius here.](#)
- * Calling the office (651-345-5003)
- * Sending an email to Jen White (jennifer.white@firstlc.org)
- * Signing up at the Kiosk at church.

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Polk Scholarships Due Book Group, 9am	2	3 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm	4	5 VBS Registration Deadline	6 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
7 LC Graduation Worship 9am	8 Crafters 9:30am, Fireside Rm	9 FLC Quilters 8:30am	10 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm	11 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	12 Church Open / Office closed	13 Rochester Area Handbells Concert, 7pm
14 Worship 9am Confirmation Camp Blessing	15 Church Open / Office closed	16 Church Open / Office closed	17 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Inspired Bible Study, 11am	18 Paul Miller 20th Anniversary of Ordination	19 Church Open / Office closed	20 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
21 FATHER'S DAY Worship 9am P Pop-up Choir	22 First Things Articles Due	23 FLC Quilters 8:30am	24 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Pepin Plaza Communion, 10am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm	25 Church Council 6:30pm	26	27 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
28 Worship 9am Rainbow Trail Blessing	29 Send July First Things	30				