

Firs* Things

July 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

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Associate Pastor
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Jennifer White
Congregational Administrator
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Loren Prigge, Custodian



Senior Blessing & Quilts



First Lutheran Church of Lake City celebrated its graduating seniors on May 31. Each senior received a blessing and a handmade quilt made by the quilting group. Congratulations to the senior class of 2026. Front row: Pastor Kary Jonas, Ava Eggenberger, Faith Bonde, Madyson Skifton, Erica Wallerich. Back row: Emma Siert, Evelyn Rogness, Luke Narum, Thomas Nutt, and Pastor Paul Miller.

Landscaping Team Kicks off Summer



The landscaping team kicked off summer with weed-ing and a refresh of our front planters. The plants were purchased from the Lake City Scouting Troop 94 Plant Fundraiser through Gertens.

They are always looking for volunteers to join their crew. During the summer they water the planters on a rotating basis and only involves one or two weeks during the summer. If you are interested in helping, or have questions, please call Dale Nelson, 612-308-9298 or Jane Windhorst 651-380-0883

Disciples and Patriots

Being a disciple of Jesus can really complicate things. To be more precise: being a disciple gives us clarity about the things that are most important, and seems to complicate just about everything else. If you bring your faith to your money decisions, dating or career decisions, and family obligations... it can feel like Jesus is meddling in things that ought to be simple! The same is true of our civic life, and worth thinking through as we celebrate a national milestone month. Here are some of the tensions we may feel, that are worth thinking through:

- God comes first in our lives – but that doesn't mean that other things can't be very important to us. We can be patriotic, active, and committed citizens while also remembering "our citizenship is in heaven." (Phil. 3:20)
- On the one hand, patriotism can be a wonderful impulse. An excellent definition of patriotism I encountered sounds like common sense to me: we all know we can have special love for our home and our compatriots without having to hate or wish ill of anyone else. At its best patriotism is one of the ways we "love our neighbor as ourselves." On the other hand, it has been misused in many ways, and we need to bring wisdom to this and be on our guard about the way patriotism can be used to manipulate, distract, or justify.
- At the same time that we can wholeheartedly pray "God bless America," we must always remember that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it," (Psalm 24:1) and that it has always been God's intention to bless all the nations and peoples of the world (Gen. 12:3, Matt. 28:19, Rev. 7:9, etc.)
- On the one hand, it would be ungrateful for most of us not to give thanks for living in this country, in this time and place with its unprecedented prosperity and freedom – and it is usually a good practice to emphasize the positive and celebrate the good (Phil. 4:8). On the other hand, we as Christians experience God's transformation powerfully through confession and forgiveness, both as individuals and as groups – and so we bring those disciplines of soul-searching and truth-telling to our national life as well. Because we have experienced God's grace in this way, we insist on remembering our nation's faults and mistakes as well as its successes and glories.

If you will bear with me, I have found a lot of meaning in one point of grammar in the patriotic song, "America, the Beautiful." We usually just sing the first verse, and when you sing just the first verse, this line sounds like the past tense: "America! America! God shed his grace on thee..." That makes perfect sense when we consider all the benefits we should thank God for in the history of our nation. But it isn't meant to be past tense. This becomes clear as you sing the rest of the line, where it says "... and crown they good with brotherhood..." – not "crowned," but "crown." What the verse is really saying is a prayer: "May God shed his grace on America, may God crown its good with brotherhood." (This is the "subjunctive" for any grammar nerds out there – it just looks identical to past tense sometimes.) This song is a prayer, and I love the prayers that come at the end of each verse. I'll print them here so you can join me in praying them during the semi-quincentennial:

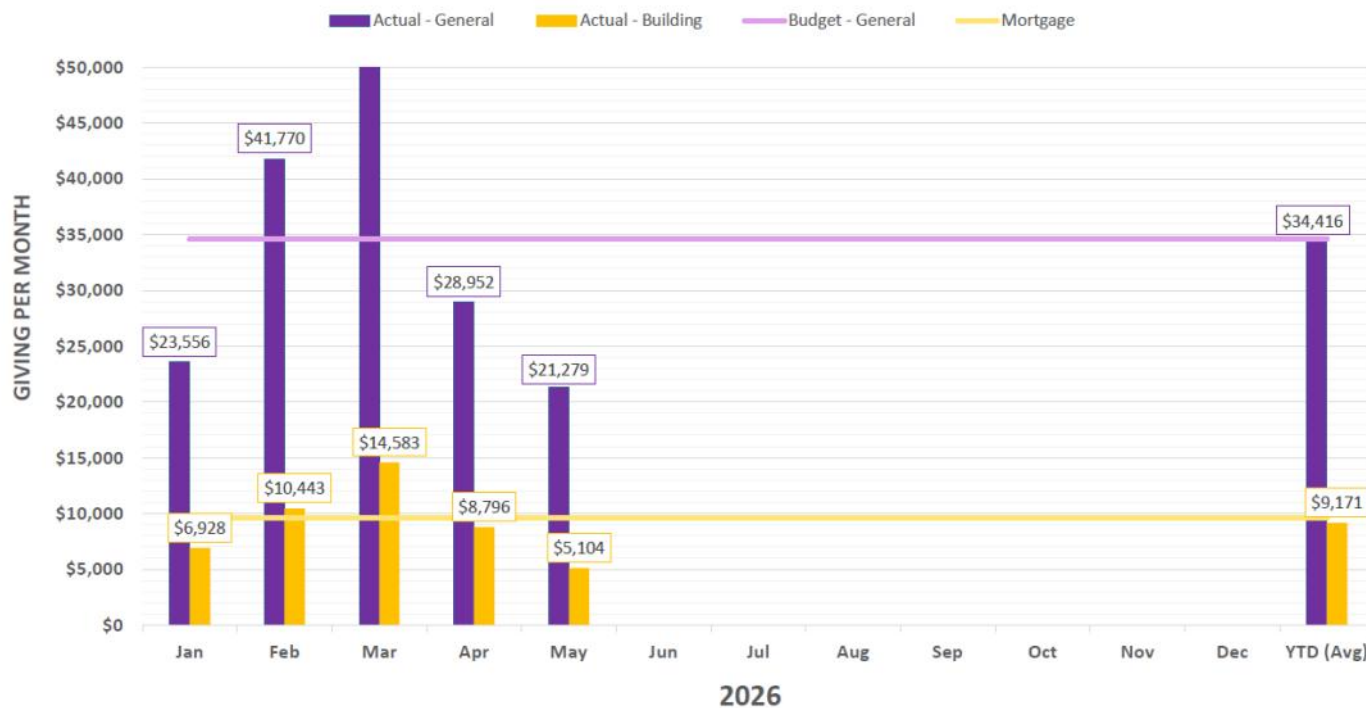
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. // America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine. // America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

Crowning, and refining. Mending, and confirming. We pray – fervently, patriotically, and with great resolve – that God's grace will prevail in our land for our people. And for this whole hurting and God-beloved world.



Pastor Paul

2026 Giving - First Lutheran Church



Summary for Book 01 - General Checking

	May	Year-to-date as of 5/31/2026
Income:	31,378.46	227,577.15
- Expense:	50,503.86	219,148.40
Net Income:	-\$ 19,125.40	\$ 8,428.75

2026 YTD has remained on schedule to budget. The balance sheet cash balances decreased during May due to one-time / annual payments in regards to camps and the fire protection company.

In reference to the Income Statement, May was approximately a negative (\$9,000) but we are still positive \$8,000 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 right at our monthly budget for the full year. May shows the expected decrease in giving for the summer months but we are in line with expectations.

Mortgage Reduction Funds Applied

FLC Treasurer, Andrew Ahrens reported that he has processed the 2025 Principal Only payment towards the mortgage which leaves us with a balance under \$500k.

Volunteers Needed

Our church cemetery, Oakwood, is maintained by volunteers. The crew could use one more mower and two more trimmers. All equipment is provided and the time required averages 1-2 hours per week. If you are interested, contact John Mortenson (651) 347-9268 or the church office. (651) 345-5003.





Pop-up Choir



Summer Concert Series Available

Lutheran Summer Music's 2026 season has begun! Hosted at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, this season offers a vibrant lineup of musical experiences. From choral concerts, woodwinds, brass, organ, harp and orchestra concerts, music is happening nearly every evening through July 19. Whether you join us in person or online, we invite you to be part of the

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) community this summer!

Attend in Person

Many concerts, recitals, and worship services offer free ticket reservations. Reserve tickets in advance or simply stop by the box office when you arrive. All events are free and open to the public.

Watch Online

More than 30 events will be livestreamed via Live from LSM, including concerts, recitals, and worship services. Watch live or enjoy recordings through LSM on Demand from wherever you are.

Learn more at www.lsmacademy.org/calendar

Join us for a **Summer Pop-up Choir on July 19th**. All are welcome to sing—no prior choir experience is necessary! Meet at 8:15am in the choir room that morning to rehearse the selected song. Copies of the music will be available.

ELCA and Polk Scholarships Awarded

The FLC Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the congregational member/students who have been awarded the ELCA and the Bob Polk Memorial Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year.

The ELCA Scholarships are awarded to student members who are attending an ELCA affiliated Scholarship. The Polk Scholarship was established by the Bob Polk family to support students who are preparing for a medical profession. This is the final year of the Polk Memorial Scholarship as all funds have been awarded. See the FLC website under the "Youth and Family Ministry" for more details regarding the scholarship process.

The **ELCA Scholarships** have been awarded to:

- **Ada Alkire** - sophomore at Augsburg University in Minneapolis.
- **Max Rogness** - sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN.
- **Evelyn Rogness** - freshman at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

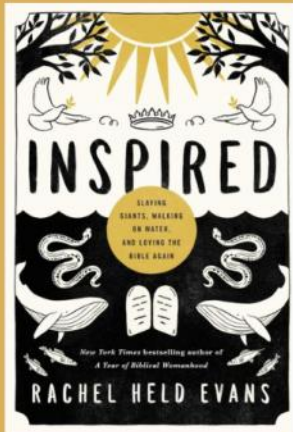
The **Polk Memorial Scholarships** are awarded to:

- **Brooke Bee** who is attending the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.
- **Evelyn Rogness** will be a freshman at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

Congratulations to all the First Lutheran scholarship recipients!



Summer Bible Study Continues



Summer Bible Study with Pastor Kary will continue in July to discuss “Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again” by the late Rachel Held Evans.

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.

Remaining Wednesday classes at 11am are as follows:

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

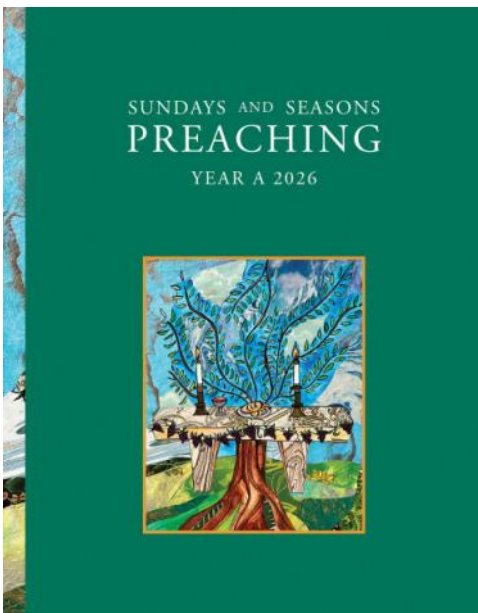
July 8: Chapter 6 [Gospel Stories and The Seas]

July 15: No class

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

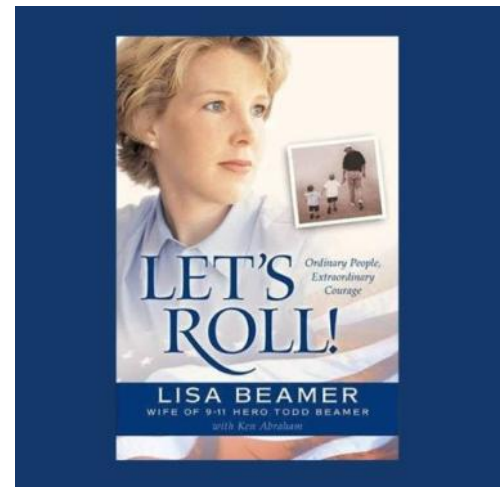
July 29: Chapter 8 [Church Stories]

Wednesday Morning 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. Following the lectionary each week creates thoughtful discussion and insight for the upcoming sermon during Sunday worship. This year is following the Year A Lectionary. No sign-up up necessary.

Book Group Takes Summer Break



The Book Group is taking a summer break and will resume on Sept. 14 at 8:30am. They will be discussing “Let’s Roll! (Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage)” by Lisa Beamer, wife of September 11 hero Todd Beamer.

She reveals what really happened on the ill-fated United Flight 93, and shares poignant glimpses of a genuine American hero. She talks candidly about her life with Todd and the devastating day her children learned their daddy had died, the mix of grief and joy when she gave birth to the daughter she was pregnant with at the time, and how she found the confidence to go on in the face of such tragedy and loss.

Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, July 9** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.



Summer Dates

July 4-12: Rainbow Trail Senior High Trip (includes travel days)

July 21: Good Earth Village Adventurers Day Camp

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

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed



It takes 20-30 volunteers to make VBS a great experience for our kids. We still need **teachers, station leaders, 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!](#)



Good Earth Village Confirmation Camp



Six rising eighth-graders attended camp at Good Earth Village near Spring Valley, Minnesota with Pastor Paul June 14-19. The theme was "Wear Love" from Colossians 3:12-14, and each day had a theme to help campers think about how to live their lives "wearing" the love of Christ: humble, kind, calm, steadfast, forgiving. Each day included morning and evening worship, learning, and games. The group enjoyed the temperate weather and getting to know each other and the other church groups.



July 1: Mark Converse, Claudia Howard, Abigail Peterson

Ben & Amy Roberson

July 2: Jessica Dudley, Dylan Eggenberger, Alaina Johnson-Nadeau

Andy & Cassie Carlson

July 3: Craig Davis, Mya Krueger, Carol Nibbe, David Pribyl

Jerry & Sue Benson, Darren & Jessica Brunn, Jon & Sonda Featherstone

July 4: Corinne Logsdon, Theresa Plote

Paul & Wanda Myers

July 5: Emily Dinsmore

Harvey & Nancy Gabbert

July 6: Carol Proud, Samantha Suckow, Paige West

July 7: Atticus Alkire, Floyd Olson

Matt & Erin Berlin, Tim & Sara Thompson

July 8: Mark Krueger, Robert Nilsson

July 9: Cassie Carlson, Beth Carlstrom, Richard Klein, Kimberly Meyer

Jim & Virginia Plote

July 10:

Rick & Barb Boos

July 11: Hollis Brunn, Audrina Meyer, Virginia Oliver

Allen & Eunice Blattner, Arnold & Paulette Clare, Greg & Becky Sievers, Jane & Kevin Simonton

July 12: Drew Bailey, Chuck Bremer, Jesse Jonas, Mal McCarthy, Darlene Saby

Laura & Tony Miller

July 13: Bruce Carlstrom, Lily Miller,

Jim & Jennifer Cobb

July 14: Bailee Kohrs, KaBree Krier, Kena Tackmann

July 15: Teresa Atkinson, Elizabeth Hallaway

July 16: Tom Ringeisen

James & Diane Fuchs

July 17: Mark Krage, Josie Langhans, Tom Marik, Ilah Sullivan, Maggie Thieren, Henrix Truax

July 18: Jayden Borgschatz, Jill Cole, Katie Johnson, Will Stolzenberg

July 19: Sadie Ekblad, Lexi Warneke

July 20: Andrew Ahrens, Barb Boos, Dawn Heitman

July 22: Kimberly Boos, Olivia Dick

July 23: Wendi Bauer, Michael Scanlon

July 24: Jackson Berge, Nick Bobb, Nicholas Eckhart, Julian Figueroa, Jean Johnson, David Lewey

July 25: Nancy Brooks

July 26: Tricia Oeltjen

Justin & Stacie Ratz

July 27: Jenna Grothe, Angie Haviland, Tom Heise, Drew Johnson, Lee Kirchner, Stacie Ratz, Matthew Schneider

Bryan & Brittany Grimley

July 28: Dean Flugstad, Benjamin Krehbiel, Nicholas Oeltjen

July 29: Karlee Fick, Arlis Meincke, Maxwell Rogness, Richard Schafer

Lonny & Karyn Moechnig

July 30: Jenny Gabor, Avis Swan

July 31: Lily Fitterer, Tina Wallerich, Jim Zwiener

Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to two couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this month!

Jon & Sonda Featherstone (July 3)

Rick & Barb Boos (July 10)

Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), 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), Anna Wood (Wally Dailey's sister), Wally Dailey, Barb Novek (sister of Diane 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.

Date \ Role	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
LECTOR	Jane Sidwell	Randy Kirchner	Duane Holst	needed
GREETERS	Mary Santelman	needed	needed	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	needed needed Needed	Randy Kirchner Jenny Schlagenhaft needed	Duane Holst Claudia Howard needed	needed needed needed
USHERS	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Kim Ask-Carlson & Janet Chestnut	Kim Ask-Carlson & Janet Chestnut	Sandy Bendickson & Susan Dailey	Sandy Bendickson & Susan Dailey
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Dave & Tami Ender	needed	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.

We are looking for vocalists or musicians to add special music to our worship services throughout the summer months. If you are interested in performing or have a recommendation, please contact Kerstin Suby at kerstin.suby@firstlc.org



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff Lunch & Planning Meeting, 12:30	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 FOURTH OF JULY Rainbow Trails Senior High Trip Departs from FLC
5 Worship 9am P	6	7	8 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm Youth Ministry/Discovery Team, 6:30pm	9 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	10	11 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
12 Worship 9am Rainbow Trails Senior High Trip Returns to FLC	13 Crafters 9:30-11:30am, Fireside Rm	14 FLC Quilters 8:30am	15 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm	16 No Council Meeting	17	18 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
19 Worship 9am Pop-up Choir	20	21 GEV Adventure Day Camp, 7:30am-5:30pm	22 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Pepin Plaza Communion, 10am Staff 1:30pm	23 First Things Articles Due	24	25 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
26 Worship 9am	27	28 FLC Quilters 8:30am	29 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Inspired Bible Study, 11am Staff 1:30pm	30 Send August First Things	31	