

Firs* Things

August 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*

Outdoor Worship & Picnic



Join us for outdoor worship and a campfire picnic to follow on Wed, August 5!

We'll gather at our outdoor fire pit and begin worship at 5:30pm, then roast hot dogs (optional) and s'mores around the fire.

Some bench seating is provided, but bring a chair and sit on the hillside. Hot dogs, chips, and s'more fixings will be provided. We will gather rain or shine. We'll move inside if the weather doesn't cooperate.

First Lutheran Website Refresh



First Lutheran Church's website has a new look. We hope our members and people looking for a home church are able to find what they need. As you review the site, please let the church office know if something is inaccurate, missing, or you see opportunities for improvement. Thank you to former member, Michael Brower, for tending to our previous website for many years. We appreciate the years of service.



Summer Camp Memories

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:4-5

As I write this article, we are still experiencing summer, and my thoughts turn to summer camp.

When I was a kid, I never went to summer camp. But, my husband, Peter worked at several camps and camp was an important part of his faith formation. Thus, our children were going to camp which they did for many years and eventually worked as camp counselors.

Our three children were introduced to camp at Fortune Lake Camp in the upper peninsula of Michigan. This ELCA camp offered a “Women and Kids week” each year. I went with Maura one year and then with all three kids for several years following. We would stay with several other moms and their children in cabins. One year, we were placed in “Cedar” cabin with several families we did not know, but had such a good time together, we requested each other and “Cedar” cabin in subsequent years and have remained friends.

The camp schedule for “Women and Kids” week would go like this. In the mornings after breakfast, the moms would go off to Bible study and the camp counselors would take our children for their own Bible study followed by traditional camp activities. “Women and Kids” week was at the start of the summer, so it gave the counselors ‘practice’ before the summer season really got into gear. After lunch, we had some time together with our children to swim, hike or do crafts. After dinner, the counselors had planned activities for our children so we had some “adult” time. It was really a wonderful way to enjoy camp as an adult but also introduce our children to camp.

But, as you can imagine, with all the traditional activities of camp, combined with kids of all ages and their harried moms away from the routine of home, the atmosphere was in a word, wild. Yet, at dusk, moms, kids and counselors would all hike to the fire circle and sit around the blazing campfire. After a long day of playing, swimming, meals and games, we would all settle around the fire, tired, but appreciating the calm provided by the warmth and glow of the fire. Honestly, I don’t know that we were necessarily calm after a day of dealing with various meltdowns experienced by the kids and sometimes, even the moms. But, around the campfire, with the light of the fire reflected off our faces, somehow, there was peace.

The light John refers to is something else altogether. The light Jesus brought into the world was not the warm, fuzzy glow of a campfire that soothes over some of the rough edges. Nor was it the harsh light of the hot afternoon sun. The light Jesus brought reveals truth, about who he is and who we are. It shows the truth that we are God’s children. And the light brought by Jesus enables us to see others, and ourselves in the light of what God has done for us, through Jesus.

May God bless you with God’s light throughout the remaining days of summer,



Pastor Kary

June Financials

A note from our treasurer, Andrew Ahrens.

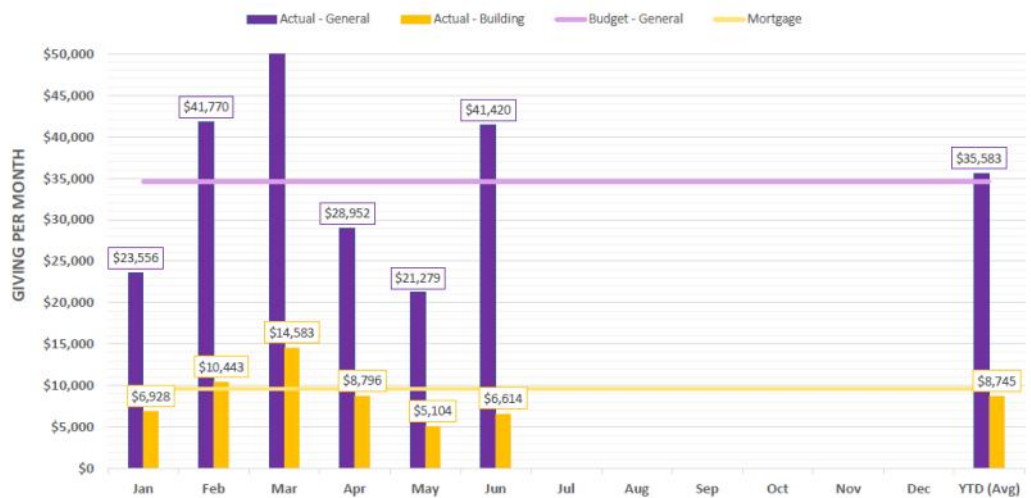
June was a month where we remained in good position going forward. Our cash balance remained similar to the previous month. This was helped with an extra Sunday of giving which included a week where we exceeded budget.

Giving for the full year is back on pace to exceed budget for the General Giving. As expected, Building Giving has slowed down over the summer, but is just below budget and expect it to increase once fall begins.

Mortgage Update

The principal only payment for the mortgage was made in June and we are now well under \$500,000 remaining. This leaves us at about 4.5 years remaining in payments for the mortgage.

2026 Giving - First Lutheran Church



Summary for Book 01 - General Checking

	June	Year-to-date as of 6/30/2026
Income:	51,268.80	278,845.95
- Expense:	39,051.45	258,199.85
Net Income:	\$ 12,217.35	\$ 20,646.10

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 age 73, 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>. Or scan the QR code here for direct access.



If you would like a recurring payment stopped, please contact FLC Treasurer, Andrew Ahrens at treasurer@firstlc.org.

Thank you for supporting the various projects (locally, nationally, and globally) and fundraisers throughout the year as well!

Labyrinth Celebrates 5 Years!

It has been five years since 40+ FLC members spent the weekend of August 21 and 22 building the church labyrinth.

In the past five years, outreach and education regarding the Labyrinth experience has been offered, benches have been placed, landscaping continues to evolve and trees have been planted. The Labyrinth is a gift to the congregation and the community as a place for prayer, meditation, and connection to God's forgiveness, love and peace.

A program of re-dedication for the Labyrinth will occur after a service later in August. Watch FLC connections for the date. All are Welcome.



Duane Holst Celebrates 50 Years of Ordination

We congratulate to Pastor Duane Holst on his 50th Anniversary of Ordination on Aug. 15. Though Duane retired from the ministry in January 2023, after 46 years of ministry, he continues serve various roles at First Lutheran as a member including as a lector, communion assistant, and most recently as a part-time visitation pastor.

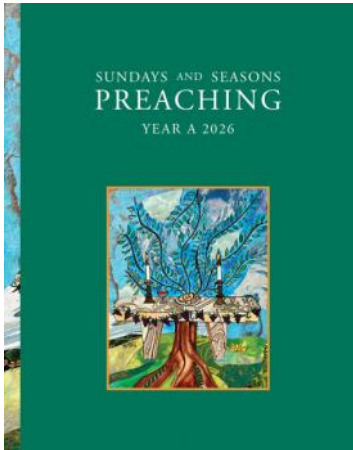
Pastor Duane graduated in 1971 from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Upon graduating from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa in 1975, Pastor Duane began his work in the

Church. He served in Kansas and Nebraska. But times were lean and because the church could not pay him fully when called, Pastor Duane also drove school bus for a number of years while serving the church as pastor. In 2011, Pastor Duane was called to serve as a part-time pastor at First Lutheran in Lake City. He has found, "Serving God's people is a great way to spend one's life."

We will celebrate both Pastor Duane (50th in August) and Pastor Paul (20th in June) Ordination Anniversaries with cake after worship on August 16.

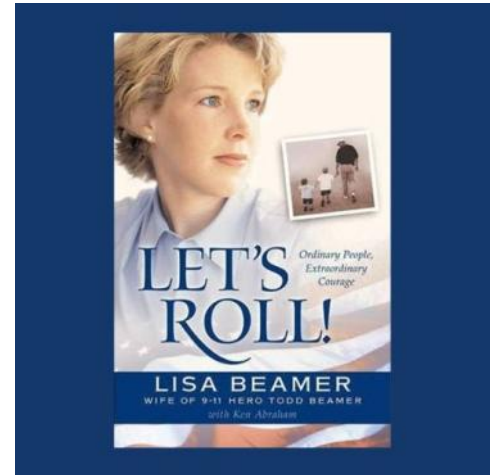


Wednesday Morning Bible Study



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 Meets in September



The Book Group will resume meeting 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.

Last Summer Pop-up Choir

Join us for our last **Summer Pop-up Choir on August 16th**. 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.



End of an Era for Dine Around



After several years of gathering in homes with other First Lutheran members and sharing meals and stories, this summer will be the last Dine Around session. Thanks to all who have participated over the years.

~ Mavis Hawkins

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.



Fellowship Potluck

Join us for a monthly Fellowship Potluck on **Thursday, August 13** at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy conversation at a good old-fashioned Lutheran potluck.



Fall Children's Ministry Dates

Aug 3-6: Vacation Bible School (12:30-3:30pm - Closing Celebration Aug. 6 at 3pm)

Aug 30: Blessing of Backpacks

Sept 10: Sunday School Teacher Orientation & Training, 6:30pm

Sept 13: First Year & 3rd Grade Bible Distribution & Rally Sunday (Meet Your Teacher)

Sept 20: Third Grade Bible Intro, 10:15am (Parents & Students)

Sept 23: First Day of KFC (Kids for Christ)

Sept 27: PreK Bible Intro, 10:15am (Parents & Students)

VBS Happening Aug 3-6

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is happening at First Lutheran August 3-6, 12:30-3:30pm. Pre-K through 6th graders will enjoy an afternoon of singing, bible study, games, and snacks throughout the week. There will be a closing performance at 3pm on August 6. Parents, family and friends are invited to see and hear what the students learned during the week.

Sunday School & KFC Registration

With the start of the school year, First Lutheran will be also starting Kids for Christ (KFC) on Wednesdays and Sunday School. **Registration is now open for both programs through Aug. 31.** More details and schedules will be shared before the school year begins. Contact Sara with questions: sara.thompson@firstlc.org

Sunday School will start Sept. 13 with Rally Day to find your classroom and meet your teacher! Children 3 years old - 6th grade are welcome.

We use the Spark Curriculum and meet each Sunday from 10-11am following 9am worship

[Sign-up here for Sunday School!](#)



Kids for Christ (KFC) will start on Sept. 23. Children in 2nd - 6th graders are welcome. (This is a change from previous years.)

KFC is held on Wednesdays from 3-5pm with transportation provided from Bluff View. We do not meet on early release days.

\$25 registration fee per child - cash or check to First Lutheran. Assistance is available if needed.

[Sign-up here for KFC!](#)

Volunteer in Children's Ministry

Lots of volunteers are needed for Children's Ministry to happen at First Lutheran Church. Last year we hosted 50 children on Wednesdays and 85 students attended Sunday School each week.

Here's what we need:

- Sunday School Teacher (rotation basis)
- Sunday School Subs
- High School Helper for SS
- KFC Small Group Leader
- KFC Small Group Subs
- High School Helper for KFC
- KFC Snack Helper (rotation)

Contact Sara Thompson with questions: sara.thompson@firstlc.org.

[Sign-up here to help!](#)



Fall Youth Ministry Dates

Sept 2: Confirmation Parent Meeting (time TBD)

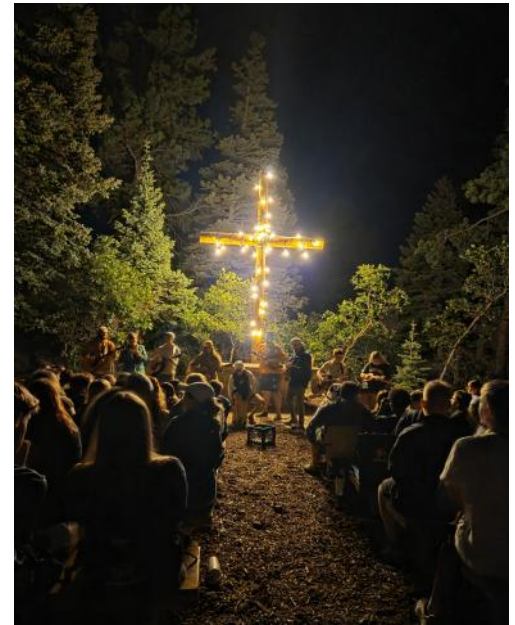
Sept 9: Confirmation Begins for 7th-9th Grades, 6-8pm

Watch for more information about High School Youth Group opportunities!

Rainbow Trail Bible Camp Adventures



Rainbow Trail Lutheran bible camp is nestled in the beautiful Sangre de Christo mountains of Colorado where campers worship under the blue sky by day and stars by night. They sing praise songs and experience new adventures like team high ropes, zip lines, white water rafting, and hiking in the mountains. A group of five senior high girls with chaperones to Mike and Melissa Ackermann traveled to Rainbow Trail in early July.



Aug. 1: Claire Bouma, Wally Dailey, Liv Kozlowski

Aug. 2: Colin Fritz, Jason Meyer

Aug. 3: Sue Benson, KayLee Eichelberger,
Valerie Kuchinka

Kristy & Robert Keim

Aug. 4: Nick Majerus, Joshua Oeltjen

Aug. 5: Cindy Ebert

Bruce & Trissa Wallerich

Aug. 6: Luke Hartzell

Aug. 7: Mike Ackermann, James Craig, Johanna Gates,
Kinley Reese

Craig & Cari Kohrs

Aug. 8: Ellison Jonas, Natalie Gnotke, Beth Knudsen

Greg & Heidi Berge

Aug. 9: Diane Eckhart

Aug. 10: Chris Matzke, Martha Weinrich

Aug. 11: Carter West

Aug. 12: Bob Johnson, Mary Mund

Joshua & Marin Rodewald

Aug. 13: Breckin Harkins, Larry Kehren, Jeffrey Roach

Aug. 14: Charley Belden, Molly Fitterer, Shelia Johnson

Glenn & Heidi Hartzell

Aug. 15:

*Jake & Teresa Atkinson, Kris & Mac Baird,
Justin & Kimberly Foss*

Aug. 16: Addison Ahrens, Samuel Hess, Dennis Johnson,
Isabell Sievers

Aug. 17: Tony Fick, Mason Schumacher, Tom Stevenson,
Stewart Talbert, Hannah Weinrich, Joseph White

Duane & Claudia Howard

Aug. 18: Anna Davidson

Paul & Patti Tackmann

Aug. 19: Frank Plank, Valya Urbach

Aug. 21: Ellis Ebert, Kylee Ferguson

Aug. 22: Maci Blue, Travis Heitman, Alexander Holmgren,
Dale Nibbe, Dutton Schmidt

Dale & Ann Nelson

Aug. 23: Jim Cobb, Adison Cole, Kimberly Foss,
Kevin Tesch, Matthew Thompson

Logan & Cheyanne Meincke, Whitney & Josh Rolbeicki

Aug. 24: Niki Nadeau

Jeff & Janet Chestnut

Aug. 25: Parker Atkinson, Brittany Bauer, Kassie Campbell

John & Sherry Earle

Aug. 26: Kadarina Foss, Isaac Sulflow

Aug. 27: Raymond Krier, Scarlett Meyer

Rick Bremer & Cheryl Sprick

Aug. 28: Diane Fuchs, Sofie Irwin, Randy Klipfel,
Krystal Krage, Jenny Schlagenhaft

Dean & Joanne Flugstad, William & Ashley Olson

Aug. 29: Brandon Bauer, Christopher Breuer,
Erica Wallerich, Kari Weinrich

Chuck & Judy Bremer

Aug. 30: Amy Frank, Jennifer Gunhus

Todd & Marie Severson

Aug. 31: Lennie Dick, Bernie Dudley, Tyler Frank,
Adeline Tackmann

*Matthew & Courtney Fick, Mark & Deb Grimley,
Steven & Kathy Hegseth*

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), Anna Wood (Wally Dailey's sister), Wally Dailey, Barb Novek (sister of Diane Keyport), River (Mary Santelman's grandson), LaVonne (Jan Johnson's sister)

Would you like your name or a loved one added to First Lutheran's prayer list? Please contact the Prayer Connection team at firstlutheranprayerconnection@gmail.com or the church office, 651-345-5003.

Date Role	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
LECTOR	Randy Kirchner	Dave Ender	Duane Holst	Jenny Schlagenhaft	Cheryl Luettinger
GREETERS	Jane Sidwell	needed	needed	needed	needed
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Randy Kirchner Jenny Schlagenhaft	needed needed	Kim Ask-Carlson Duane Holst	Jenny Schlagenhaft Claudia Howard	Cheryl Luettinger needed
USHERS	Ross & Peg Mattke	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed	needed needed
ALTAR GUILD	Becky Schultz & Milly Gagnon	Becky Schultz & Milly Gagnon	Liz & Bruce Carlstrom	Liz & Bruce Carlstrom	Marcia Holst & Esther Gullixson
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Pepin Plaza Ladies	Tami & Dave 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.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
2 Worship 9am Theodore Bailey Baptism	3	4	5 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm Outdoor Worship, 5:30pm Campfire Picnic, 6pm	6 VBS Celebration, 3pm →	7 Village Creek Bible Camp Cyclists Camp Overnight	8
	VBS 8:3-8:6 12:30-3:30pm Stewardship Team, 5pm		Youth Ministry Discovery, 7pm			Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
9 Worship 9am	10 Crafters 9:30-11:30am, Fireside Rm	11 FLC Quilters 8:30am	12 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Staff 1:30pm	13 Fellowship Potluck 5:30pm	14 Bob Majerus Internment 3pm	15 Duane Host - 50th Anniversary of Ordination
		Hispanic Inclusion 6pm				Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
16 Worship 9am Frankie James Ebert Baptism Pop-up Choir	17	18	19 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Care Center Service 10am Staff 1:30pm	20 First Things Articles Due	21	22
Celebration of Ordinations Pauli - 20th Anniversary Duane - 50th Anniversary				Church Council 6:30pm		Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
23 Worship 9am Beau Pribyl Baptism Confirmation Leader Mtg 10:15am	24	25 FLC Quilters 8:30am	26 FLC Bible Study 8:30am Pepin Plaza Communion, 10am Staff 1:30pm	27	28 Send Sept. First Things	29 Iglesia Rehearsal 3-5pm
30 Worship 9am Blessing of Backpacks	31					